

KNOX COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
April 21, 2021 5:00 PM
Knox County Health Department
Via Zoom Meeting

Present:

Martha Buchanan, MD, Secretary
Jack E. Gotcher, Jr., DDS, Chair
Marcy Souza, DVM
Maria Hurt, DNP
Ani Roma, Citizen Representative
James Shamiyeh, MD
Lisa Wagoner, RN; representing Superintendent Bob Thomas, Knox County Schools
Dianna Drake, PharmD (joined 5:40 PM)

Absent:

Mayor Glenn Jacobs

Others Attending:

KCHD: Katharine Killen (Zoom Host), Charity Menefee, Anderson Little (recorder)
Knox County: David Sanders, Esq. representing Knox County Law Department
UTK: Spencer Gregg, MD, UTK Health Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Martha Buchanan called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Dr. Buchanan requested Ms. Little take roll call to confirm establishment of the quorum. All but one, (with one joining late), Board members were in attendance. Quorum was met.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

- Richard Cunningham - Mandates
- Wendy Harley (no topic provided)
- Kevin Hill (no topic provided)
- Sherri Garrett – Masking
- Debbie Stafford (no topic provided)

IV. BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER COMMENTS TO PUBLIC FORUM

Except to address briefly, Knox County was not the strictest in the state with only two mandates currently in place, there were no further comments.

V. NOMINATION FOR NEW CHAIR

- A motion was made to appoint a Chairman for the Advisory Board which passed unanimously with those present.
- Dr. Gotcher was nominated by Dr. Souza for Chairman and seconded by Dr. Shamiyeh. Dr Gotcher was elected by all present with Dr. Gotcher abstaining.

VI. SET THE AGENDA

Dr. Buchanan motioned to have item 9 (Education) moved up on the agenda to item 7. This was seconded by Dr. Souza and adopted unanimously by all present.

VII. QUESTIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (presentations sent previously)
University of Tennessee Knoxville/Knox County Schools (KCS)
No additional information was added by either institution to the previously submitted reports.

VIII. KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BENCHMARK PRESENTATION BY DR. BUCHANAN
Vaccine Update:

Dr. Buchanan reviewed the vaccine data on KCHD's website and stated that they are seeing a decrease in demand.

Current COVID-19 Data

The KCHD has shifted to reporting COVID-19 case data Monday – Friday. Data from Saturdays, Sundays and holidays will be available on the next business day's report.
All of the data can be found on the KCHD website at covid.knoxcountyttn.gov/case-count

Benchmark 1: Sustained reduction or stability in new cases for 14 days / GREEN

Benchmark 2: Community-wide sustained and increased diagnostic testing with consistent or decreased test result reporting turnaround time / YELLOW

Benchmark 3: Sustained or increased public health capability / GREEN

Benchmark 4: Health care system capabilities remain within current and forecasted surge capacity / GREEN

Benchmark 5: Sustained or decreased COVID-19 related death rate for identified positive or probable cases / YELLOW

IX. UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE MEDICAL CENTER AT KNOXVILLE DATA UPDATE BY DR. SHAMIYEH

Dr. Shamiyeh presented data from the University of Tennessee Medical Center and regional data on COVID vaccinations and hospitalizations, (see attached PowerPoint).

X. DISCUSSION OF NEW ADVISORY BOARD FUNCTION AND ROLES

Mr. Sanders gave an overview of where the Board is now. Operating in an advisory capacity there is a need for a secretary – which ordinance says is the county health director. Dr. Buchanan will fill that role.

The suggestion to add a Vice-Chair appointee was made by Dr. Buchanan. This passed unanimously with all present.

Dr. Souza was nominated as Vice-Chair by Ms. Wagoner and seconded by Ms. Roma. This vote passed with 7 votes and one abstaining.

XI. ADOPTION OF RULES

The Board reviewed the old BOH rules making the following suggestions for changes:

- Starting times for virtual and in person will be different, 5 pm and 5:30 pm respectively.
- There was a discussion regarding changing how/if the board votes.
- There was discussion regarding other area Advisory Boards and whether they hold Public Forums. There was discussion to discontinue Public Forum.

Dr. Buchanan will review the rules, make changes and bring those back to the Board at the next meeting.

XII. DISCUSSION ON FACE COVERINGS

Dr. Buchanan asked for input on keeping or rescinding the Health Department Face Coverings Regulation 2021-1. The suggestion was made to keep the current Face Covering Regulation in place at least until the next Board meeting. Discussion included the understanding that KCHD's ability to continue the regulation could be removed if changes are made to the state designated authority.

XIII. DISCUSSION ON RESTAURANTS AND BARS

The current regulation will be expiring. There was discussion about reverting back to the TN Pledge or some other recommendation that would send a clear public health message that distancing is important.

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS

The Board discussed ideas and the need for increasing awareness and numbers as vaccine hesitancy is an area of concern.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM. The next ABOH meeting will be on Wednesday, May 19th at 5:00 PM if virtual or 5:30 PM if in person.

Respectfully submitted,



Martha Buchanan, MD, Senior Director and Public Health Officer
Knox County Health Department
Secretary, Knox County Advisory Board of Health