



ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

WEDNESDAY, MAY 06, 2020

6:00 P.M.

CALL: 1-312-626-6799

MEETING ID: 366 937 9659

AGENDA

NOTE: THIS IS A TELECONFERENCE

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3669379659>

Meeting ID: 366 937 9659

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,3669379659# US (Germantown)

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Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

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Meeting ID: 366 937 9659

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Join by Skype for Business

<https://us02web.zoom.us/skype/3669379659>

Board Members who are unable to attend the Board of Health meeting, **please** contact Lou Peer (295-5210) or Jessica Turner at the Public Health Department (757-5440). Thank you.

The County of Rock will provide reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities. Please contact us at 608-757-5510 or e-mail countyadmin@co.rock.wi.us at least 48 hours prior to a public meeting to discuss any accommodations that may be necessary.

ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
WEDNESDAY, MAY 06, 2020
6:00 P.M.

JOIN FROM A TELEPHONE:

- ON YOUR PHONE, DIAL THE PHONE NUMBER PROVIDED ABOVE
- ENTER THE MEETING ID NUMBER WHEN PROMPTED, USING YOUR DIAL-PAD.
- PLEASE NOTE THAT LONG-DISTANCE CHARGES MAY APPLY. THIS IS NOT A TOLL-FREE NUMBER.
- BOARD MEMBERS: PLEASE IDENTIFY YOURSELF BY NAME
- PLEASE MUTE YOUR PHONE WHEN YOU ARE NOT SPEAKING TO MINIMIZE BACKGROUND NOISES
- WE ARE NEW AT HOLDING MEETINGS THIS WAY, SO PLEASE BE PATIENT

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED -

[HTTPS ://SUPPORT.ZOOM.US/HE/ EN-US/ ARTICLES/2072 7973 6-GETTING-STARTED-WITH-CLOSED-CAPTIONING](https://support.zoom.us/he/en-us/articles/207279736-getting-started-with-closed-captioning)

1. Call to Order
2. Adopt Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – (3/4/2020)
4. Citizen Participation
5. Appeal Of Sanitary Permit Application Denial – 4626 E. Case Rd
6. New Business
 - A. Administrative Division
 - (1) Review of Payments
 - (2) Transfer of Funds over \$5,000
 - (3) Health Department Report
 - a. In the News
 - b. Surveillance
 - c. Community Events/Outreach
 - d. Budget
 - e. Personnel
 - B. Resolution: Encouraging the Rock County Public Health Department to Share the Address of all Positive CIVID-19 Tests with Local Government Agencies
7. Communications and Announcements
8. Adjournment

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MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

March 4, 2020

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chair Peer at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Health Members Present: Chair Peer, Supervisor Rynes, Supervisor Gramke, Supervisor Homan, Dr. Meyers, Dr. Winter, and Dr. Somaraju.

Board of Health Members Absent: Mr. Gresens.

Staff Members Present: Marie-Noel Sandoval – Health Officer; Michelle Bailey – Assistant Director; Rick Wietersen – Environmental Health Director; Jennifer Weadge – Public Health Nurse; and Jessica Turner – Administrative Services Supervisor.

Others Present: None at this time.

Adopt Agenda

Dr. Winter made a motion to adopt the agenda. Supervisor Gramke seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes – 2/5/2020

Supervisor Rynes made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2/5/2020 Board of Health meeting. Supervisor Homan seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Citizen Participation

None at this time.

New Business

Administrative Division

Review of Payments

The Board reviewed the Health Department's December and February payments in the amount of \$1,422.71 and \$13,905.97 respectively.

Transfer of Funds over \$5,000

None at this time.

