MEETING MINUTES
Tulsa City-County Board of Health
January 19, 2021 at 6:00pm
James Goodwin Health Center
5051 S. 129 East Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74134

Board Members Present:  Mike Stout, PhD; Chair
                        Regina Lewis, D.O; Vice-Chair
                        Mike Jones, D.V.M.
                        Ann Paul PhD
                        Aimee Boyer, J.D., CFP
                        Sarah-Anne Schumann, MD, MPH
                        Krystal Reyes, MPA
                        Jeffrey Galles, D.O.
                        Mousumi Som, D.O.

Staff Present:  Bruce Dart, PhD, Executive Director
               Reggie Ivey, Chief Operating Officer
               Chanteau Orr, Legal Counsel
               Scott Buffington, Employee Resources & Development
               Adam Austin, Environmental Health
               Priscilla Haynes, Preventative Health
               Kelly VanBuskirk, Prevention, Preparedness & Response
               Jumao Wang, Finance Department
               Monica Rogers, Data & Technology
               Leanne Stephens, Marketing & Creative Services
               Jenna Grant, Resource & Development
               Makeda Thompson, Executive Assistant

Others Present:  Scott Adkins, Legislative Consultant
I. **Call to Order and Welcome**

Dr. Mike Stout called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 January 13, 2022.

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Mike Stout entertained a motion to approve the December 1, 2021 minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Krystal Reyes and seconded by Dr. Regina Lewis. *The December 01, 2021 minutes were approved:*

- Dr. Stout: aye
- Dr. Lewis: aye
- Dr. Jones: aye
- Ms. Boyer: not present
- Dr. Paul: aye
- Dr. Som: aye
- Dr. Schumann: not present
- Dr. Galles: aye
- Krystal Reyes: aye

II. **Chair’s Report: Dr. Mike Stout**

Dr. Mike Stout talked about the misinformation that people are reporting about COVID-19. He stated that he read several reports over the break that he recommends the board check out. One was the study done by RWF and the Harvard T.H Chan School of Public Health on public perceptions of public health. Another one was the Public Health Forward report that Dr. Bruce Dart shared with the board last year and the third report by Kaiser Family Foundation on partisanship, vaccinations, and misinformation. Dr. Stout’s main takeaway from these reports was that many Americans are not familiar with the work their local public health departments are doing. There are substantial numbers of Americans who do not trust the information they get from their state and local health departments. And there are significant racial and partisan gaps in trust; large numbers of Americans do not describe the work of their local health departments as excellent or good, and there is a significant partisan gap in vaccination status. The gap is likely due, in part, to differences in where Americans get information about the pandemic. The Public Health Forward report provides a blueprint for strengthening and modernizing our public health systems.
following the pandemic. There is a strong emphasis on the need for health departments to facilitate partnerships, collaborations, and community engagement around public health in local communities.

Dr. Stout gave some statistical data. "When it comes to the reliability of the information at the local level, about three-quarters of adults (74%) say that on balance, they think the information provided by their local health department about the health of people in their local community is reliable, leaving more than one in five adults (23%) who say they think the information is unreliable." RWJF/Harvard, 2021)

"When it comes to their local health department, about two-thirds of adults (66%) say they are familiar with the activities of their local health department, including 17% who are very familiar and 49% who are somewhat familiar. One-third of adults (33%) report being unfamiliar with the activities of their local health department, including 23% who are not too familiar and 10% who are not at all familiar." (p. 9) (RWJF/Harvard, 2021)

"About three-quarters of adults (74%) say that on balance, they think the information provided by their local health department about the health of people in their local community is reliable, leaving more than one in five adults (23%) who say they think the information is unreliable." (p. 10) RWJF/Harvard, 2021)

53% of Democrats have a great deal/quite a lot of trust in their local health department compared to 38% of Republicans.

64% of Democrats rank their local health department as excellent or good, compared to 40% of Republicans.

Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say that the information provided by their local health department is unreliable (34% to 11%)

As of November 2021, 60% of unvaccinated Americans identified as Republicans, 17% as Democrats, and 17% as Independents (KFF, 2021).

57% of Tulsans voted Republican in the 2020 election, 40% were Democrat, 3% were independent.

"Social media, the polarization of news sources, and the pace of scientific development on COVID-19 have all contributed to an environment that makes it easier than ever for ambiguous information, misinterpretation, and deliberate disinformation to spread. In the latest Vaccine Monitor, we find that belief in pandemic-related misinformation is widespread. With 78% of adults saying they have heard at least one of eight different false statements about COVID-19 and that they believe it to be true or are unsure if it is true or false. One-third (32%) of adults believe or are uncertain about at least four false statements. Belief in COVID-19 misinformation correlates with vaccination status and partisanship, with unvaccinated adults and Republicans much more likely to
believe or be unsure about false statements than vaccinated adults and Democrats... People's trusted news sources are correlated with their belief in COVID-19 misinformation. The share who hold at least four misconceptions is small (between 11-16%) among those who say they trust COVID-19 information from network news, local TV news, CNN, MSNBC, and NPR. This share rises to nearly four in ten among those who trust COVID-19 information from One America News (37%) and Fox News (36%), and to nearly half (46%) among those who trust information from Newsmax."
(KFF 2021)

He stated that we need to take advantage of opportunities to engage the community in our CHNA, strategic planning, and equity work. He also said that we need to strengthen relationships and engage with the Tulsa delegation in the state and federal government.

III. THD Reports/Action Items

A. Public Health Threats and/or Opportunities: COVID-19 Vaccinations & Testing Update
Priscilla showed a chart with the weekly number of COVID-19 cases. December 21, 2021, there were 6,677 new cases in Oklahoma and 1,185 new cases in Tulsa. December 28, 2021, there were 8,928 new cases in Oklahoma and 1,689 new cases in Tulsa. January 01, 2022, there were 19,261 new cases in Oklahoma and 1,334 new cases in Tulsa. January 11, 2022, there were 48,162 new cases in Oklahoma and 7,572 new cases in Tulsa. The eligibility requirements for who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Primary Dose: Pfizer 5yrs. Old & older (2 shots 21 days apart), Moderna: 18yrs. old & older (2 shots given 28days apart), Janssen: 18yrs. & older- (1 shot). The third Dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is an additional dose after an initial primary vaccine series. An additional vaccine dose might be administered when the initial immune response following a primary vaccine series is likely to be insufficient. Twenty-eight days after the second Dose of Pfizer or Moderna for moderately to severely immunocompromised. Pfizer for 5yrs. Old and older who are moderate to severely immunocompromised. Moderna:18 and older who are moderate to severely immunocompromised. And there's no recommendation for Janssen.

She stated that the Omicron variant spreads more quickly than the original virus and that the Boosters increase people's protection from COVID-19, including variants. Vaccines work well to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and death, but effectiveness against infection decreases over time. People should receive their booster five months after completing the Moderna vaccine series, five months after the Pfizer vaccine series, or two months after the single Dose of J&J Dose. She showed a chart showing COVID-19 vaccine administration for Tulsa residents ages 65 and older. 91.5% fully vaccinated, 8.5% not fully vaccinated. Priscilla showed another chart showing the COVID-19 vaccine administration for Tulsa residents ages 18 and older. 28.6% are not fully vaccinated, 71.4% are fully vaccinated.

The total vaccine administered at EPRP is 186. Caring Van 7,155. CRHC 6,199, JGHC 115,176, SSHC 1,720, NRHC 7,644. She stated how it was important to stay up to date on your vaccines. Fully vaccinated means it has been two weeks after a person has received their primary series of COVID-19 vaccines. And up to date means a person has received all recommended COVID-19
vaccines, including any booster dose(s) when eligible. The Tulsa Health Department is still providing vaccines in their clinics, but because of the staffing challenges, they had to downsize the clinic locations to JGHC and CRHC; however, since the holidays, THD has only been administering the vaccine at JGHC because of clinical staffing. The NRHC, SSHC, and Collinsville locations are still temporarily closed. Thanks to THD community partners, the Caring Van continues to administer vaccines throughout the community.

