

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 19, 2020**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Mordhorst and Commissioner Pope were present.
2. **MINUTES** : **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2020**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE**

Kristty Polanco, Public Health Administrator, gave the Board a updated on positive case numbers. As of yesterday Oregon has 3,687 confirmed cases and a total of 138 deaths. In Polk County there are 93 positive cases and 3 current hospitalizations and 9 deaths that have occurred throughout April and May, the 93 case includes 2 that are presumptive. With the new changes and the active surveillance with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) we have to track down people that are classified as presumptive, which is they have been in contact with a positive case and they are experiencing two or more symptoms but are awaiting testing. Since May 1<sup>st</sup> we have been doing active surveillance with positive cases and their contacts which includes daily check-ins. They are working with our IS department to develop a google form through secure email and also devices to do secure texting to facilitate the check-ins with the contacts. For now we are calling people daily to check on their symptoms and if they experience symptoms we have to coordinate their testing by whatever means available, primary care physician or Emergency Care.

They have been focused on contact tracing training this week. In order for us to meet the prerequisites we needed an extra 10.2 FTE for contact tracing. We have identified that and more this week the initial 11 contact tracers are being trained. We have yet to receive official training from the OHA but we are moving forward with other training from John Hopkins. She and Dean Bender, Emergency Operations Manager, have reached out to OHA and request help with contact investigation. She is still waiting to hear back if that is approved or not but regardless of that they will make it work and go forward with the training in case they need them. They are exploring the possibility of a contract with Western Oregon University to help with long term tracing as well as some other partnerships such as OSU Extension Services. They have had a lot of support from the public who are offering and willing to help with contact tracing, which she is very grateful for. She is keeping a list of names and as they move forward with the training process they will find ways to include community members that are wanting to help.

In order to support people with quarantine they have created a referral process between Public Health and Family & Community Outreach (FCO). They have always had communication but now if they are in quarantine they will be a priority. If they need supplies or rent or utility assistance the FCO has really stepped up to help and has some new funding to support that as well.

They continue to support the testing capacity in the County. As of yesterday they provided 60 test kits to West Valley and are committing to providing 50-60 per week depending on what we can get from the state. Recently we have gotten just over 300 testing kits that are being distributed throughout the County reserving some for long term care facilities and hospitals. West Valley also received an Abbott test machine for rapid testing. They are in constant

communication with Group Homes that house people with developmental disabilities and other respite care. Public Health and Emergency Management are working very closely to distribute the personal protective equipment (PPE). Those requests are received by Public Health and ensure that Emergency Management gets them distributed according to the correct guidelines. Willamette Workforce Partnership has some funding available to support contact tracing and they discussed how we can work with others in our region to train contact tracers to be designated for the region because the funding is limited so we want to be sure to utilize them to the maximum and we don't spend more time with the training process within each county. The region has the capacity to do about 500 tests per week and with the new Abbott test going live as of June 1<sup>st</sup> we will be up to approximately 1,340 tests per week, which is with West Valley and Northwest Human Services. The testing criteria will expand but that conversation is still preliminary. Commissioner Pope asked Kristty to set the record straight regarding the rumors that have been circulating about our lack of surveying of investigation. There was a statement made about cases not linked to an existing case was an observation made by OHA that was shared during a press conference but it was not a metric that we had to meet for the reopening phase. She pointed out that prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> our investigative guidelines said that we had to do contact case investigation with positive cases and their immediate household members. On May 1<sup>st</sup> the guidelines changed to require extensive contact case investigation. The comment was made in reference to a time frame for March, April, and May and the guidelines didn't change until May 1st. The comment was not based on the work they were being asked to do. Commissioner Mordhorst asked her where she gets her numbers when she does these reports. She stated they get it from Orpheus, which is the OHA system where we have to input all the test results. Commissioner Pope asked if Kristty believes there is any confusion between what our hospitals consider admissions and what OHA is telling us they are counting. Kristty stated that the information comes in through labs so whenever a hospital makes a report that there is a positive case it is captured as hospitalized so they are having to do a lot of cross referencing and chart reviews on all positive cases to verify they are being captured accurately.

Dean Bender, Emergency Operations Manager, informed the Board that we received an additional 5,000 face shields, 9,400 surgical masks, and 100 small gloves, 2,771 small containers of sanitizer, 176 large containers, 100 goggles, and 0 N95. The KN95's did not pass the testing they were doing so now our current number is 4,825 which is still a decent amount. Last week we filled several orders including some life safety orders. He was contacted by the Oregon National Guard Friday evening and they were able to get in touch with the facility and find out what they need and had the order out with the help of Deputy La Combe. This was all done within a couple hours. We continue to follow the state guidelines for distribution, including not sending orders to dentist but referring them back to the state since they are the ones who make the distribution guidelines.

They have also received test kits from Quest Diagnostic and those go to Public Health to be distributed to whoever needs them. He requested 1,000 tests per week for 8 weeks and it will depend on the level they have if we get them all. DHS has asked for volunteers to provide their burn rates for a burn rates study and they were not getting any volunteers. He provided that information and they were very happy with the records they got from Dean. They have begun discussions with Oregon National Guard on face masks for migrant field workers. They are asking how we want to distribute them and after talking with them there is a big shipment coming and they need to know who we want to manage that because whatever doesn't go out becomes Polk County's property so he wants to make sure it goes out to the right people.

**6. NON-LISTED ITEMS** - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)

**a) COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM**

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, informed the Board that we received our CARES act certification for reimbursement. It requires us to turn in the reimbursement amounts by this Friday and it requires you to designate a person to put it together and submit. He is requesting they certify him to do that so he can get it moved forward and sign the document and submit the form to the state. He estimates we will be seeking \$200,000 to \$250,000 that we have put out already.

**BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD DESIGNATES GREG HANSEN TO SUBMIT CARES ACT REIMBURSEMENT FORM.**

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:36 am.

Minutes: Ciera Atha  
Approved: May 26, 2020