

Emergency Menard County Board of Health Meeting – 5/20/20

Attendance:

Dara Worthington
Allen Anderson
Ben Hollis

Board of Health:

Dave Bagot
Dr. Hartman
Brienne Satorius
Diane Markley
Jeff Fore
JD Stewart

Health Department

Director Gail O'Neill
Assistant Director Bill Dart

I. The meeting was called to order at 5:33.

II. Motion made and seconded to approve minutes of April 15 meeting - minutes approved by voice vote.

III. Chair Bagot introduced the economic difficulties associated with the pandemic response. A discussion of recent changes to state directives and the announcements today from Governor's office were discussed. Current enforcement is complaint drive and business establishments are asked to come into voluntary compliance; incidents are documented and may be followed up with cease and desist letter; if noncompliance continues then referral may be made SAO for filing of misdemeanor charges.

Asking for compliance and advising managers to keep track of employees in the event of a positive case is being done. If there were three cases then we would have an outbreak, which would back up stronger measures if there were resistance. The health department is focusing on long term care facilities and congregate settings of vulnerable populations.

Options for opening up faster was brought up as there are other counties that are putting out plans citing earlier re-opening dates for various businesses. Director O'Neill cited Sangamon's policy document which references hopes that the state would adopt an alternate plan that would move faster. Chair Bagot expressed his view that he opposes a complete re-opening all at once and believes most on the Board share that opinion. He also expressed that he is not in favor of functioning outside of state guidelines. Jeff Fore indicated that he believes insurance risks are too great, most people's business insurance would not back them. Brienne would like to be see the state show more flexibility with a smaller area.

The group discussed preparing a policy document tailored to the needs of Menard County and sending that to the Governor's office. The document would indicate that the county intends to continue following rules but express strongly that, given specific county conditions, a move to phase 4 in the area could happen sooner. Several participants indicated support for local and small businesses and the desire for people to get back to regular work. Even a soft opening would give people hope.

The group discussed that surveillance testing is only happening in nursing homes. Concerns for other congregate settings like the public housing complex, the Countryside Estates and the jail were cited. The Health Department is setting up site visits with nursing homes and plans to continue checking in on other congregate living arrangements to become more familiar with them, offer technical assistance and build communications. The infectious disease doctors are working with the health department to conduct these reviews.

Chair Bagot summarized earlier discussions about composing a document for principles or policy document in consultation with the Board of Commissioners

IV. No unfinished business.

V. No new business

VI. Chair Bagot, County Coordinator Worthington and Director O'Neill will confer on the next meeting.

VII. There was no public comment.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm