MEETING MINUTES
Tulsa City-County Board of Health
January 20, 2021 at 6:00pm
James Goodwin Health Center
5051 S. 129 East Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74134

Board Members Present: Ann Paul, DrPH; Chair
Mike Jones, DVM; Chair
Krystal Reyes, MPA
Regina Lewis, DO
Emily Odom
Sarah-Anne Schumann, MD, MPH
Aimee Boyer, J.D., CFP

Staff Present: Bruce Dart, PhD, Executive Director
Priscilla Haynes, Preventative Health
Kelly VanBuskirk, Health Data & Policy
Monica Rogers, Information Systems
Ellen Niemitalo, Manager of Clinic Services
Makeda Thompson, Executive Assistant

Others Present: Scott Adkins, Consultant

I. Call to Order and Welcome
Ann Paul called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.
The meeting notice and agenda were posted at the James Goodwin Health Center, the North Regional Health and Wellness Center, and the Tulsa City-County Health Department (THD) website, and emailed to the Tulsa County Clerk, the Tulsa City Clerk, and the Tulsa City-County Library on November 30, 2020.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes
Dr. Ann Paul entertained a motion to approve the December 2, 2020 minutes. A motion was made by Dr. Mike Jones, and seconded by Dr. Regina Lewis. The December 2, 2020 minutes were approved.
Ms. Reyes  aye
Dr. Evans not present
Dr. Jones aye
Ms. Boyer aye
Dr. Lewis aye
Mrs. Odom aye
Dr. Paul aye
Dr. Schumann aye
Dr. Stout aye

II. Chair’s Report

As we embark upon a new year, my theme for our first Board of Health meeting is “celebration.” “Celebrate what?” we might here some exclaim. There’s no doubt that for a majority of our nation, 2020 has been the most difficult year experienced, whether from a personal perspective, a business perspective, or both. Yet, there were a great many accomplishments.

First, I want to recognize the great leadership of Dr. Bruce Dart, both in good times and in pandemic times. We have experienced his true grit. He has gained tremendous respect from many in the community with whom he was previously unknown. But like any great leader, he will point to his THD team.

So, I asked each of our Tulsa Health Department bureau chiefs to identify one pandemic related achievement and one achievement in 2020 unrelated to the pandemic. Here’s the highlights for 2020.

Related to the coronavirus pandemic:
- 21,136 COVID specimens were collected for testing at the SWOD PODS
- 64,207 calls were answered through the COVID Phone Bank
- 2,128 COVID Vaccines were distributed (Vaccine distribution began the last two weeks of December)
- Behind the scenes support from the Finance Department for tracking all COVID-19 related expenses and securing $3,858,283.22 in coronavirus funding
- Marketing outreach:
  - 1,000 media interviews related to the pandemic
  - hundreds of original content for the website, social media, digital media, and printing of safety messages in 3 languages
  - Partnered with Tulsa County and City of Tulsa on a comprehensive public service campaign. The campaign yielded
    - More than 6.9 million digital impressions,
    - 3,137 television commercials,
    - 2.5 million outdoor impressions, and
    - 350,000 print subscribers.
• Environmental Health Services (EHS) reviewed 125 COVID-19 business plans to assist local establishments with CDC policies, procedures, and recommendations, to prevent and reduce COVID transmission and maintain healthy business operations.

• Emergency Preparedness and Response staff coordinated operations and response efforts as it relates to staffing, Swab POD operations, Vaccine Operations and Phone Bank Operations, while also filling command and general staff roles within the Incident and Command structure (ICS). ICS was stood up early in the pandemic, on March 9th, and we are currently in Operational Period 91 which is the longest operational period THD has been in under the ICS.

• The Epi team worked thousands of COVID-19 disease investigations and contact tracing, and assisted other operations throughout the response, working long hours and overcoming challenging conditions.

• Clinical services were significantly modified to accommodate the COVID Response and decrease in-person services with implementation of a triage process that reduced the risk for COVID exposure for employees and clients. A specific process was also implemented for Employee Health.

• School Health is now in 8 school districts serving 50-55 schools each year, adapting to new contact protocols and processes with virtual health education lessons that can also be taught in-person. This is an example of a new best practice identified through the pandemic will be extended into the future in order to reach even more schools in our region.

• The Families First Coronavirus Response Act was implemented and managed until it ended on Dec. 31st 2020. This was a significant task with multiple moving parts and done on a short notice from the time the law was passed to the start date.

• Pathways to Health secured two major grant awards from the Rockefeller Foundation that support our community response to the pandemic:
  o $650,000 grant for rapid testing & culturally sensitive outreach to the Hispanic/Latino & Zomi communities
  o $775,000 grant for testing in Tulsa Public Schools

• THD associates have worked thousands of hours to support our community during this pandemic.

As if that weren’t enough, our Tulsa Health Department team also had these significant achievements.

• Tulsa Health Department was the first public health agency in Oklahoma to achieve re-accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board.

• Completion of much needed remodels of the Sand Springs Health Center and the first floor of the Central Regional Health Center.

• We had Zero findings for the FY20 Financial Statement Audit.

• Launch of the online food handler training option in January, which is very timely as the beginning of the pandemic would have significantly impacted the more than 30,000 individuals who take the course each year.