Health Department Report

In the News

Ms. Sandoval reported that Rock County Public Health Department (RCPHD) Epidemiologist Nick Zupan's Opioid Dashboard went live on the RCPHD website. This dashboard was made possible by a grant. There was an announcement in the paper and there will be a demonstration at a future meeting. Ms. Sandoval stated that Coronavirus is also a current topic on the radio and in the newspaper. The CDC has provided daily updates with talking points on the latest information. They are the best resource for the most accurate and up-to-date information. The RCPHD staff has put together information for the RCPHD website. Ms. Sandoval said the RCPHD is also sending letters to all partners to let them know that the website has been updated. She said that in the event that the situation changes in Rock County, they will know where to go. Ms. Sandoval also stated that the RCPHD is updating its pandemic plan. She said that staff also has constant communication with partners (e.g. schools, daycares, providers, state health department). She stated that there is a meeting with first responders tomorrow. Staff has also been talking to businesses about having their own response plans. According to Ms. Sandoval, the United States now has approximately 60 confirmed cases with more cases pending and several deaths. Cases have been reported in 68 international locations. There are new travel recommendations from the CDC. The average age for deaths with comorbidities is 70. There have been new cases reported with no relation to travel. According to Ms. Sandoval, Rock County's risk is low at this time. Dr. Somaraju added that she will be giving a talk and answering questions on March 10th at 4:00 p.m. at Beloit Hospital auditorium about basic coronavirus information. She said they are trying to come up with a website and hotline. Their emergency room is becoming flooded with patients wanting to be tested. Dr. Winter asked Dr. Somaraju about the regular flu. Dr. Somaraju replied that there are approximately 2-4 patients per day with influenza A. She said this is slightly less than last year, but last year had a late spike in April or May. Ms. Sandoval said that the RCPHD has also received many calls. The RCPHD is referring callers to providers as they are disease investigators, not triage for treatment. Chair Peer suggested WCLO talks to provide information to the public. Ms. Sandoval replied that RCPHD staff will be giving a talk at the County Board meeting on March 12th. Dr. Winter asked if the RCPHD plan is to be more hands off because there are less nurses. Ms. Sandoval replied that if the RCPHD acted as middle man, this would delay testing and treatment. She said they will use the same process and infrastructure as other communicable disease surveillance and follow-up. Ms. Bailey added that the Public Health Nurses have been preparing and will be busy with surveillance and follow-up when Rock County begins to see cases. Supervisor Homan asked if there is any practical evidence for senior citizens to receive the pneumonia vaccine since coronavirus is similar to pneumonia. Ms. Sandoval explained that invasive pneumococcal infections can cause many infections so the vaccine is preventing more than pneumonia, and it is meant to decrease morbidity from infections. She said this is not related to coronavirus. She explained that when a patient dies from the flu, it is likely due to post-illness infections. Chair Peer asked about the naming of COVID-19. Dr. Somaraju explained that it stands for Coronavirus Disease discovered in 2019.

Surveillance

According to Ms. Sandoval, the State thinks we are peaking now for influenza.

Community Events/Outreach

Ms. Sandoval said that the Community Health Assessment is survey still open until demographic assessment is complete. Most of the surveys were received online, but there is a large stack of paper surveys from senior and

Hispanic populations. She said that the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County and the RCPHD will still be holding focus group and one-on-one interviews.

Budget

Ms. Sandoval reported no updates regarding the budget. She said they are waiting for the 2019 books to close mid-March.

Personnel

Ms. Sandoval reported that four candidates were interviewed for the Health Educator position today. She added that two Public Health Supervisor positions are still posted. Janalyn Eisele returned to the RCPHD as a Public Health Nurse. Another nurse, Christy Ferrara, is starting March 23rd.

Ms. Sandoval told the Board that a citizen member has been identified to take Judy Wade's Board of Health position. She is sending the recommendation to Russ Podzilni and then it needs to be approved by the staffing committee.

School Health Collaborative Presentation

Ms. Weadge gave a presentation on the School Health Collaborative group (see attached). The Board discussed the absentee rates, procedures, and level of accountability.

Communications and Announcements

Dr. Winter asked about Badfish Creek. Mr. Wietersen said that winter sampling has produced the same bacteriological results as expected. Mr. Wietersen said he is working with the Friends of Badfish Creek on a Department of Natural Resources grant to do their own sampling. They are sampling where the flow from Madison starts to Fulton. He said they are finding that it is much worse in Dane County. They plan on doing genetic testing to find out if the bacteria is coming from human sources. Mr. Wietersen said the results will be summarized and sent to the state. He has not heard anything about changes in the contract for Madison. Mr. Wietersen said he will do a summary after the April sampling. On April 15th, the treatment plants will start disinfecting again. Mr. Wietersen said that this ongoing problem has been of particular concern this year due to a lot of winter water recreation. Mr. Wietersen added that they will be testing for four things at the state lab – human, bovine, swine, and avian bacteria. The state lab is hoping to eventually be able to determine exactly what is causing the bacterial contamination.

Supervisor Homan said his daughter has been working as a 911 operator for Rock County for several months. He is proud of her for saving lives.

Supervisor Homan also said he and the County have been trying to lower the County's carbon footprint, and it is working. He said they have prevented 1,500,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere, and that number is climbing. Mr. Wietersen asked what the biggest improvement has been. Supervisor Homan replied that they have been working to flatten out the electricity use so there are not as many peaks. They have been putting in sunroofs in the new building, bringing light through the side from concentrated a light source with reflectors and refractors into light fixtures that look like others with no operational cost. He said they will still have light switches if needed and can also filter light through a prism to extract infrared heat. They are also updating old equipment to increase efficiency.

