

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2021

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Mordhorst and Commissioner Ainsworth were present.
2. **MINUTES:** **COMMISSIONER AINSWORTH MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2021.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, reviewed 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 126,607 COVID-19 cases and 1,613 deaths, with a test positivity rate of 7.5%. The test positivity rate for Marion County is 12.1%, and Polk County is at 10.1% for the reporting period from December 27th through January 9th.

Polk County has a total of 2,319 COVID-19 cases since reporting started, 2 people currently in the hospital and a total of 35 deaths related to COVID-19 like illness. There are currently 205 individuals who are isolating in Polk County. Marion County has a total of 15,550 positive COVID-19 cases since reporting started, 46 hospitalizations and 222 deaths related to COVID-19 like illness.

Capital Manor has a total of 15 positive cases as of this morning; Jefferson Lodge has 51 positive cases which has not changed since Ms. Umstead reported last Tuesday. Dallas Retirement Village has 86 positive cases, and Marquis Spa Corp. still has 13 positive cases. Salem Health has a total of 158 positive staff as of the 1/6 OHA weekly report. This number represents the total number of positive cases since they started reporting.

Western Oregon University is still managing all of Polk County's contact tracing and they are currently monitoring 163 individuals. Within Polk County Public Health there are two new Public Health Workers starting January 19th who will be helping with case investigation. There has been some intermittent assistance from Oregon Health Authority with case investigation over the last two weeks.

There are two more testing event this month, January 19th & January 26th. These will take place at the Polk County Fairgrounds and is a free testing event for anybody who registers. They will allow walk in's so long as they have the supplies to do so. Ms. Umstead reviewed a chart she provided the Board regarding COVID-19 cases associated with an outbreak in Polk County. Long term care facilities make up 57% of the outbreaks in the county followed by other congregate living/group homes which made up 13%.

During the week of December 20th through January 2nd, Oregon overall had 352.3 positive cases per 100,000 residents, with a positivity rate of 7.1%. During that time Polk County had 329 positive cases with a case rate 396.7 cases per 100,000 residents and a 8.8% positivity rate.

During the week of December 27th, 2.9% of emergency department visits in Oregon were for COVID-like illness and 169 COVID-19 cases were admitted to a hospital in Oregon. Of those 169 admissions, 6 of them were in Polk County. 95% of positive cases were followed up on within 24 hours and 59.1% of cases during the week of December 27th were traced to a known source (116 out of 191). Marion County had a total of 1,959 positive cases which is 563.3 cases per 100,000 residents with a test positivity rate of %. 31 positive cases were admitted to a hospital during the

week of December 20th. During that same time frame 63% of positive cases in Marion County were followed up on within 24 hours and 43.4% of positive cases were traced to a known source.

Ms. Umstead discussed the preventative measure Public Health has taken to ensure that the long term care facilities (LTCF) are doing everything they can to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Public Health has continued to have good communication with the facilities as well as OHA while also ensuring that they have all of the PPE they need. Ms. Umstead also pointed out that the age group of employees that work at the long term care facilities tend to be younger and in the age range that is experiencing the most positive cases, the 20- 29 year olds. All of the LTCF have signed a contract with a pharmacy partner for them to go to the facility and vaccinate the employees and residents. PH is working on reaching out to all of these facilities to make sure they are scheduled for those vaccinations and to make sure it is not too far out. Due to the fact that Jefferson Lodge is not considered a skilled nursing facility they do not have a date scheduled. Ms. Umstead has reached out to West Valley Hospital to see how we can help them get those sooner.

Ms. Umstead reviewed the school metrics report for Polk and Marion County which shows an 8.8% positivity rate and cases per 100,000 is 396.7. Marion County test positivity rate is 11.6% and cases per 100,000 is 563.3. Both Counties are still considered in extreme risk category. 51,255 people have been vaccinated in Oregon, however only 9 have been fully vaccinated which means already getting their second dose. In Polk County 1,207 people have been vaccinated, which is more than double what we were at last week. PH is partnering with West Hospital to identify the populations that are in Phase 1A and they are being set up for closed PODs (Point of dispensing). Right now those PODs will be at the hospital but will most likely be transitioning to the Polk County Fairgrounds within the next week. This will help dispense more vaccine quickly while still ensuring the appropriate safety measures. PH is hoping to include teachers as group 5 of Phase 1A. Commissioner Mordhorst stated that he has heard a lot from concerned parents who want the kids back in school and asked if the Board has any influence on the schools in regards to opening or not. Ms. Umstead stated that PH only provides data and trend information when asked, the school districts is responsible for making that decision though. PH has met with all of the school district in the county to discuss how they can open safely if they choose to do so. Ms. Umstead believes it will be a slow process and will most likely start with the younger kids and then go from there.

Commissioner Pope mentioned discussed a timeline for the vaccine that he received from the administration at the West Valley Hospital and pointed out that jail detainees are not on that list. Vaccinating the jail detainees creates some concerns because we don't know where they will be in 28 days when it is time for them to get the second shot. The Sheriff Office and Corrections are scheduled to get the vaccine in the next week and PH is working to get all of the phase 1A population scheduled for the closed PODs. The nursing supervisor has reached out to the jail to look at the logistics of vaccinating the detainees and what that would look like. The state was not very clear where inmates fall on the schedule but also they said that LPHA can have some discretion with the detainees. Ms. Umstead is hoping to start that next week and explained how important it is to vaccinate them because they are in a congregate setting. Commissioner Ainsworth expressed his frustration that the plan is to vaccinate people in jail before all of the people in the long term care facilities. Ms. Umstead clarified that the long term care facilities do come first, and they will be contacted first and if they don't have a scheduled date that is soon then the vaccine we have would go to them instead. That is why they are reaching out to these facilities to find out how far out the pharmacy is scheduling their vaccines.

4. SHERIFF OFFICE UPDATE

Sheriff Mark Garton gave the Board the monthly Sheriff Office update. Patrol continues to remain steadily busy. The jail population is averaging 90 to 110 inmates. The Sheriff Office employees who chose to were able to get vaccinated.

They will be opening recruitment for a new Mobile Crisis Response Team member since Deputy La Combe will be moving on. Patrol has one opening and they are already interviewing for that.

The Forest Deputy position is going well and the Deputy reports to the land owners monthly. The most common issue they are dealing with is trespassing and trash dumps. The timber companies have reported being happy with the arrangement.

The Sheriff Office is working with Salem Police in regards to the predicted protests at the capitol.

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

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

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: January 19, 2021