THD has been testing at the NRHC-Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 10:00 am-12:15 pm and 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. Appointments are scheduled online, and there are 100 slots available. There have been 555 tests done at North Regional Health Center. Over a thousand individuals scheduled appointments, 399 received, 194 have tested positive since January. Who should be tested for COVID-19? Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status or prior infection, should be tested for COVID-19. Anyone with potential exposure to COVID-19, asymptomatic individuals, should be tested five to seven days after exposure. (Boosted, Fully vaccinated or Unvaccinated) Common symptoms are fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, the new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, or skin rash.

Quarantine and isolation guidelines for COVID infections. Anyone Boosted, Vaccinated, or unvaccinated symptoms/asymptomatic should be isolated for five days. Discontinue isolation on day six but wear a well-fitting mask for five days. If you have been in close contact with a COVID case and are 18 yrs. Old and Boosted (up to date), you should wear a well-fitting mask for ten days if you are under the age of 18 yrs. Old and you are not Boosted, you should quarantine for five days; discontinue quarantine on day six but wear a well-fitting mask for five days. There are no recommendations for quarantine for individuals aged 5-7 and those who have had the COVID-19 virus in the last 90 days and confirmed with a viral test unless you become symptomatic.

B. Community/Health Improvement: Pathways to Health Update

Jenna Grant talked about how Pathways to Health has updated its mission, vision, and values. She let the board know that Dr. Mike Stout also serves on the Pathways to Health board and that he was the liaison between the Board of Health board and the Pathways to Health. She stated that Pathways to Health also started working on a wastewater testing project with OU and the City of Tulsa and secured funding and have lab tests going on with OU water testing labs. They’re testing for COVID-19 and five other public health pathogens. Another project that Pathways to Health worked on was the COVID-19 testing in Tulsa Public Schools. A year ago, TPS was still closed because it was some concerns about Health and concerns about the kids. Pathways to Health was able to secure resources to set them up to do the testing they needed. They realized that COVID-19 testing may not have been an ongoing need, so with the remainder of the money, they were able to set up trauma resources at public schools. (i.e., counseling, training for the teachers)

She thanked Krystal Reyes and Reggie Ivey for putting together Rapid Results Tulsa. She stated that they not only found the funding, but they came up with the idea to use community health workers to reach out and provide COVID-19 testing and other resources to other populations who
might be vulnerable. At the time this program was created, there was no vaccine yet. It wasn't easy to get a PCR or rapid test. It could take days to receive these tests. Rapid Results solved those problems. Pathways to Health contracted with different private labs. The work they did through this program not only helped so many people in Tulsa but also got featured by Yale University. With the rapid results funding, Pathways to Health was able to provide the testing without putting any burden on the health department.

The work will continue through the CDC Health Equity Grant (July 2021-May 2022). A direct award from the Oklahoma State Department of Health was used for mobile health clinics and staff. And Tulsa County received $5,975,146 for COVID-19 testing and Vaccination. Health equity Office with Community Health Workers. YWCA translator/Interpreter Services (20 languages), Crossover Community Impact Health Clinic, BE Well Community Development Corp. Programs, Marketing Campaign, and IT upgrades (Qualtrics and laptops) Jenna talked about the micro-grants that Pathways to Health awarded. Pathways to Health can pay for the Micro-grants from the money it receives from Tour de Tulsa. The Tour de Tulsa event will be taking place on May 7, 2022. It's a partnership between the Tulsa bicycle club, Tulsa Health Department, and Pathways to Health. Sponsors, riders, and volunteers are needed.

**Announcements**

Next Board Meeting Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 6:00pm | JGHC Room 200

**IV. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

APPROVED:

Dr. Mike Stout, Board of Health Chair

ATTESTED:

Makeda Thompson, Tulsa Health Department Assistant