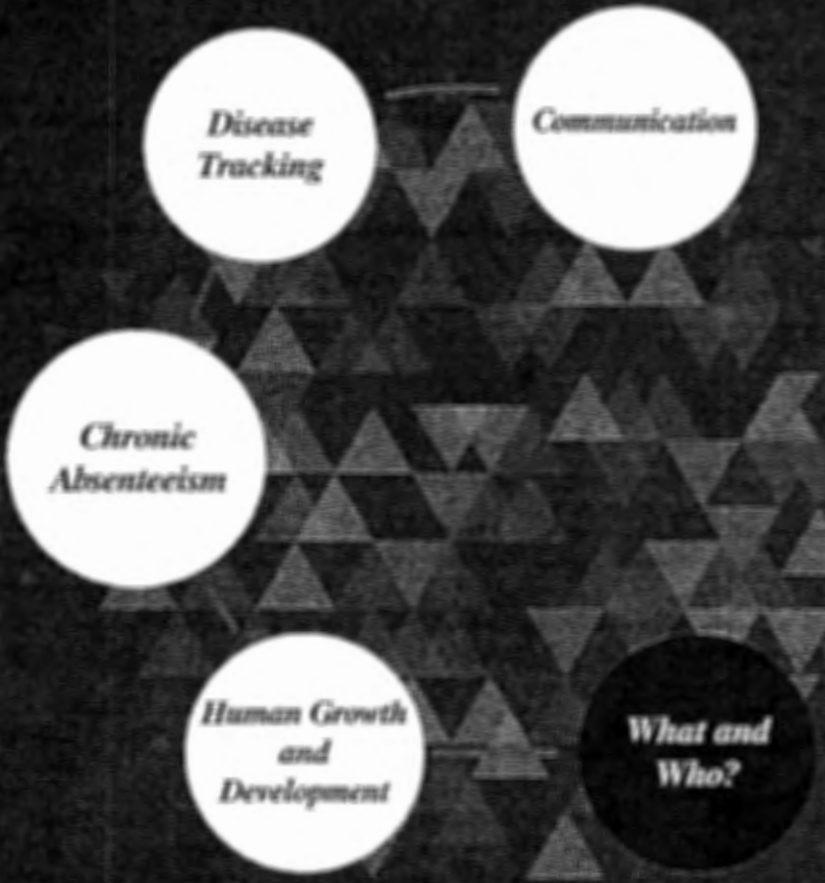
Adjournment

Supervisor Gramke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Winter seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Turner, Recorder

