

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020 5:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting

Present: Richard Schadewald, Jay Tibbetts, Cynthia Brown-Sullivan, Susan Molenaar, Kim Schanock, Edward Morales, Karen Sanchez

Excused: None.

Others Present: Anna Destree, Andrea Kressin, Ann Steinberger, Ted Shove, Erik Pritzl, Pam Waise

**1. Call Meeting to Order / Introductions**

Chairman Richard Schadewald called the meeting to order.

**2. Approve / Modify Agenda**

MOTION: To approve agenda

Sanchez / Molenaar

MOTION CARRIED, VOICE VOTE TAKEN: Ayes: Richard Schadewald, Jay Tibbetts, Cynthia Brown-Sullivan, Susan Molenaar, Kim Schanock, Edward Morales, and Karen Sanchez. Nays: None

**3. Approve / Modify Minutes May 12, 2020.**

MOTION: To approve the minutes from May 12, 2020.

Molenaar / Schanock

MOTION CARRIED, VOICE VOTE TAKEN: Ayes: Richard Schadewald, Jay Tibbetts, Cynthia Brown-Sullivan, Susan Molenaar, Kim Schanock, Edward Morales, and Karen Sanchez. Nays: None

**4. COVID-19 Update**

Pam Waise, Patient Surveillance Branch Director stated contact tracing started March 18 with the first case in Brown County. Pam states we collaborated with the State of Wisconsin DHS and they got involved in our contact trace efforts. Pam stated we started with individual contact tracers and time progressed we moved to a team approach. We have had about 2,400 cases and have been able to sustain a 24-48 hour turnaround time to make contact with the person. Pam presented a document entitled "*Brown County Public Health COVID-19 Contact Tracing*," which shows the process they follow. They received assistance in the area of contact tracing from over 30 volunteers from Medical College of Wisconsin students, UW-GB students, Brown County residents, Brown County Human Services employees and non-profit community organizations.

Pam stated the CDC were onsite April 20 through May 18, 2020. They integrated themselves within our processes to observe, learn, and make recommendations. They participated in site visits and provided guidance. They also created resource tools; dashboards; education; testimonials for usage by public health. They connected us to other public health agencies across the nation. The CDC provided guidance and recommendation on testing strategies. Pam stated they are using Brown County Public Health as a model for other public health entities to use in pandemic situations. Pam stated we continue to collaborate with the CDC and stated our local response and our internal processes are being presented within Public Health journal articles and we are working with the CDC to ensure that Brown County is being recognized.

Karen Sanchez asked about health equities and how you can reduce some of the disparities. Andrea Kressin share a document entitled "*Brown County Public Health COVID-19 Community Engagement*." Andrea stated we have been trying to integrate into the work that we do a health equity perspective. We recognize that COVID disproportionately affects certain individuals in our community and we want

to make sure everyone has access to the right supports, testing and protective measures to keep their family safe. We integrated four different languages, English, Spanish, Hmong and Somali for all of our testing, and promotional materials.

Andrea stated our intake branch is responsible for answering all calls and emails that come into BCPH and has been doing so since the beginning of our COVID-19 response. The goal of the Intake Branch is to provide the community with timely, accurate education, to connect members of the community with resources and services to address their needs, and to assist with COVID19 contact tracing and facility guidance messaging and communication. The Intake Branch is in direct communication with members of the public, numerous county health divisions, and news media among other organizations, so it was always imperative that Intake Branch staff represent Brown County Public Health with professionalism and integrity. Jed Aspley from the Environmental Health Division is currently serving as the Branch Director for Intake, and has been in that role since early May. Before Jed, nursing and community engagement team members also served in that role. Andrea stated of the approximately 600 calls and 160 emails that Jed has responded to, approximately 95% have been related to COVID-19. For your general understanding, he has taken approximately 30% of the total intake shifts between the end of March and mid-June. The Intake Branch has continuously looked at quality improvement opportunities to increase the quality of service provided to the public by BCPH.

Andrea stated we have access to a company that provides translation for many languages.

