

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 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 OCTOBER 13, 2020**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, gave the Board a review of the most recent data regarding COVID-19 in Oregon, Polk, and Marion County. Oregon Currently has a total of 39,794 COVID-19 cases, 627 deaths, and a test positivity rate of 5.8%.

Polk County has a total of 635 COVID-19 cases, 15 deaths, and a test positivity rate of 7.6 % which is an increase from the previous week. There is 1 hospitalization in Polk County. There were 760.8 positive cases per 100,000 people tested and 32 individuals who are currently isolating.

Marion County has a total of 5,509, 105 deaths, and a test positivity rate of 9.9%. There are 2 hospitalizations in Marion County and there were 1,584 positive cases per 100,000 people tested.

Capital Manor has 2 positive cases, neither of which are new. Salem Health has a total of 52 positive staff and that number represents the total number of positive cases since reporting began.

The contact tracing with WOU has not changed and they are currently monitoring 76 people for symptoms. The newest temporary Public Health worker started on October 19th. All other staffing is unchanged from last week's update and they are now fully staffed. Polk County Public Health has sent out 18 MOU's to the Community Based Organization (CBO) and they have received 16 of them back so far.

The Alluvium pop up testing event is scheduled for October 28th and will be held at the Polk County Fairgrounds. They expect to test up to 150 people and this will also be Alluvium's last testing event because they are disbanding. The BinaxNOW portable test will be distributed by OHA to current testing sites and to long term care facilities.

Marion and Polk County combined had .5% of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness for the most recent review period. Combined they saw an uptrend of 8.4% of tests that were positive in the last seven days and a 23% increase in new cases in the last 7 days. 28% of cases were not traced to a known source and 100% of cases were followed up on within 24 hours.

For the reporting period starting October 4th through October 10th Polk County was under the target at .5% of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness. There was a downtrend with 4.5% of tests that were positive in the last seven days. In Polk County 668 tests were performed and 30 of them were positive. There was a 50% increase in new cases in the last 7

days. There were 33 new cases reported during this review week compared to 22 cases in the previous reporting week. 42% of cases were not traced to a known source in the last 7 days and 100% of positive cases were followed up on within 24 hours.

Marion County was also under the target at .5% for emergency department visits for COVID-like illness. Marion County saw an uptrend of 9.4% in percent of test that were positive in the last seven days. There were 2,709 people tested and 255 were positive. They saw a 21% increase in new cases in the last seven days. 26% of cases were not traced to a known source and they also followed up on 100% of positive cases within 24 hours.

Ms. Umstead also provided the Board a handout showing the current metrics and criteria for in-person instruction. The Commissioners all expressed their concerns that kids are not in school and hope that the metric expectations will be modified.

Marilyn Morton, with Minet, asked Ms. Umstead if she had any comment on the new mandate from OHA which states that a face shield alone is no longer considered effective and a mask must be worn with it. Ms. Umstead answered and said that it is from the CDC stating that it's not just the big droplet but can also be spread through the air particles and can be suspended in air for a while. She said from a Public Health standpoint she completely supports the update.

Anne Scheck, of Independence, ask if WOU is reporting to the county on the testing of athletes and the positivity of them. Ms. Umstead stated that yes, every test that is done in the Polk County must be reported to the Local Public Health Authority.

4. HELMICK SPEED STUDY

Todd Whitaker, Public Works Director, informed the Board that the residents on the south end of Helmick Road requested a speed investigation in January 2020 due to many vertical curves, limited sight distances from driveways, and higher traffic speeds through the area since being paved in 2017. The section is currently basic rule (55 MPH) by statute. The residents requested the speed be changed to 40 MPH.

The speed investigation was completed by Public Works engineering staff and the findings concurred with the residents request to change the speed to 40 MPH. If approved this would have a fiscal impact of less than \$800 including labor, equipment, and materials to erect the signs. With the Boards approval Mr. Whitaker will provide an Order to be placed on next weeks consent calendar.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE RECOMMENDED SPEED CHANGE ON HELMICK ROAD.

5. RECLASSIFICATION

Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, requested that the Board reclassify Samantha Young in Behavioral Health from a BH Case Manager I to a BH Case Manager II. Samantha has been working out of class since July 1, 2020 as an abuse investigator and has performed very well. If approved this reclassification would be effective as of November 1, 2020 and would have a fiscal impact of approximately \$4,800 for a period of 12 months, including PERS contributions.

BY CONSENSUS THE BOARD APPROVED THE REQUESTED RECLASSIFICATION.

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

- a) Marilyn Morton, Independence resident, stated that she has been attending the Board meetings because she has an acute interest in what is going on. Ms. Morton requested that the Board consider providing microphones to the speakers during the Board meetings because she has a difficult time hearing the speaker from the back of the room, especially when somebody is speaking to the Commissioners which is away from the audience.

Commissioner Ainsworth responded and informed her that the county is currently in the process of acquiring microphones as well as a speaker to ensure that everybody in the back can hear everything being said. Ms. Morton also stated that they should also consider videotaping the meetings.

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: October 27, 2020