Not Official Until Approved by the Board of Health



Rock County School Health Collaborative

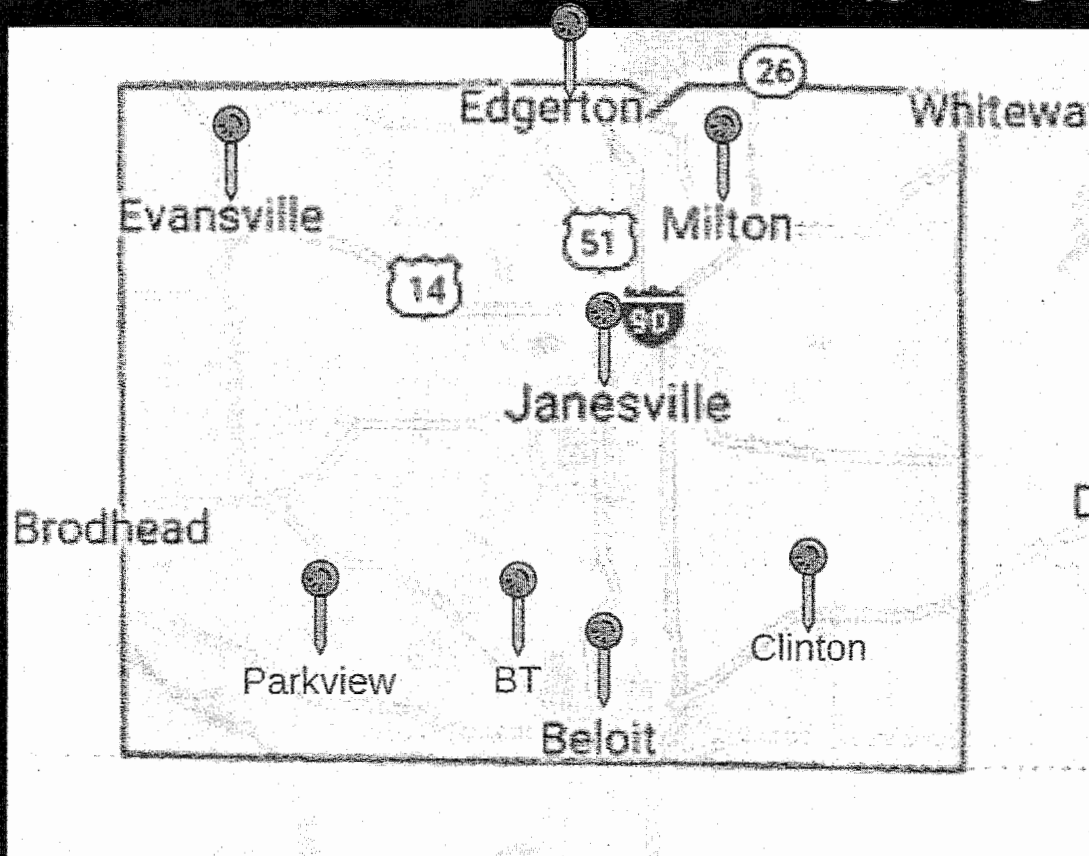
Jen Weadge, BSN, RN

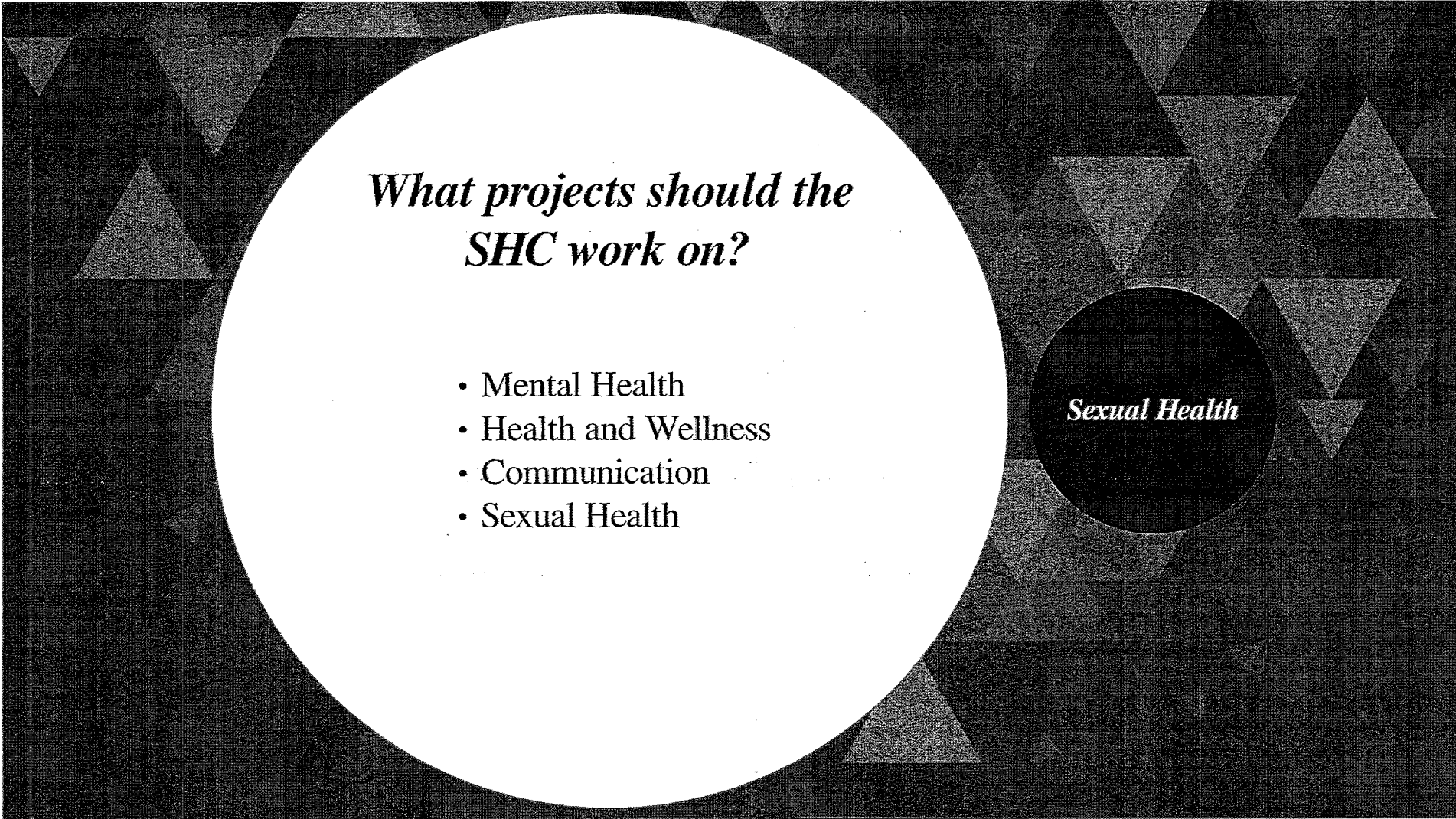
What is the School Health Collaborative (SHC)?

