

LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 5:00 PM

Sheriff's Office Conference Room

Call to Order (5:00 PM)

Members Present: Basden II, Calandro, Comparato, Erbes, Morris, Scott and Snyder

Also present: Orval Rowe, Kenton Schafer, Kerri Gale, Jennifer Lindsey, Bart Hagston, Sharee Langenstein

Approval of Minutes

- I. [21-6337](#) Approval of August 17, 2021 Minutes
A motion was made by Comparato, seconded by Erbes, to approve the August 17, 2021 minutes as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
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Animal Control

- II. [21-6338](#) Animal Control Monthly Update
The County Administrator communicated to the committee that the Animal Control Officer had been working on the following items:
1. Working on Rabies Tag Contest for 2022 (no entries-Board Office staff designed tags)
 2. Working with villages and towns on intergovernmental service agreements
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Health Department & Solid Waste

- III. [21-6339](#) Jackson County Health Department
Mr. Hagston updated the committee on the Health Department. He communicated the following:
The Southern Illinois region has not been faring well of late with many of the Covid metrics JCHD follows. Many counties, including Jackson County, set new records last month for the number of new Covid cases. In addition, 30% of new cases last month in Jackson County were in those teenage and younger, which is much higher than earlier in the pandemic. IDPH Region 5, which is made up of the 20 southernmost counties, has a 7-day test positivity rate just over 10%, which isn't an all-time high, but certainly a level of concern. In addition, today IDPH reports 0 available ICU beds in the region. The lack of beds and hospital staffing are creating significant ripple effects through the healthcare system.
JCHD has seen a sharp increase in Covid-related deaths recently. On Aug. 14th there were 78 total related deaths since the start of the pandemic. Today JCHD reported death #93. That averages out to about 4.9 deaths per month during the first 16 months of the pandemic, and 15 over the past month.
There has been much concern about the Delta variant, which has played a big role in the explosion in cases. Some concern centers on breakthrough infections for those fully vaccinated. The latest data from CDC shows that vaccinated people are at least 5X less likely to be infected with Covid, and have at least 10X lower risk of hospitalization or death from Covid than those not fully vaccinated.
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In the southernmost 16 counties of Illinois, the percentage of the population fully vaccinated ranges from a low of 16% to a high of 43%, vs 62% for the population of the entire State. Jackson County sits at 42%. The pace of vaccination has increased recently. JCHD is administering additional doses currently to those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised, as allowed by FDA & CDC. JCHD anticipates being authorized, as soon as next week, to administer 8-month booster doses of Pfizer, but these details are still getting worked out at the Federal level.

The Governor's Executive Order requiring healthcare workers, higher education staff and students, Prek-12 staff to be vaccinated or undergo weekly testing has created additional demand for vaccination, and tremendous demand for testing services. SIH is performing a record number of tests, SIU has contracted with a testing firm from central Illinois, many schools are moving to the SHIELD Illinois saliva test, and many other impacted organizations are seeking rapid tests, which are very hard to come by. The President's recent Covid plans have also increased testing demand.

The Jackson County Board of Health adopted a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy for employees at their September board meeting. JCHD is moving forward with implementation of that policy.

JCHD is awaiting arrival of flu vaccines so the department can begin rolling out flu shots.

IV. [21-6340](#)

Solid Waste Enforcement

Ms. Gale reported the following: As of 9/10/21, 4 open dumping inspections or field visits conducted, 3 revisits to existing sites, 1 visit to new sites, 0 revisits to sites resulted in closure due to compliance, 2 citizen complaints, 1 routine landfill inspection, 0 field visits, and 0 meetings with landfill.

V. [21-6341](#)

Solid Waste Fund Update

Ms. Gale commented to please see the attached online report for information regarding this agenda item.

VI. [21-6342](#)

Recycling Program

Ms. Gale reported the following activities completed 08/17/21-09/09/21:

- Shred/Med Day, October 16, 8am to Noon at Jackson County Health Department. We will partner with START for off-site document shredding and Jackson County Sheriff's Office for medication disposal. A flu and COVID vaccination clinic will also be offered this day at the Health Department.
- Sent out School Recycling packets for 2021-2022 enrollment.
- Working on a Jackson County Green Guide to be released in 2022.
- Assisting with COVID contact tracing with a special focus on schools.

Emergency Management

Rowe updated the committee on the following items:

- Attended the weekly IEMA Deputy Directors Webex on COVID response
- Attended the weekly NWS-Paducah Weekly Weather Partners Briefing/Webex
- Continue to distribute PPE Resources to the Stakeholders of Jackson County
- Attended Emergency Preparedness Meeting at both SIH-MHC and St. Joseph Hospitals
- Continued receiving additional staffing request for Southern Illinois Healthcare System
- Conducted ICS 700/800 Training Workshop for Rotary International at JALC 8/28/21
- Followed the progression of hurricane Ida as it hit the coast of Louisiana
- Received 2021-2023 Accreditation Certificate from IEMA

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- Attended and participated in the IESMA Region 11 quarterly meeting/Webex
 - Successfully updated and sent monthly NIXLE test on text and email for September
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Ambulance Service

- VII. [21-6343](#) Ambulance Monthly Claims in the amount of \$304,186.21
A motion was made by Comparato, seconded by Snyder, to approve the Ambulance Monthly Claims in the amount of \$304,186.21. The motion carried by the following vote:
Yes: 7 - Basden II, Calandro, Comparato, Erbes, Morris, Scott and Snyder
- VIII. [21-6344](#) Director's Report
Schafer reported the following to the committee:
Monthly Claims: \$304,186.21
Accounts Receivable Cash: \$448,470.88
Activity Report: 949 reports for 914 incidents
Other Information:
Please note \$247,883.90 will be paid back to the Bureau of Fiscal Operations-GEMT. This is the 50% repayment back to Medicaid for participation in the GEMT program. This payment includes FY2020 Q4 and FY2021 Q1-4 payments.
The department also paid the Sheriff's Department the \$25,000 annual dispatch services fee.
Without these
large payments the regular accounts payable would be \$31,302.31
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Legislative

- IX. [21-6345](#) Board Member Electronic Participation
The committee discussed the option of changing the by-laws to include Board Member electronic participation of meetings. The committee agreed there would be an issue with having a physical in-person quorum.
A motion was made by Erbes, seconded by Comparato, to not approve changing the County by-laws. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
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Citizen Comments

Old Business

New Business

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Executive Session

Adjourn (5:24 PM)

Basden moved and Erbes seconded to adjourn, motion carried.