Ann Steinberger stated the goal of the Facility Outreach Branch is to monitor for any emerging outbreaks located within all types of facilities. Ann stated the definition of an outbreak is a single confirmed case in a long-term care facility or two or more cases in any other setting are considered an "outbreak". The threshold is lower in certain settings in order to proactively identify potential outbreaks that may be linked to facilities. It also brings awareness to other jurisdictions who might be investigating cases from the same facilities across jurisdictional lines. We are then able to notify DHS of any potential emerging outbreaks so they can share this information as appropriate. It is important to remember that just because an outbreak is linked to a facility, it does not mean that it originated at the facility or is even active within the facility. Ann stated to date, Brown County Public Health has been involved in 71 Outbreak Investigations, 19 are associated with health care facilities and 54 with non-health care facilities. The majority of these outbreaks involved 2-3 cases or less. This includes individuals who work in a facility or anyone who they are associated with such as a family member, resident or employee. Staff have coordinated a timely response for facilities that are linked to potential outbreaks. We have made phone calls. Steps taken include policy guidance and education, reviewing isolation and quarantine guidelines, answering PPE questions and providing support, responding to incoming calls and concerns for both staff and residents if applicable, testing guidelines and parameters for inclusion, and offering onsite visits as appropriate. Ann stated staff have also proactively reached out to the following types of agencies

- Nursing Homes
- Residential Care Apartment Complexes
- Community Based Residential Facilities
- Hospices
- Home Health Agencies
- Non-health related facilities such as businesses

Ann stated staff have reached out to licensed and non-licensed establishments and have been responding to COVID questions and reopening including onsite visits. Activities that BCPH has conducted related to reopening and establishments in Brown County are virtual conference calls with 13 business and industry associations plus additional follow up as needed; development of a technical 're-opening plan' by specific industry, tailored to Brown County business. Ann stated a letter has been

sent out to the schools regarding school guidelines (with information specific to graduations and other events) and one will be going out to childcares as well.

Ann stated there would be a virtual Town Hall meeting on June 15 with the Chamber and it will be focused on schools and providing guidance and recommendations for fall. Ann stated we are waiting for further guidance from the Department of Public Instruction. Ann Steinberger stated there are three types of groups within the Facility Outreach Branch, one is specific to congregate settings which includes the corrections, long-term care facilities and nursing homes; another group is specifically working with schools and child care and any gatherings; and another group is working specifically with businesses and licensed establishments, non-license, manufacturer and faith based organizations. We have subject matter experts assisting us.

Kris Kovacic stated the community based isolation and quarantine shelters that we set up in Brown County. We were able to provide isolation and/or quarantine services for those who were covid positive or directly exposed to covid and could not isolate and quarantine safely at home or did not have a home to do so in. Out of that directive came the Brown County CIQS mission, which called on the Health & Human Services Department to jointly respond to this emerging public health need. CIQS held its first meeting on 3/19/20, which was a call for partners. Health & Human Services knew that we could not do this alone. There were community partners (Salvation Army, Bellevue Fire, Brown County Park Rangers, NEW Zoo), health system representatives from each of the 3 health systems in town, homeless Shelters, NEW Community Clinic, NEW Cap, and Homeless & Housing Coalition members. Kris stated the Red Cross was initially at the table, but due to national restrictions, did not participate further. Kris stated starting 3/20/20, the CIQS team assembled and initiated extensive CIQS plans, procedures, guidelines, protocols, and forms by researching and connecting with community and private partners. Kris stated our first guest arrived at Site 5 on March 27, 2020. Many services were contracted and donated. Early in March, CIQS received influx of guests from a shelter and due to the number of guests that needed CIQS services the CIQS mission needed to expand the supervisory staff. On 4/26/20, we mobilized Site 7 with its first guest. On 6/5/2020 was the final demobilization of Site 7. We had 17 guests at site 7 and decided two sites were not needed. Kris stated the CIQS team has provided isolation and quarantine for 86 guests. Kris stated the average length of stay was 14.86 days.

Kris stated that Brown County had set the precedence for community based isolation and quarantine. She stated their plan was developed before the State could provide a plan statewide, and when the State provided a plan, we noticed it was very similar to the Brown County Plan. Kris said we set a model for the State.

Andrea stated one of the visible and tangible response arms that we have had, has been our community testing. Andrea shared a document "*Brown County Public Health COVID-19 Community Testing*," which provided details accomplishments that Brown County was able to bring together community partners and test nearly 13,000 individuals. Testing was from April 30, 2020 to May 22, 2020, which were held at two sites with the help of the Wisconsin National Guard and the three health care partners. Dr. Morales asked what is the measure to test again. Anna Destree stated we are working with partners to discuss what would it look like if we had to remobilize again. One would be if we see that our system is overwhelmed. We know the partnerships needed and we know the outline and are confident if needed we could ramp up quickly. Susan Molenaar would like improvements in the area of electronic medical records when done at health care systems. Andrea indicated at the testing sites the information was put directly into Epic.

**5. Receive New Information on Wind Turbines – Standing Item.  
None.**

**6. Comments from the Public**  
**None.**

**7. Adjournment / Next Meeting Schedule – July 14, 2020 5:00 PM**

MOTION: To adjourn meeting

Sanchez / Schanock

MOTION CARRIED, VOICE VOTE.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Zich