- Formed in November of 2018
- Collaboration with each district throughout the county
- Focus on health issues that affect the county
- 10 Active members (attends meetings)
 - 8 school districts - all districts but one actively participates

Who Participates?

School Nurses on SHC





*What projects should the
SHC work on?*

- Mental Health
- Health and Wellness
- Communication
- Sexual Health

Sexual Health

Human Growth and development

- STI rates are high in Rock County
- The 15-19 year STI rates are 4 times higher than the county rate.
- HG&D curriculum's vary among districts
- Evansville School District requested PHN to participate in an advisory committee for HG&D in 2019
- Key takeaways:
 - Advisory Committee should meet every 3 years
 - Curriculum should reflect
 - Inclusive language
 - What family unit is
 - Healthy relationships
 - Most important - Teacher must feel comfortable teaching HG&D
 - Information is omitted based on comfort levels of topics

Chronic Absenteeism

- Chronic absenteeism: missing 10% (18 days) or more of school each year
- 1 in 5 children in Rock County are chronically absent
- Chronically absent children grow into adults who:
 - are unable to acquire or maintain jobs
 - are financially unstable
 - have chronic health conditions
 - are socially inept

*Reducing
Chronic
Absenteeism*

How Can the SHC help with this issue?

- Make schools and communities aware of the problem
 - Created a letter to go out to all healthcare providers
- Assess schools practices around absenteeism
- Develop a plan
- Determine interventions
- Evaluate the interventions

Tracking Illnesses

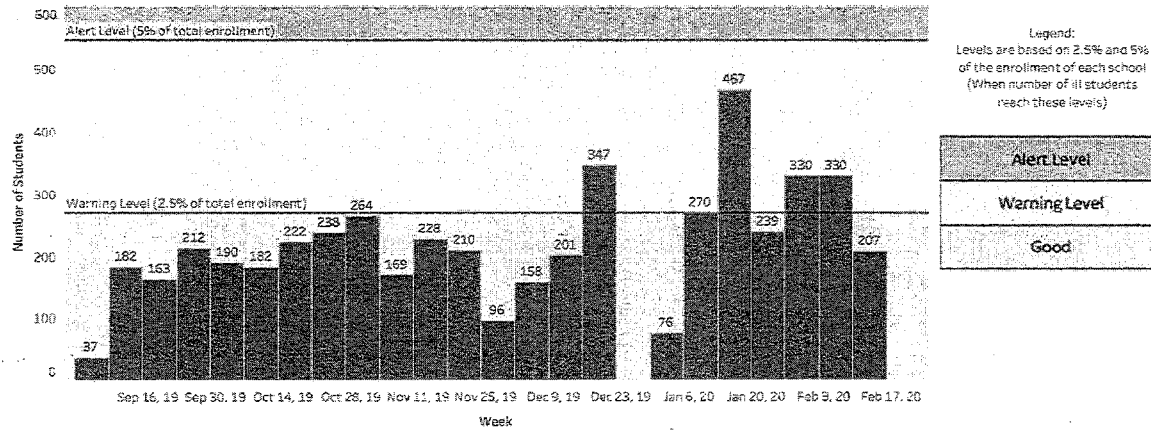
- Piloting illness absence tracking with Beloit School District elementary schools
- Discussing current trends related to flu, strep, and others
- Providing guidance and information

*Tracking
Report
Example*

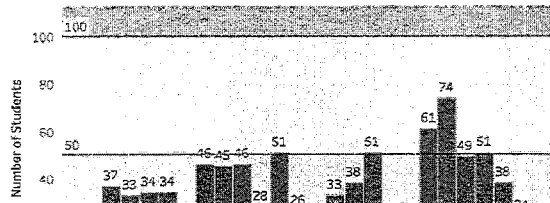
Tracking Report Example

Beloit Elementary Schools Illness Absence Report

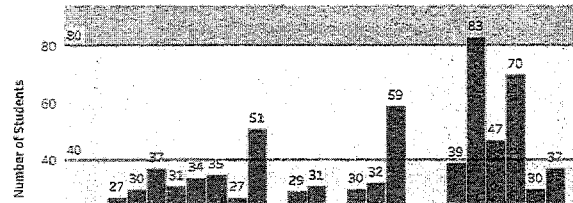
All Schools (2) Weekly Number of Students who were Absent due to Illness



Converse Elementary (2)



Gaston Elementary (2)



Communication

- Improved communication between RCPHD and Rock County Schools
- Building trusting relationships
- Sharing of resources among the nurses from each district

Why is this important?

