

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 15, 2020**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Mordhorst was present. Commissioner Pope was excused.
2. **MINUTES:** **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2020**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE**

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, review the COVID-19 case data from the most recent review period for Oregon overall as well as Polk and Marion County. Oregon currently has a total of 95,010 COVID-19 cases and 1,161 deaths. Oregon overall has a test positivity rate is 7.8%, Marion County is 12.7%, and Polk County is at 8.4% for the 29th of November through December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Polk County currently has 1,611 COVID-19 cases, 5 people in the hospital and a total of 24 deaths. Positive cases who are currently isolating is 125. Marion County currently has 11,575 cases, 46 hospitalizations and 178 deaths.

Long term care facility, Windsong at Eola Hills still has a total of 11 cases, Capital Manor has a total of 7 cases, Heron Pointe has a 15 case, Jefferson Lodge has 48 positive cases, Dallas Retirement Village has 16 cases, Marquis Spa Corp. has 12 positive cases, Truitt Bros. has 8 positive cases, and ACPI Cabinet Works Group has 5 cases. Salem Health has a total of 100 positive staff as of the 12/9 OHA weekly report. This number represents the total number of positive cases since they started reporting.

Public Health currently has a recruitment out for an RN. The contact tracing team at WOU is going very well still and they are monitoring 288 close contacts to COVID. Oregon Health Authority is still offering support with case investigation.

There was a testing event on December 10<sup>th</sup> where 139 people were tested. This was a drive thru event at the Polk County Fairgrounds. Out of the 139 tested that day there were 14 positive cases identified which is a positivity rate of 10.1% for the event. There is another testing event on December 29<sup>th</sup> for COVID testing as well the option to get a flu vaccine. These events are free and can be registered for online.

Public Health will meet with the Community Based Organizations that have signed up to do contact tracing. This will be to review workflow so they are prepared and ready to help in the event that Polk County has a surge of positive cases and we need additional help with contact tracing.

OHA has changed their quarantine guidelines to align with the CDC recommendation. Aside from the 14 day quarantine there is now the option for a 10 day quarantine and a 7 day quarantine option if you have a negative test within 48 hours of day 7. Oregon has received its first shipment of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, which was approved for emergency use by the FDA on December 11<sup>th</sup>. This is for people who are 16 years old and older. 35,100 doses are expected in Oregon this week and will be distributed to hospitals to vaccinate staff. 10,725 of those doses will go to skilled nursing facilities for vaccinations that begin next week. This vaccine is 95% effective with mild to moderate short lived side effects. Moderna is the other company who has created the vaccine and they are waiting for approval from the FDA. If that is approved the vaccine will be delivered to Oregon on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup>. The state anticipates being able to provide first doses for 100,000

people and the second doses following in January. There are different phases of vaccine distribution with the first being to hospital workers, long term care facility workers, and residents. After that it will go to other healthcare workers and those who are at high risk.

During the weeks of November 22<sup>nd</sup> through December 5<sup>th</sup> Polk County was one of 25 counties in the extreme risk level, with 456 cases per 100,000 people with an 8.3% positivity rate in Oregon overall. In Polk County during that time there were 382 cases, which is 460 cases per 100,000 residents with a 10.9% positivity rate. Statewide in Oregon 4.5% of emergency department visits were for COVID- like illness. During the week of November 29<sup>th</sup> 206 COVID-19 cases were admitted to the hospital across Oregon with 6 of those being Polk County residents. The percent of cases with follow up initiated within 24 hours in Polk County was at 94% and 60% of those cases were traced back to a known source.

In Marion County for the same timeframe, November 22<sup>nd</sup> through December 5<sup>th</sup>, they were also in the extreme risk level with 2,018 cases, 580.3 cases per 100,000 residents with a 12.3% positivity rate. They had 44 cases that were admitted to the hospital in Marion County during the week of November 29<sup>th</sup>. 11% of cases were followed up on within 24 hours and that is the result of a surge in positive cases and Marion County Public Health trying to catch up, 33% of cases were traced to a known source. Ms. Umstead reviewed the school metrics data for Polk and Marion County. Neither counties will be able to return in in person learning until that comes down significantly more. The WOU Newsletter shows that Polk County is 25<sup>th</sup> out of the 36 counties in Oregon and the goal is to be in last place.