• Environmental Health Services received a $1.2m grant from HUD to start the Lead Hazard Control Program targeting zip codes 74106, 74110, and 74127. After significant planning
and review of extensive criteria for eligible homes, EHS inspected the first house in December. This work is continuing to expand through 2021.

- New funding contracts were received for both the Healthy Living Program and Regional Prevention Coordinator Program to continue to provide services such as education and policy-based change around smoking prevention, obesity and physical activity (HLP) and substance and alcohol abuse prevention (RPC). Despite reduced funding, the THD team has been able to offset these costs to ensure that an effective program still exists for the community.

Finally, I want to celebrate two of our THD team members, one being recognized for work during the pandemic and the other for years of service.

Lab services are critically important in a pandemic and the THD Lab Coordinator, Dana Sells, has been a huge asset to the COVID Response starting early on in March. She was one of the few employees who was able to go into the homes of those early COVID clients to collect the specimen for testing of the virus. Her skills and knowledge made her the ideal candidate to provide the initial training for staff to collect the specimen at the COVID SWAB PODs. She provided the testing as well as worked the PODs on a regular basis in the beginning of the COVID Response. She was also instrumental in providing the specimen collection training to the National Guard Medics for testing conducted at the Long Term Care Facilities. To Dana, our Tulsa Board of Health says “Thank you!”

I also want us to celebrate the life of Pam Rask. My heart breaks for our loss, but also rejoices in knowing about all the lives she has touched. On behalf of the Board of Health, Tulsa City County Health Department Senior Leaders, and associates, we will present this Resolution to Pam’s family so that they know how special she was to us.

III. THD Reports/Action Items

A. Public Health Threats and/or Opportunities: COVID-19 Update

Kelly VanBuskirk talked about the first COVID-19 case in Tulsa, OK, on March 6, 2020. It was travel-related from Italy. The first confirmed death was March 18, 2020, that was a community spread death that occurred. The incident command was set up on March 9, 2020. The Tulsa Health Department is in operational period ninety-one, which started on Monday, January 18, 2021. The operational periods went from one day. It was advance to one week, and now it is a one-month operational period. They still meet weekly to provide a briefing on Mondays to ensure that they know what has been occurring and what will continue to occur throughout that one week. She also talked about the response operations. Phone bank testing is still going on. Results and notifications are being done through Qualtrics. The data and analytics team is working on the dashboard that is on the Tulsa Health Department website. The Tulsa Health Department website has changed a little bit now that the Tulsa Health Department is testing and vaccinating. As of December 15, 2020, the Tulsa Health Department started administering vaccinations.
In October, the Tulsa Health Department reduced their swab POD operations to three days a week. It’s now down to two days a week because of prioritizing vaccinations because that is what will slow and hopefully stop the spread. So with staffing, the Tulsa Health Department had to reduce one operation to increase another. The average monthly positivity rate based on the testing samples collected in the summer increased. When people started getting back together and then started getting into the winter months, increasing the holidays.

Kelly showed photos of the vaccination station. She talked about the Drive-Thru POD operation; the cars would drive around, the person would get vaccinated, and they would park. They would wait fifteen minutes then there would be staff who walked around to make sure they didn’t have adverse reactions. After fifteen minutes, they could drive out of the POD. Once they received their first dose of vaccine, they were advised to return twenty-one days later to receive their next shot. The Tulsa Health Department has switched to a walk-thru CoVax POD operation, which would allow more individuals to get vaccinated. The operation hours are from 9 am to 5 pm, and the Tulsa Health Department sees about thirteen hundred people during that time frame.

B. Community/Health Improvement I COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution Update

Ellen Niemitalo talked about the COVID-19 Vaccine Phases. She talked about the statewide COVID-19 Vaccine allocation across Oklahoma, the Pfizer vaccine, and the Moderna. Statewide there have been 212,720 people who have received the prime dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. And 31,087 people have completed the series, having received both the prime and boost doses. The overall number across Oklahoma is 243,807 COVID-19 vaccine doses that has been administered since December 14, 2020.

Ellen showed a heat map indicating that Tulsa and Oklahoma counties have some higher numbers of administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. The caring van and St. Francis health systems, and the Tulsa Health Department have decided that school employees over 65 were a priority. All of our public schools and private schools are being cared for by one of those entities. Federal qualified health centers receive small direct shipments of vaccines that are not coming out of the Tulsa Health Department allocations.

C. Emerging Issues I Equity Ad Hoc Committee

Krystal Reyes talked about what the Ad Hoc committee would look like over the next year. She proposes that every meeting take a few minutes to discuss health equity-related articles or topics related to the work that will go into the strategic plan for the Tulsa Health Department. It is for the Board of Health board members to build the capacity around health equity and impacts structural and social determinants of health on the outcomes they’re hoping to achieve. Some of the topics include the impact of trauma on health, the impact of racism on health, and looking at the historical and structural factors that contribute to these health and equities that we see. Dr. Regina Lewis asked the board to be open-minded in order to put forth different and variety of ways of learning. Dr. Mike Stout stated that think about the implications of the future readings for the work that the
Tulsa Health Department does and ways to incorporate an equity lens into the strategic planning process.

IV. Announcements

Next Board Meeting Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 6:00pm I JGHC Room 200

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

APPROVED:

[Signature]

Ann Paul, DrPH, MPH, Board of Health Chair

ATTESTED:

[Signature]

Makeda Thompson, Tulsa Health Department Assistant