Communication

- Platform to discuss other public health issues that affect school families
 - Emergency preparedness
 - Immunization rates
 - Communicable diseases
 - GI illness increases
 - Respiratory illness increases
- Provides consistent messaging to families throughout the county

**COMMITTEE REVIEW REPORT
WITH DESCRIPTION
FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2020**

Account Number	Account Name	PO#	Check Date	Vendor Name	Description	Inv/Enc Amt
31-3000-0000-62119	Other Services	P2001075	03/26/2020	HEALTHCARE WASTE MANAGEMENT IN	MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL	109.80
31-3000-0000-63100	Office&Misc Exp	P2000167	03/19/2020	US BANK	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,415.97
31-3000-0000-63101	Postage	P2000165	03/26/2020	UNITED PARCEL SERVICE	SHIPPING 3-9-3-10	104.30
31-3000-0000-63200	Pubs/Subs/Dues	P2000167	03/19/2020	US BANK	SUBSCRIPTIONS/DUES	314.16
31-3000-0000-64000	Medical Supplies	P2000151	03/12/2020	GLAXOSMITHKLINE PHARMACEUTICAL	FED EXCISE TAX	395.40
		P2000167	03/19/2020	US BANK	MEDICAL SUPPLIES	252.45
		P2000982	03/12/2020	FAIRBANKS SCALES	TRAVEL & LABOR FOR TESTING &	1,796.00
31-3000-0000-64010	Lab Supplies	P2000056	03/26/2020	CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING IN	DEIONIZER REGENERATION	175.00
		P2000167	03/19/2020	US BANK	LAB SUPPLIES	184.00
31-3000-0000-64200	Training	P2000167	03/19/2020	US BANK	TRAINING EXPENSE	2,888.72
31-3000-0000-64203	Educ Materials	P2000167	03/19/2020	US BANK	EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS	95.11
31-3000-0000-64904	Sundry Expense	P2000167	03/19/2020	US BANK	VOLUNTEER SNACK	3.37
31-3000-0000-65103	Public Liability	P2001132	03/26/2020	WISCONSIN HEALTH CARE LIABILTI	2020 PUBLIC HEALTH LIABILITY	1,097.00
Public Health Department PROG TOTAL						8,831.25
31-3026-0000-63110	Admin Expense	P2000167	03/19/2020	US BANK	PREPAREDNESS TRAINING	2,921.30
31-3026-0000-64900	Other Expenses	P2000167	03/19/2020	US BANK	PREPAREDNESS SUPPLIES	220.90
Preparedness Grant PROG TOTAL						3,142.20

COMMITTEE REVIEW REPORT
WITH DESCRIPTION
FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2020

Account Number	Account Name	PO#	Check Date	Vendor Name	Description	Inv/Enc Amt
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I have reviewed the preceding payments in the total amount of **\$11,973.48**

Date: _____ Dept Head _____

Committee Chair _____

**COMMITTEE REVIEW REPORT
WITH DESCRIPTION
FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2020**

Account Number	Account Name	PO#	Check Date	Vendor Name	Description	Inv/Enc Amt
31-3000-0000-62119	Other Services					
		P2001075	04/30/2020	HEALTHCARE WASTE MANAGEMENT IN	MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL	54.90
31-3000-0000-63100	Office&Misc Exp					
		P2000167	04/16/2020	US BANK	OFFICE SUPPLIES	199.47
31-3000-0000-63101	Postage					
		P2000165	04/30/2020	UNITED PARCEL SERVICE	SHIPPING 2-28 3-7	87.43
31-3000-0000-64000	Medical Supplies					
		P2000158	04/30/2020	HOMETOWN PHARMACY	2 EPI PENS NORTH OFFICE CLINIC	277.95
		P2000167	04/16/2020	US BANK	MEDICAL SUPPLIES	200.10
31-3000-0000-64010	Lab Supplies					
		P2000056	04/16/2020	CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING IN	DEIONIZER RENTAL APRIL	35.00
		P2000167	04/16/2020	US BANK	LABORATORY SUPPLIES	65.42
		P2001188	04/16/2020	COMMERCIAL AIR INC	THERMOMETER CALIBRATION BELOIT	949.50
31-3000-0000-64200	Training					
		P2000167	04/16/2020	US BANK	TRAINING EXPENSE	(19.00)
31-3000-0000-64203	Educ Materials					
		P1902752	04/16/2020	MMPR POWERED BY HALO	FREIGHT CHARGE	2,090.50
Public Health Department PROG TOTAL						3,941.27