John Golly, Dallas resident, asked for the definition of a presumptive COVID case is. Ms. Umstead answered that a presumptive case means that there is an epidemiological link to a case. If you have been in close contact with somebody who has COVID and then develop 2 or more COVID symptoms, but were not tested, you would still be treated as a positive case. The purpose of this is to avoid possibly spreading it just in case the test was wrong. Mr. Golly asked if the hospital receives monetary compensation for every death diagnosed as COVID. Ms. Umstead responded that OHA was also asked that and their response was no, and she has not heard or seen anything to lead her to believe that is true.

#### **4. POLK COUNTY FOOD AVAILABILITY PRESENTATION**

Brent DeMoe, Family and Community Outreach Director, introduced OHSU nursing students Katie Helyer, Courtney Roth, Patrick Stone, Kailee King, Sophia Tolento, , and Dani Back, who attended the meeting virtually. For the last four years Polk County has had worked with OHSU Nursing students on a variety of projects throughout the county. Recently, this group learned that because of COVID-19 there is food insecurity within Polk County, and began a project to determine how much of a need there was, especially in regards to emergency food pantries and food banks.

Ms. Helyer gave a presentation to the Board regarding their project on improving accessibility of food resources in Polk County. The goal of the project was to increase awareness regarding food insecurity and available resources. The group conducted background research through the 2019 Marion/ Polk Community Health Assessment and a virtual assessment of the community. 1 in 10 adults and 1 in 5 children are suffering from food insecurity, additionally 18% of children in Polk County have expressed that they felt like they didn't have enough to eat. After conducting a survey on the barriers people face to access the food banks and food pantries in Polk County they found the 4 largest barriers were not being able to go during open hours, not knowing the location, some only allow one visit per month, and not having transportation. Many residents indicated they would utilize a food box delivery service as well as benefit from evening and or weekend hours at the food banks and pantries. The results of the survey prompted the Dallas Food Bank, who is an established partner of the Marion Polk Food Share, will be expanding their regular hours to include weekday afternoon hours as well as time slot from 10 am to 1 pm on Saturdays. The Food Pantry at the Dallas

Resource Center has established a satellite site for the Dallas Food Bank, which will allow the Resource Center to coordinate services using an online platform. This collaboration also allows the Dallas Resource Center Food Pantry to receive more donations and foods from the Marion Polk Food Share. The Dallas Resource Center has will also be extending their hours of operation.

Mr. DeMoe informed the Board that FCO currently has a recruitment open to hire somebody whose hours will be to help with the food pantry at the Resource Center. The goal is to start the new hours January 1<sup>st</sup>, however that will depend on how quickly they can fill that position.

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

- a. Steve Milligan, Dallas Resident & Polk County Treasurer Elect, stated that he wanted to discuss some legal aspects of the position of Polk County Treasurer. Mr. Milligan provided a written copy of his testimony to the Board and reviewed them stating that non-Charter County's do not have the authority to reassign statutory duties without approval to non-elected officials. Mr. Milligan referred to Polk County Resolution No. 16-03 in which the compensation committee reduced the compensation to the County Treasurer to .2 FTE and establishes the position and duties of the Finance Manager. Mr. Milligan feels that the resolution restricts him from doing his legally defined responsibilities as Treasurer and asked that it be rescinded. Commissioner Ainsworth stated that the County Counsel will review his request prior to any decisions being made.
- b. Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer , stated that the county received \$1.255179 million from the state to be distributed to business negatively impacted by COVID-19. The application process for that money closed December 14<sup>th</sup> at noon. There was no cap set for the application because the county didn't want to discourage any businesses from requesting the money that they have lost. The assessment of the applications will begin tomorrow and hope to provide a list to the Board by Tuesday next week. If the recommendation is approve the checks will be distributed to the businesses before the end of 2020.
- c. Marilyn Morton, Independence resident, requested a list of how the money from the state was distributed to the businesses in Polk County once that has been done. The Board agreed to her request.

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:44 a.m.