

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
November 10, 2020

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Mordhorst declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Pope was Present. Commissioner Ainsworth was excused.

2. **MINUTES:** COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 27, 2020

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUOROM.

4. SHERIFF OFFICE & MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM UPDATE

Polk County Sheriff Mark Garton explained that in 2016 they received a grant to fund two Mobile Crisis Teams that consists of one police officer and one mental health professional. These teams respond to calls seven days a week. One team is from the Salem Police Department and the other is from the Polk County Sheriff Office and either one will respond anywhere in the county. Sheriff reviewed the trends that they have seen from year to year in regards to how many calls they are getting and how much follow up they are doing.

Sergeant Jenkins informed the Board that before they had the Mobile Crisis Teams (MCRT) the response to low level crimes like disorderly conduct, or harassment would be to arrest the offender and put them in jail. Many times people living with a mental health issue do not belong in jail. The MCRT is able to respond to a call involving a mental health crisis and divert those individuals from jail and get them into the system. The MCRT work closely with Behavioral Health to get them the help they need and are able to spend more time with the individual in crisis. Sheriff Garton pointed out that in 2018 only 5% of the calls that the MCRT responded to that were criminal resulted in jail and in 2019 that number was 7%. They do have mandatory arrests such as domestic violence, a warrant, or if the crime outweighs the mental health issue. Sheriff Garton and Ms. Lief, Health Services Division Manager, reviewed some of the various dispositions that are on the form they fill out for each call that helps them track the data.

Commissioner Pope asked if there were any improvements that could be made to the program that they could identify since the program started back in 2016. Sheriff Garton stated that in the beginning they were tracking the reports they received from Behavioral Health as time goes on they continue to learn which data is most relevant and continue to update the report data. One aspect that is difficult to track is diversion because some agencies consider it diversion only if the offender doesn't go to jail. Ms. Lief stated that she has a meeting later today with the state to discuss what jail diversion is and what the criteria is that the state is looking for. Part of Mobile Crisis is crisis intervention team and they put on two 40 hour trainings per year for law enforcement, which includes public safety, corrections, parole and probation. They are also part of CIT international and attend conferences there. They are applying for program certification and there are four different levels. They will most likely start at the bottom level and then they evaluate the program and provide feedback on how to improve the program so you can move

forward to the highest level. Also they will be putting together a steering committee next year in order to receive input from other agencies and the community.

5. 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 51,155 COVID-19 cases, 734 deaths. Looking at the trends in test positivity and testing from the 1st of November until the 7th Oregon overall is at 11.9%, Marion County is at 15.8% and Polk County is at 11.7%.

Polk County currently has 813 COVID-19 cases, 4 hospitalizations, and 15 deaths (unchanged). The total number of tests performed this past week was 618 and 72 of those were positive and 71 people are currently isolating. Commissioner Pope asked for clarification on the Polk County data because if there were 72 tests that were positive there should be many more isolating if people are supposed to be isolating if they are presumed positive. Ms. Umstead stated that the positive cases who are currently isolating is just data that is pulled from a 10 day window, so they look at the onset date and based on that date they would isolate for ten days. Commissioner Pope asks what the difference is between a positive test and a presumed positive in isolation. Positive cases would include presumptive cases who are currently isolating, that is not differentiated in the data because if you have symptoms of COVID-19 and you have an epidemiological link to somebody who has COVID-19 you are considered positive. That is the standard that OHA has set and as the Local Public Health Authority they have to follow OHA guidelines.

Marion County currently has 6,878 COVID-19 cases, 5 hospitalizations, and 118 deaths. This past week they performed 1,635 tests and 416 were positive.

There is a new outbreak at a long term care facility, Windsong at Eola Hills, has 6 cases of COVID-19. Capital Manor has not changed, and Salem Health has a total of 60 positive staff from the last weekly report, and this number is the total number of positive cases since reporting began.

They have received all of the MOU's back from the 18 Community Based Organizations (CBO). They are still waiting for the CBO's who are up to date with training, there is one that will be ready to start on the 12th.

There was a pop up testing event at the Polk County Fairgrounds and 117 people were tested for COVID-19 and 5 of those tests were positive. They also gave out 35 flu vaccines that day. The event went very well and Emergency Management came out to help as well as some Public Works employees who helped with traffic. It was very well organized and there were no traffic issues.

Ms. Umstead reviewed the public health indicators for Marion and Polk County combined. The percentage of emergency department (ER) visits that were for COVID-like illness was at .6%, Trend in percent of tests that were positive in the last 7 days showed an uptrend of 10.6%, percent of new cases in the last 7 days was 29%, percent of cases not traced to a known source in the last 7 days was at 31%, there is an uptrend in hospitalizations in the last 7 days, and percent of cases followed up on within 24 hours was at 97%.

In Polk County the percentage of emergency department visits that were for COVID-like illness was at .6%, the percent of tests that were positive in the last 7 days showed an uptrend of 6.8%.

Ms. Umstead reminded the Board that this data is looking at October 25th to October 31st. Polk County had 721 tests and 49 were positive, the percent of increase in new cases in the last 7 days was 100% because we went from 23 new cases the week prior and there were 46 new cases during this review week. The percent of cases not traced to a known source was 30% which means that when they spoke to the positive case they did not know where they got it. There is an uptrend in hospitalizations over the last 14 days and 100% of the time cases were followed up on within 24 hours.

Marion County is at .6% of emergency department visits that were for COVID-like illness, they have an uptrend in the percent of tests that were positive in the last 7 days of 11.4%, and they did 3,760 tests and 433 were positive, they had a 24% increase in cases. 31% of their cases were not traced to a known source, they have also had an uptrend in hospitalizations in the last 14 days, and 97% of the time they followed up with positive cases within 24 hours.

Ms. Umstead included the school metrics and at this point Polk County is in the transition because we have a higher case count. Public Health has been consulting with schools and it was the schools decision to open or not.

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

Commissioner Mordhorst adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: November 17, 2020