COMMITTEE REVIEW REPORT
WITH DESCRIPTION
FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2020

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>PO#</u>	<u>Check Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Inv/Enc Amt</u>
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I have reviewed the preceding payments in the total amount of **\$3,941.27**

Date: _____ Dept Head _____

Committee Chair _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

AGENDA NO. _____

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Supervisor Ronald Bomkamp
INITIATED BY



Supervisor Ronald Bomkamp
DRAFTED BY

SUBMITTED BY

April 20, 2020
DATE DRAFTED

**ENCOURAGING THE ROCK COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO SHARE THE
ADDRESS OF ALL POSITIVE COVID-19 TESTS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, the spread of COVID-19 across Wisconsin and Rock County represents a substantial threat
- 2 to the public health and the citizens of Rock County; and,
- 3
- 4 **WHEREAS**, first responders, who are on the front lines of dealing with the COVID-19 public health
- 5 emergency, are particularly vulnerable to exposure; and,
- 6
- 7 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Public Health Department has refused to share the address of known
- 8 positives with any other government agency besides the Rock County 911 Communications Center; and,
- 9
- 10 **WHEREAS**, often the government agencies have resources that are available for private businesses, but
- 11 the businesses are not aware of the resources; and,
- 12
- 13 **WHEREAS**, sharing these addresses with local governments would allow local government agencies to
- 14 engage in emergency planning to identify and plan around hot spots, better address first responder safety,
- 15 and work with facilities to craft emergency plans that keep their residents and first responders safe; and
- 16
- 17 **WHEREAS**, the Public Health Officer has already released this information to the 911 center, so the
- 18 information is already available, and it can be shared easily with other agencies that need the information
- 19 to be prepared for any future emergencies.
- 20
- 21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
- 22 this _____ day of _____, 2020 does hereby resolve that it is the wishes of the Board of
- 23 Supervisors that the Rock County Public Health Officer release the addresses of all positive COVID-19
- 24 test results to government agencies in Rock County that makes such a request.
- 25
- 26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if the Public Health Officer continues to refuse to share this
- 27 information with local government agencies, then the Rock County Board of Supervisors recommends that
- 28 the County Administrator release the Public Health Officer from her duties.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Mary Beaver, Chair

Vacant, Vice Chair

Ron Bomkamp

Brian Knudson

Vacant

BOARD OF HEALTH

Louis Peer, Chair

Dr. Connie Winter, Vice Chair

Dave Homan

Eric Gresens

Dr. Kaitlyn Meyers

Danette Rynes

Dr. Vijaya Somaraju

Deb Kolste

Vacant

FISCAL NOTE:

No fiscal impact.

/s/ Sherry Oja

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to secs. 59.01 & 59.51, Wis. Stats. However, adoption of this resolution will not legally compel disclosure of information to local government agencies, or the dismissal of the public health officer if such disclosure were to not occur.

HIPAA places the discretion to release Protected Health Information ("PHI") with the health professional who is in custody of that information. Protected Health Information can include information that does not disclose the name of a patient. For instance, a patient's residential address, phone number, birth date, social security number, and even the dates of medical procedures or diagnostics can be considered PHI even when released without the name of the patient. Pursuant to HIPAA's Privacy Rule, PHI may not be disclosed by a health professional without the informed consent of a patient, unless the disclosure meets one of the enumerated exceptions to the requirement for informed consent. HIPAA does allow for the disclosure of PHI without informed consent of the patient when the disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health and safety of a person or the public. Any information shared under this exception to needing informed consent must be limited to only the minimum information necessary to satisfy the particular purpose for which the information is being shared. HIPAA delegates the decision whether an exception is met, and to what extent disclosing information meets the minimum necessary standard to the health professional who is custody of the information. Neither the Rock County Board of Supervisors, nor the County Administrator, has the legal authority to substitute its judgment for that of Public Health Officer's and compel the Public Officer to disclose PHI.

