

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2020

1. At 9:02 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 SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Jacque Umstead, Public Health Administrator, reviewed the current Covid case data for Oregon, Polk and Marion County. As of September 8th Oregon has a total of 28,190 Covid cases and there have been 482 deaths. During the most recent review period, August 30 through September 5th, Oregon had a test positivity rate of 3.9%, Marion County was at 7.5% and Polk County was at 2.6%.

Polk County currently has 456 Covid cases, 0 hospitalizations, and 15 deaths total, which is the same as last week. Polk County has tested 7,992 which is 9265.4 tests per 100,000 people. There were 550 positive cases per 100,000 population. Marion County currently has 4,030 Covid cases, 1 hospitalization, and 80 deaths. They have tested 46,218 people which is 13,313 tests per 100,000 people. There were 1167.5 positive cases per 100,000 population. The current outbreaks in Polk County are at Capitol Manor, Dallas Retirement Village, and Prestige, and they have not had any additional cases. Salem Health has had one more staff member test positive which brings their total up to 41 Covid cases.

Public Health is still using the contact tracers from WOU and it is working very well. They will be getting some new contact tracers this month to replace some that will be moving on. Polk County Public Health is currently monitoring 95 people. They are currently waiting to receive more applications to consider from Willamette Workforce for case investigators.

Public Health reopened recruitment for a temporary Public Health Worker and they had a promising interview. Polk County started receiving support from Douglas County at the end of August and it has been working well. Polk County has not needed extra support from Oregon Health Authority or Douglas County since August 30th.

Ms. Umstead gave an overview of the public health indicators for monitoring Covid-19 in Oregon counties. Marion and Polk County combined are at .3% for Emergency Department visits related to Covid like illness. The trend in percent of tests that are positive in the last 7 days had an uptrend at 8.4%. The percent increase in new cases in the last 7 days is -8% and percent of cases not traced to a known source was 23% which is below the target. Both counties combined saw a downtrend in hospitalizations and the percent of cases in the last 7 days with follow up within 24 hours is at 99%.

Polk County saw .3% of Emergency Department visits that were for Covid related illness. The trend in percent of tests that are positive in the last 7 days had an uptrend at 5.2%. The percent increase in new cases in the last 7 days is -7% and percent of cases not traced to a known source was 33%. There was an uptrend in hospitalizations and the percent of cases in the last 7 days that were followed up within 24 hour was at 100%.

Marion County also saw .3% of Emergency Department visits that were for Covid related illness. The trend in percent of tests that are positive in the last 7 days had an uptrend at 9.3%. The percent increase in new cases in the last 7 days is -8% and percent of cases not traced to a known source was 22%. There was a downtrend in hospitalizations and the percent of cases in the last 7 days that were followed up within 24 hour was at 99%.

Public Health has reached out to 17 community based organizations (CBO's) that want to partner with Polk County and provide some kind of service. They can provide contact tracing, outreach and education, or wraparound services for the community. Polk County's responsibility is to have an MOU with all the CBO's and helps to have a good understanding of what they are trying to achieve. Public Health has sent out a survey for the CBO's to fill out to figure out what they are doing in the community and have received 9 responses. The plan for wraparound services is to funnel people to Family and Community Outreach because they will have a good understanding of what CBO's are offering and can delegate and track everything. The challenge at this point is that Public Health is still not aware of what services the CBO's want to offer and if they are things the county needs. Commissioner Pope stated that these CBO's have already been paid for the first quarter and the County has still not been able to see the contracts to find out what they are being paid to do for the county. The MOU should reflect the language in their contract with the state stating what services they would be providing for the community.

Dean Bender, Emergency Operations/Communications Manager, informed the Board that last week was a fairly slow week in regards to personal protective equipment (PPE). He only had 4 orders of PPE to fill to for surrounding agencies. All of Polk County PPE inventory levels are above the requirements to maintain our certification. Mr. Bender offered to provide the Board with a list of the agencies he has filled orders for as well as all of the requests that Operations Center has sent out for PPE and Covid testing supplies.

Mr. Bender was notified by the state that schools will be getting their supplies directly through Oregon Department of Education (ODE). They received 5 million cloth masks and ODE will be distributing those. If the County receives a request for PPE from schools they should be directed to ODE. Last week the Board asked Mr. Bender what the \$105 million that the E-Board allocated to PPE was spent on and if the county should be making room for more inventory. Mr. Bender sent that request to the Director of Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) and the response was that the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) was responsible for that decision and he would forward the question to DAS to try and get an answer.

4. SHERIFF OFFICE UPDATE

Sheriff Mark Garton informed the Board that most of Gates is burnt down and Mill City is currently on fire. The Sheriff informed the Board that they have seen an increase in calls due to people traveling mostly. They have increased capacity in the jail while still being able to meet the requirements. Their average population in the jail last month was 75 which is double it was the previous months.

Commissioner Pope asked the Sheriff if he had any concerns about population and meeting space guidelines at this point, and the Sheriff did not. He said there are some C misdemeanors crimes that are not being housed in the jail because the Deputies are writing citations instead. If they do end up in the jail the courts will get them released within the next day or after arraignment, and the Sheriff office has no control over that.

The trial that was scheduled to be held at the Fairgrounds has been pushed out. There is nothing else is currently scheduled for the court at the Fairgrounds. Commissioner Mordhorst informed

the Board that he is working with the Polk County Sheriff and a Salem Police Officer to create a plan to help mitigate the theft issues that are happening in West Salem. Individuals from the nearby homeless camps have gotten very comfortable walking in to stores and walking out with stolen items. The Sheriff pointed out that the theft problem needs a multi-agency approach and they have worked with the cities agencies but Salem PD has not shown interest on the offer but it is still in progress. Commissioner Pope pointed out that even if we fill the jail to capacity with some of these habitual offenders it would exacerbate the behavioral health challenges in the jail. The reason there are so many people in the jail with behavioral health issues is because they are severe and not getting through the criminal justice system. The State Hospital isn't taking people as fast if at all, and there needs to be another way to get these people out of jail and into some kind of treatment program on the outside.

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

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:41 am.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: September 15, 2020