

KNOX COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
June 16, 2021 5:30 PM
Knox County Health Department

Present:

Martha Buchanan, MD, Secretary
Maria Hurt, DNP
Ani Roma, Citizen Representative
James Shamiyeh, MD; UTMCK
Marcy Souza, DVM

Absent:

Dianna Drake, PharmD
Jack E. Gotcher, Jr., DDS, Chair
Mayor Glenn Jacobs
Lisa Wagoner, RN; representing Superintendent Bob Thomas, Knox County Schools

Others Attending:

KCHD: Katharine Killen, Chrissy Gilmore, Melinda Goodman (recorder)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Marcy Souza called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Dr. Marcy Souza requested Ms. Goodman take roll call to confirm establishment of the quorum. All but four Board members were in attendance. Quorum was met.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 19, 2021 MEETING

Dr. James Shamiyeh moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Maria Hurt. The motion passed and was adopted unanimously by all present.

IV. SET THE AGENDA

Motion made by Dr. Martha Buchanan and seconded by Dr. Shamiyeh to set the agenda.

V. KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION BY DR. BUCHANAN

Dr. Buchanan shared the changes in how KCHD is now presenting data on their website. Data is now being updated once weekly and no longer providing benchmarks.

Vaccine Update:

Rate of vaccination is continuing at a slower pace with challenges vaccinating our full population. Doing fairly well in comparison to the rest of the state with 47.3% having received one dose.

Current COVID-19 Data:

Cases

- 7-day trend is 2.4 cases per day; 14-day trend is 4.8 cases per day; cases trending down
- % change day to day since May 2nd is below 0.1%

Testing Data

- Testing conducted less often, limited testing for uninsured or symptomatic
 - Daily positivity rate is 1.14% (TN Department of Health Data); 7-day at 1.2%

Trends

- Case Trends show decreasing numbers
- Vaccinations are leveling off

Death Data (not shown)

- Mortalities still occurring at a slower rate
- Variants out there among the unvaccinated

VI. 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).

VII. BOARD OF HEALTH ROLE DISCUSSION

Change of Board of Health role

- We will continue to give the Covid Report
- What other things does this board want to hear about from Knox County Health Department at this meeting?
- How can we better define this role to make best use of this board's time?
- Dr. Shamiyeh asked if the Health Department wants to highlight an issue, is this the venue or are there other ways to get the information out?
- Dr. Buchanan indicated that every way we can get information out regarding our public health concerns or challenges in our community in every format that we can is important.
 - Trying to make the best use of time.
 - KCHD is starting the process of updating the strategic plan
 - There is health inequity within the community that we hope to share in this format.
- Dr. Souza asked about having KCHD guest speakers as a way to bring information forward. Aids in providing a better idea of all of the moving parts of the health department and a way to provide input. Helps the board to be better informed.
- Dr. Maria Hurt mentioned she would like to hear more about the KCHD health education initiatives tangent to Covid, such as substantive issues, mental health, and suicides. How is local public health responding to these issues?
- Dr. B appreciates the ABOH perspective. It is helpful to how KCHD approaches certain health issues.

VIII. DISCUSS NEXT MEETING DATE

- ABOH will meet quarterly based on this meeting (Sept/Dec/Mar/June)
- Next Meeting is on September 22, 2021 at 5:30pm in the Main Assembly Room.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

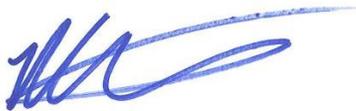
- Knox County board email addresses – should we keep these?
 - Yes. This is a public meeting that requires board members to provide public access.
- New Covid Dollars
 - Amount is to be determined. In the interim, we are looking into ways to best utilize this funding to help the community
 - We are sourcing an outside vendor to perform an in-action/post-action Covid review
 - We would like this information for lessons learned for our successors. RFP in process

- Working on an RFP to bring in an outside source for Flu and Covid vaccination in our schools for Fall. We hope to free up staff for internal programming efforts.
- Expand efforts around health equity to increase vaccination of groups with low uptake:
 - People of color
 - Uninsured
 - This is on a 3-year cycle, so thinking beyond Covid and keeping programs thriving beyond these dollars
- We are ceasing vaccinations at the old Food City building, effective June 25, 2021
 - July we will have vaccinations at KCHD and utilizing strike teams out in the community
- Guest House
 - Fabulous partner, usage has dropped off
 - Checked with homeless service providers
 - We will still help with housing cases
 - We were housing symptomatic cases, but now only confirmed cases
 - We will be available for questions as needed. Implementing BinaxNOW
- Announcement: Charity Menefee will be leaving for a Director position in Nebraska. This group appreciates the partnership and all of the great work provided.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:06 PM. The next ABOH meeting will be on Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021 at 5:30 PM in the Main Assembly Room at the City County Building.

Respectfully submitted,



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

List of Presentations:

- Knox County Health Department Presentation by Dr. Martha Buchanan
- University of Tennessee Medical Center Knoxville - Data Update Presentation by Dr. James Shamiyeh