

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
September 1, 2020

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Pope and Commissioner Mordhorst were present.
2. **MINUTES** : **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 2020**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, reviewed the Covid case situation for Oregon, Polk and Marion County. Oregon has 26,713 positive Covid cases, 459 deaths, and the test positivity rate from August 23rd to August 29th was 4.4%.

Polk County has 429 positive Covid cases, 15 deaths, 1 current hospitalization and has a test positivity rate of 5% for the same time period. There have been 9,295.4 tests per 100,000 people in Polk County with 512.4 positive cases per 100,000 people.

Marion County has 3,830 positive Covid cases, 80 deaths, 2 current hospitalizations and has a test positivity rate of 9.4%. There have been 12,536.5 tests per 100,000 people in Marion County with 1,101.3 positive cases per 100,000 people.

Capital Manor has 2 additional residents of independent living that tested positive, and the last positive was August 9th. Dallas Retirement Village has 5 cases, 3 staff and 2 residents. Prestige Orchard Heights has 3 positive cases. Salem Health has 40 staff with positive tests according to the weekly OHA report from August 26th.

Public Health is still using the contact tracers from WOU and the number of people being monitored has gone down and is now at 75. The new Public Health worker starts this weekend and they are still in the process of hiring another temporary Public Health worker. Douglas County contact tracers have begun helping out which is very helpful for the weekends. OHA has also been providing case investor support and their support is based on a week by week evaluation of needs.

Ms. Umstead reported that this is the first time Marion and Polk County combined have been meeting all of the metrics. For the counties combine the percent of emergency department visits for Covid like illness is .4%, there is no trend in percent of tests that are positive in the last 7 days, there is a -3% in new cases in the last 7 days, 26% of cases not traced to a known source, a downtrend in hospitalizations, and 99% of cases in the last 7 days were followed up on within 24 hours.

Polk County has .4% of emergency visits that are Covid like illness, a downtrend in percent of tests that are positive in the last 7 days at 3.8%. During this review period, August 16th through the 22nd, there were 22 positive tests out of the 585 tests that were performed. That is a 3.8% test positivity rate. Polk County had a 41% decrease in new cases in the last 7 days, and 31% of cases not traced to a known source, a downtrend in hospitalizations, and 100% of cases in the last 7 days were followed up on within 24 hours.

Marion County has .4% of emergency visits that are Covid like illness, a uptrend in percent of tests that are positive in the last 7 days at 10.6%. During this review period, August 16th through the 22nd, there were 263 positive tests out of the 2550 tests that were performed. That is a 10.4% test positivity rate. Marion County had a 3% increase in new cases in the last 7 days, and 25% of cases not traced to a known source, a downtrend in hospitalizations, and 99% of cases in the last 7 days were followed up on within 24 hours.

Ms. Umstead stated that the state is coming up with a testing initiative to hopefully get to the point 17,000 people will be tested per day. In her meeting last week when she was told this they did not give any information on how that will be accomplished. Some of the long term care facilities will be getting machines for testing in house, starting with Dallas Retirement Village. The state will help provide the initial testing kits but then it will be up to each facility to provide those.

Commissioner Pope expressed his frustration that people are getting tested per referral from a physician under the pretense that the insurance will cover the majority of the cost and would be \$116 out of pocket and then receiving a bill for over \$500. Commissioner Pope questioned how many tests would be performed if nobody was making money off of them. Ms. Umstead agreed and informed the Board that Public Health has reached out to our local hospitals in order to try and devise a plan to provide testing for people who don't have a way to get tested and how those costs can be absorbed. The cost for the test from the state is \$51 per test.

Dean Bender, Emergency Operations Manager, informed the Board that last week he had only 7 orders to fill, which he expected because the week before was so busy. The county still has a good amount of PPE inventory. He didn't need to order anything last week and doesn't think he will need to order anything this week either. Mr. Bender stated that it seems like more and more people are able to use their normal supply chain rather than having to come to the county for PPE. Commissioner Pope asked why the week prior there were so many more orders to fill than all the other weeks. Mr. Bender stated that it was because he reached out to the agencies that he had filled orders for previously and let them know he still had plenty of stock if they needed more supplies, which generated a surge of requests that week. Mr. Bender intends to reach out again next week.

4. RECLASSIFICATION

Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, requested a reclassification of the Planning Supervisor, Sidney Mulder. He is requesting that she be reclassified into the Planning Manager position. Ms. Mulder has been an excellent Supervisor and this would be an expected move to continue in her growth with the county. If approved this change would be effective September 1st, and for a twelve month period there would be an approximate increase of \$4,500 a month including PERS contributions.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE REQUESTED RECLASSIFICATION.

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

- (a) Aaron Felton, Polk County District Attorney, attended the meeting to discuss a request that the Board received yesterday to sign off on a request to shoot some footage in the Courthouse. Commissioner Ainsworth stated that when they received the document to sign approving the filming in the courthouse they were surprised because they had not heard anything about it previously and the filming was set to begin tomorrow.

Mr. Felton responded that the schedule for filming was not certain until a couple weeks ago but that he did speak to the County Administrative Officer, Greg Hansen, and Morgan Smith, County Counsel to let them know this was coming up and at that time he did not have much information. The Director of the documentary is interested in rural counties District Attorney's office. In Mr. Felton's conversation with the Director he spoke about why Polk County is interesting and unique is the commitment to our specialty courts, and alternative treatment programs. The producers were intrigued by the programs and the unique and practical approach to criminal justice in Polk County and asked to come and speak with Mr. Felton about how that is implemented for the DA's office and the system in general.

The producers want to interview Mr. Felton tomorrow in courtroom 1 and get footage of him interacting with deputies, and Judge Hill, as well as the specialty courts and jail. In the end the piece will be approximately 15 minutes long and he does not know when the air date would be yet but will be on OPB. Mr. Felton thanked Community Corrections Director, Jodi Merritt, for sponsoring many grants and things that allow Polk County to run the specialty courts and other programs that are available. Commissioner Pope expressed his frustration that the Board was not collaborated with on this project from the beginning. The Board is responsible for the budgets and funding and how things happen in the County and Commissioner Pope stated that he would have liked to have been a part of that in order to have a more collaborative story told. Commissioner Ainsworth recommended that another documentary they could do would be on Drug Court and the fact that since Covid started in March, the program has lost almost all of participants because they have not been able to meet one on one. He feels they should be able to hold Drug Court in courtroom 1 where there is plenty of room for social distancing. Mr. Felton agreed that it is a huge loss and he shares the Board's frustration with the results of the pandemic.

- (b) Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, informed that Board that there is a wine festival event that the Dallas Visitors Center has scheduled to take place on the courthouse lawn on Saturday. He has already received their documentation showing how they will be maintaining social distancing and meeting all of the guidelines. He has also received a request from the Dallas Downtown Association to start a Saturday Market. Mr. Hawkins has requested their plan to ensure social distancing and all other guidelines are met and is waiting to hear back from them.

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:41 am.