Additionally, because the Board does not supervise the public health officer the Board does not have the power to remove the public health officer. Department heads are appointed and supervised by the County Administrator. See Wis. Stat. § 59.14(2)(c). While a department head's appointment must be confirmed by the County Board, the department head serves at the pleasure of the county administrator and the County Board does not have any supervisory authority over the department head. *Id.* (" Any department head appointed by a county administrator under this paragraph may be removed at the pleasure of the county administrator.") The legislature has vested the removal power solely in the county administrator.

Accordingly, if the County Board of Supervisors were to adopt this resolution, it would be in an advisory capacity only.

/s/ Richard Greenlee

Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

The Federal Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Health and Human Services, Governor Evers, Attorney General Kaul, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and every other county in Wisconsin have determined that compliance with the "imminent threat" and "minimum necessary" provisions of HIPAA means that addresses of individuals with COVID-positive tests are to be shared only with 911 dispatch, which will then share this information with first responders on a per-call basis only. Specifically:

The Office of Civil Rights provides a directly applicable example in its COVID-19 guidance:

"A covered entity [NOTE: such as the Rock County Public Health Department]...may provide a list of the names and addresses of all individuals it knows to have tested positive, or received treatment, for COVID-19 to an EMS dispatch for use on a per-call basis.... A covered entity under this example also should not distribute compiled lists of individuals to EMS personnel, and instead should disclose only an individual's information on a per-call basis."

The Governor's Emergency Order #19 directed all counties to share addresses of individuals with COVID-positive tests with dispatch centers (I would note the Rock County Public Health Department began sharing this information with the 911 Center before the Governor's Order). The Attorney General provided guidance to accompany this Order, which read in part:

"No agencies or individuals outside of a designated dispatch center are to maintain or distribute the information obtained in conjunction with this order. This includes but not limited to daily logs, shift briefings, "BOLOs", "Hotsheets," etc."

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) and its general counsel, von Briesen & Roper, provided further guidance to counties on this issue as follows:

"The Governor's Emergency Order #19 requires local health officers to report to **dispatch centers** (not directly to law enforcement or first responders) any known positive COVID-19 cases within the dispatch center's jurisdiction.... Guidance from federal agencies and Emergency Order #19 both contemplate that disclosures relating to COVID-19 be made to dispatch centers and then from the dispatch center on a per-call basis to first responders actually making contact pursuant to a dispatch call."

After speaking with the WCA and my colleagues in other counties, I am not aware of any county in the State of Wisconsin that is providing addresses of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 to other municipalities in the way this resolution requests. While some municipal fire/EMS agencies statewide may possess the addresses of individuals who have tested positive, it is only because those fire departments operate their own dispatch centers, which under the Governor's Order are to receive these addresses (not all counties have a countywide 911 dispatch center, nor do all counties have a countywide health department like Rock County). However, in places like Jefferson and Walworth counties where this is the case, the counties have entered into MOUs with the municipal dispatch centers to indicate that these addresses are to be used by dispatch on a per-call basis only and not shared as lists with first responders or others.

With regard to information sharing more generally, the Health Officer and I have noted from the beginning that as the number of cases increases (and consequently the likelihood of identifying any individual patient decreases), the Health Department will be able to share more information in aggregate, and it has done so. The Rock County website now includes cases by zip code, census tract, age group, gender, race, and ethnicity, as well as the number of negative, probable, and recovered cases. The Health Department has recently worked with local businesses and long-term care facilities where positive cases have occurred to self-identify through joint press releases with the Health Department. Further, the recent increase in testing has resulted in a spike in positive cases, confirming the message we have been sharing all along: we all must assume that everyone in the community has been exposed to COVID-19 and take necessary precautions; it is speculated that half of all people with COVID-19 show no symptoms.

While both the Health Officer and I would acknowledge that the County's response has not been perfect due to the significant learning curve for us all, Rock County has taken actions consistent with state and federal directives and the actions of other counties throughout the state. In this context, relieving the Health Officer of her duties in the middle of the biggest public health emergency any of us will likely ever face would be detrimental to our ongoing response and to the health and safety of County residents.

/s/ Josh Smith

Josh Smith
County Administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This resolution is to have the Public Health Officer release the requested COVID-19 information to other county agencies, which would include fire departments, police departments, and other Rock County entities that need the information for planning or protecting the workers of these agencies. HIPPA states, the information can be released, when the disclosure of Protected Health Information to first responders is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health and safety of a person or the public. Information is not being relayed to agencies for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19. Agencies and/or first responders are not getting follow up or notification from the Health Department after being exposed to the virus. The Health Department has a list of known addresses that have a positive case. This information is already given to the 911 center.