

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 17, 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 NOVEMBER 10, 2020**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE**

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, reviewed the current COVID-19 case data for Oregon. As of November 16<sup>th</sup> there are 57,646 positive cases, 765 deaths, our trends in test positivity and testing from November 8<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> for Oregon overall had a positivity rate of 12.5%. Marion County has a positivity rate of 18.4%, and Polk County is at 9.3%.

Polk County currently has 926 cases, 5 hospitalizations, and 15 deaths. The total number of tests done in the last 7 days is 701 and there were 65 of those that tested positive. There are 96 cases that are currently isolating and being monitored.

Marion County has 7,599 positive cases, 6 hospitalizations, and 124 deaths. The total number of tests done in the last 7 days is 2,474 and 558 of those were positive.

There was an outbreak at the long term care facility Windsong, with 7 positive cases. Capitol Manor had 2 more positive cases yesterday. Heron Point has 7 positive cases. Marquis Spa has 11 positive cases. Salem Health has 76 positive staff as of November 12<sup>th</sup>. This number represent the total number since reporting began.

Staffing in Public Health has not changed but they are stretched very thin due to the high number of cases. Commissioner Ainsworth asked if the contact tracers will call a person multiple times when trying to reach them. Ms. Umstead stated that they will call a couple times but it is up to the individual contact tracer and their current case load. They are currently reaching out to 243 people each day to monitor symptoms. Commissioner Ainsworth asked if there was data on how many people are actually showing symptoms out of the total positive cases. They do not have that data being tracked but says that there are far more people that are sick who test positive than those who test positive and are not having symptoms.

Marion and Polk County combined health indicators: Percentage of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness is at 0.9%, the trend in percent of tests that were positive in the last 7 days had a downtrend of 14%, percentage increase in new cases in the last 7 days were 32%, the percent of cases not traced to a known source was 34%, the trend in COVID-19 hospitalizations over the last 14 days had an uptrend and the percent of cases in the last 7 days with follow up within 24 hours was at 96%.

Polk County public health indicators: Percentage of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness is also at 0.9%, the trend in percent of tests that were positive in the last 7 days had an uptrend of 11%. This data is looking at November 1<sup>st</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup>, 776 people were tested and 85 were positive. There was an 87% increase in cases during that review week with 88 new cases reported compared to 47 cases the previous week. That was broken down by zip code

and 97304 had 40 cases, 97351 had 27, and 97361 had 11, the rest of the zip codes were between 0-1. 34% of cases were not traced to a known source. There was no trend in hospitalizations and 99% of the time cases were followed up within 24 hours.

Marion County public health indicators: 0.9% of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness, the trend in percent of tests that were positive saw a downtrend with 14.8%, they tested 3549 people and 529 were positive. They had a 26% increase in cases, 34% of cases were not traced to a known source, they had an uptrend in hospitalizations during that 2 week review. 96% of cases were followed up on within 24 hours.

Ms. Umstead pointed out the in the school metrics Polk County is in the red. We would need to be between 50-100 cases per 100,000 people for hybrid learning, and onsite learning would have to be down to less than 50 cases per 100,000 people.

Commissioner Mordhorst asked if Public Health had a breakdown of where the positive tests were coming from such as industrial, agriculture, food processing, and senior living/assisted living. Ms. Umstead stated that Ms. Polanco, Public Health Emergency Coordinator, is working on that and she is hopeful it will be available soon.

Commissioner Pope asked Ms. Umstead if there is any data that links the trends in positive cases with specific activities. Commissioner Pope stated that there are only a few people at the state that are making the decision to shut down and he feels that the counties should be involved. Ms. Umstead stated that the state did not ever reach out and ask Polk County Public Health what they felt was best for our County.

#### **4. BROADBAND UPDATE**

Dean Anderson, IT Special Projects Manager, stated that the project is coming along nicely and that there some initial delays due to fires and delivery issues. Alyrica is on track to complete the project by the end of the year. They are providing weekly progress reports. Alyrica plans to add 4 new towers and also co-locates, the first one should be completed this week. They are developing a public announcement about what services are being provided in the area. The other 4 sites are moving along well, all of the permits are in place. Alyrica is constructing 2 new sites that should both go online in late December. In order to ensure they can complete the project in the timeframe agreed on Alyrica has purchased a temporary tower that they will be able to position to provide services and testing. The 6 new towers are all scheduled to be online by late December and the co-locates should be in place and available as well. The macro pops can be placed in somebody's back yard, on a tower, or in a tree. The macro pops will come online after the new towers. Expenditures are in line with the projected expenditures and the county is being reimbursed following the distribution of funds to Alyrica. There are no delays at this time and they are not anticipating any issues.

#### **5. RECLASSIFICATION**

Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, requested a reclassification of two Behavioral Health Case Manager's, Kevin Bindrim and Rosemary Ceja Schrecengost. They would be reclassified from a Case Manager I to to Case Manager II position. They have taken on supported employment fidelities. This would be effective December 1<sup>st</sup> if approved by the Board of Commissioners and for a 12 month period would cost approximately \$7,300 including PERS contributions.

**BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE REQUESTED RECLASSIFICATIONS.**

**6. RECLASSIFICATION**

Mr. Hawkins requested a reclassification of Kerry Hammerschmith in Behavioral Health, from a Behavioral Health Program Supervisor to a Health Services Program Manager. There has been significant changes in structural leadership in Behavioral Health and they would like her to take on more of the adult outpatient as well as the addictions services program to help them work together. If approved by the Board of Commissioners this would be effective December 1<sup>st</sup> and cost approximately \$4,000 for a 12 month period including PERS contributions.

**BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE REQUESTED RECLASSIFICATIONS.**

**7. 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 9:33 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha  
Approved: November 24, 2020