

KNOX COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
March 23, 2022 5:30 PM
Knox County Health Department

Present:

John Adams, MD
John Duncan, PharmD
Martha Buchanan, MD, PHO, KCHD Representative
Kevin Parton, KCHD Interim Dir, Secretary
Ms. Ani Roma, Citizen Representative
James Shamiyeh, MD UTMC
Marcy Souza, DVM, Vice Chair
Lisa Wagoner, RN, representing Superintendent Bob Thomas, Knox County Schools

Absent:

Jack E. Gotcher, Jr., DDS, Chair
Mayor Glenn Jacobs, Government
Maria Hurt, DNP

Others Attending:

Jessica Jernigan-Johnson, Deputy Law Director, Knox County
Warren Sayre, MD, Interim PHO with KCHD
Corinne Tandy, KCHD, Lead Epidemiologist
Dwight Van de Vate, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
KCHD: Chrissy Gilmore, Exec Asst
Melinda Goodman, Exec Asst (recorder)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Marcy Souza called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

III. SET THE AGENDA

Motion made by Dr. Marcy Souza and seconded by Dr. James Shamiyeh to set the agenda. The motion passed and was adopted unanimously by all present. Dr. Souza requested to add Dr. Warren Sayre to the agenda under the Introductions segment. The vote passed and was adopted unanimously by all present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 22, 2021 MEETING

Dr. James Shamiyeh moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. John Adams. The motion passed and was adopted unanimously by all present with Kevin Parton abstaining.

V. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made by all in attendance to welcome Dr. John Duncan, pharmacist representing the Tennessee Valley Pharmacists Association, to the Advisory Board of Health. Dr. Duncan is fulfilling the vacated position resigned by Dianna Drake, PharmD. This appointment was confirmed by County Commission at the December 20, 2021 meeting. The Board also welcomed Dr. Warren Sayre, Interim Public Health Officer, Knox County Health Department.

VI. HEALTH DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP UPDATE BY MR. DWIGHT VAN DE VATE

Mr. Dwight Van de Vate, Chief of Staff for the Mayor’s Office, provided an update on the executive search firm, Baker Tilly, contracted to conduct a national search for both the Senior Director and Public Health Officer roles at the Knox County Health Department.

VII. KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION BY DR. CORINNE TANDY

Dr. Tandy presented COVID-19 data from the Knox County Health Department.

Vaccine Update:

We are continuing to vaccinate at the Health Department five days per week as well as at community events lending our support in making vaccine more accessible to the public.

One Dose

- % of Total Knox County Population = 63.53
- % of Knox County Population ≥ 5 Years of Age = 67.27
- % of Knox County Population ≥ 65 Years of Age = 90.34

Fully Vaccinated

- % of Total Knox County Population = 59.36
- % of Knox County Population ≥ 5 Years of Age = 62.85
- % of Knox County Population ≥ 65 Years of Age = 86.83

Fully vaccinated does not include booster or additional doses. This is only defining people who have completed the primary vaccination series.

The percentages of total population vaccinated are higher than the State of Tennessee, which reports 53.9% fully vaccinated, but lower than the United States, which reports 65.9% fully vaccinated.

Current COVID-19 Data:

Cases

- Highlights provided for the number of new cases by diagnoses date during the three significant surges to date. One in the winter of 2020, the Delta variant surge in early fall of 2021 and the most recent Omicron surge in the winter of 2021.
- The 14-28 day trends are at stable levels as of the most recent reporting period on March 16, 2022.

Trends

- COVID-19 cases by age, indicates increases in cases in all age groups over the timeframe of December 1, 2021 – March 19, 2022. Cases were highest amongst the 5-17, 23-30 and 31-40 age ranges, in our community. Confirmed cases in 5-17 year old’s from August 1, 2021 –

March 19, 2022, over both the Delta and Omicron surges, show a significant number of cases within each surge and a high of 350 cases in one day during the Omicron surge.

- Hospitalizations during the last surge of the Omicron variant had an increase; however, it was lower than we saw with the Delta variant. ICU and ventilated patients were lower as well.

Death Data

- From March 2020 – March 2022, we have reported 1,333 COVID related deaths in Knox County.
- We are regularly notified by the Tennessee Department of Health of additional deaths as a part of their ongoing mortality review which began in December 2021. As a result of this delayed reporting, our number of reported deaths has increased; however, it is not reflective of an increase in current death rate. This is only part of a more regular reconciliation process as more deaths are identified.

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

Dr. Shamiyeh presented data from the University of Tennessee Medical Center and regional data on COVID hospitalizations as well as encouraging boosters ahead of any additional potential surges.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Announcements

- Cherokee Pediatrics is moving out of the first floor of Knox County Health Department to a new location on Sutherland Avenue in Knoxville, Tennessee at the end of March 2022.
- Dr. Corinne Tandy will be opening a COVID Division office in that vacated space. This will assist the health department in continuing normal operations.
- At the next Advisory Board of Health meeting on June 15, 2022, we will present the Knox County Health Department budget for the next fiscal year beginning in July 2022.
- This advisory board will also need to vote on the Chair and Vice Chair seats, in the June 2022 meeting, as a part of their annual governing rules.

Acknowledgement and Thank you

- Kevin Parton, Interim Senior Director, Knox County Health Department, and Vice Chair, Dr. Marcy Souza, acknowledged and thanked Dr. Buchanan for her service to Knox County and this Board.
- Dr. Buchanan thanked the board and the health department professionals making a difference in the community.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 PM. The next ABOH meeting will occur on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 5:30 PM in the Main Assembly Room at the City County Building.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Parton, Senior Director
Knox County Health Department
Secretary, Knox County Advisory Board of Health

List of Presentations:

- Knox County Public Health Officer Recruitment Brochure Provided by Mr. Dwight Van de Vate
- Knox County Health Department COVID-19 Current Situation Presentation by Dr. Corinne Tandy
- University of Tennessee Medical Center Knoxville - Data Update Presentation by Dr. James Shamiyeh