



**WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
THE BOARD OF HEALTH
COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMITTEE
BOH MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2021**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-07 ISSUED BY GOVERNOR PRITZKER, THIS MEETING IS HELD VIRTUALLY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS APP. WILL COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS WILL BE ATTENDING THE MEETING REMOTELY AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO DO THE SAME.

The Board of Health COVID-19 Response Committee held via virtual conference call was called to order at 3:05 p.m., Mr. Zelko, President presiding.

ROLL CALL/ QUORUM PRESENT

MEMBERS PRESENT

James Zelko, President
Billie Terrell, PhD., Vice President
Teena Mackey
Nanci Reiland
Margaret Tyson

MEMBERS ABSENT – NONE

OTHERS PRESENT

Cindy Jackson, Vaccine Director, FHS
Nicole Garrett, Program Manager, FHS
Alpesh Patel, Communicable Disease Program Coordinator, FHS
Pamela Mowers, Resident
Jose Vera, SSIP
Tanner Simeon-Cox , SSIP

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

- ✚ Mr. Zelko welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- ✚ Mr. Zelko thanked Mr. Patel for putting together the statistics and data regarding COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths by demographics in Will County as of March 4, 2021. Mr. Zelko also discussed the vaccine allotment received from the State of Illinois and MVP Clinic openings. Discussions ensued amongst the Board, Mr. Patel & Ms. Jackson.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Ms. Mowers suggested the data in WC regarding immunizations in the education workforce factors could be greater due to the rate of women vaccinated than the men.

During the public comments portion of the meeting, various questions regarding the following topics below were discussed.

- ✚ Vaccination Percentage / Data in Will County.
- ✚ Vaccine appointment issues / Vaccination Partners.
- ✚ The Ovation Center Opening.
- ✚ COVID Equity Plan / Interpreter for the Board meetings.
- ✚ Why a communication firm was not set in place a year ago?

- ↳ When will – Will County enter into Phase 1b+?
- ↳ Information regarding planned vaccinations in Wilmington at the St. Rose School site.
- ↳ Vaccination online registration tool.

Ms. Jackson and Ms. Olenek responded and fielded the questions. Most of the questions were submitted via the chat room which will be included as attachment with the minutes.

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

Moved to approve the February 24, 2021 Regular Session minutes as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ms. Reiland
SECONDER:	Ms. Tyson
AYES:	Mr. Zelko, Dr. Terrell, Ms. Mackey, Ms. Reiland, Ms. Tyson

OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 RESPONSE (CINDY JACKSON)

Ms. Jackson presented a Power Point slideshow outlining vaccination updates as of March 10th. The slideshow included: vaccines administered, demographic breakdown, vaccine supply, PR Team updates, and vaccination clinic locations. Ms. Jackson will ask the PR Team to include the PowerPoint Slide show updates on the website.

Discussions ensued regarding inconsistent messaging between IDPH & Will County, methods of contacting residents for offsite vaccination sites, scheduling timeframes for vaccination sites, call center call volumes, and frequency of meetings with first responders.

NEW BUSINESS

LETTERS TO LEGISLATORS (ED)

Ms. Olenek discussed the letter to legislators included in the packet that requested their assistance in acquiring additional COVID-19 vaccine for the State of Illinois – County of Will. Brief discussions ensued.

- ↳ Mr. Zelko inquired if we have received the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Ms. Olenek replied, ‘Not at this time. Illinois is scheduled to receive approximately 83,000 doses. Will County is not on the list to receive the 1st round of vaccines.’

COVID-19 EQUITY (ED)

Ms. Olenek discussed the memorandum included in the packet that was sent to herself, Mr. Zelko, and various County Board members. The correspondence was sent on behalf of the Justice and Racial Equity for Will County Coalition along with other community groups, in regard to the WCHD equitable vaccine distribution. Ms. Olenek briefly discussed the follow-up letter sent back to Mr. Vera regarding the multiple programs and services we provide that are considered “equity based.” The community groups represented in the memo spoke at the March 9th Joint committee meeting of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Public Health and Safety Committee. As a result of the conversations, the County Board Committee voted to advance the recommendation to hire an Equity Manager under the County Executive’s direction to address issues throughout the County and various County departments.

- ↳ Ms. Tyson added she thought everyone was well represented and agreed Ms. Jackson needs additional staff to help assist with equity issues.

Ms. Olenek mentioned we do have many clinics set up to target the senior, Hispanic, and black and brown communities through April 15th; will add additional clinics when the need arises. Ms. Olenek discussed the various clinics and dates upcoming. Brief discussion ensued.

MAPP COLLABORATIVE – COVID-19 EQUITY PLAN

Ms. Garrett presented documents from the MAPP Collaborative regarding the establishment of a community-based initiative. The COVID-19 Health Equity and Access Response Team (HEART) will be a sub-committee of MAPP. COVID-19 HEART was formed to help diminish health disparities observed by disproportionately impacted communities of Will County in order to increase health and improve health outcomes of all residents.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: EMPLOYMENT / LEGAL MATTERS - NONE

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS/CONCERNS – NONE

Mr. Vera, SSIP addressed the following issues:

- o Concerns regarding the lack of vaccine PODS and noted the communities that are more desolate continue to be hard to reach. He would like to see more PODS set-up closer to those areas. Mr. Vera suggested utilizing community health navigators.
 - o Addressed the issue of only having five bilingual respondents due to a Spring survey of 1700 participants conducted by MAPP.
 - o Language barrier issues.
- ↪ Mr. Zelko asked Mr. Vera to put together a proposal on how to get into the community, communication, and how to have the navigators go into the communities for the vaccine clinics. Brief discussions ensued.

PUBLIC CONCERNS AND COMMENTS – NONE

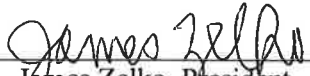
Questions were submitted via the chat room which will be included as attachment with the minutes. Ms. Olenek and Ms. Garrett fielded those questions.


Mr. Simeon-Cox, SSIP inquired if the MAPP COVID-19 HEART initiative will have sufficient funding for efficacy purposes? Ms. Garrett noted, proposals for mini grants, along with contractual agreements with community-based organizations for delivering various services will be taken into consideration. Mr. Zelko suggested putting together some deliverables and bring to the Board of Health meeting next week.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:05p.m. a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dr. Terrell
SECONDER:	Ms. Reiland
AYES:	Mr. Zelko, Dr. Terrell, Ms. Mackey, Ms. Reiland, Ms. Tyson

By: 
James Zelko, President
Will County Board of Health

By: 
Stephanie Baskin, Executive Assistant
Will County Health Department