

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 19, 2021**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session and led the Board and attending audience in 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 12, 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 133,851 COVID-19 cases and 1,803 deaths. The data for the test positivity rate was not pulled by OHA because yesterday was a holiday. However after reviewing some of the data our Health Services Preparedness coordinator came up with a positivity rate of 10.6% for the time period from December 30<sup>th</sup> through January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Polk County has a total of 2,464 COVID-19 cases since reporting started, 3 people currently in the hospital and a total of 40 deaths related to COVID-19 like illness. There are currently 135 individuals who are insulating in Polk County. Marion County has a total of 16,247 positive COVID-19 cases since reporting started, 48 hospitalizations and 238 deaths related to COVID-19 like illness.

Capital Manor have had no further positive cases this week as well as Jefferson Lodge. Dallas Retirement Village had 4 more cases and are at 90 positive cases. Marquis Spa Corp. has not had any further positive cases in this past week. Salem Health has a total of 165 positive staff. 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 171 individuals. Within Polk County Public Health there are two new Public Health Workers starting and another one that will start in February. Ms. Umstead has requested more assistance from OHA to help cover while the new employees are being trained. The next testing event is this afternoon and the next is next Tuesday. These are free and open to the public.

During the week of December 27<sup>th</sup> through January 9<sup>th</sup>, Oregon overall had 378.9 positive cases per 100,000 residents, with a positivity rate of 7.5%. During that time Polk County had 399 positive cases with a case rate 481 cases per 100,000 residents and a 10.1% positivity rate.

During the week of January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2.9% of emergency department visits in Oregon were for COVID-like illness and 146 COVID-19 cases were admitted to a hospital in Oregon. Of those 146 admissions, 4 of them were in Polk County. 97% of positive cases were followed up on within 24 hours and 57.4% of cases during the week of January 3<sup>rd</sup> were traced to a known source.

Marion County had a total of 1,989 positive cases which is 572 cases per 100,000 residents with a test positivity rate of 12.1%. 10 positive cases were admitted to a hospital during the week of January 3<sup>rd</sup>. During that same time frame 74% of positive cases in Marion County were followed up on within 24 hours and 45% of positive cases were traced to a known source.

Polk County is vaccinating 725 individuals per 10,000 residents. Overall Oregon has vaccinated 192,549 people and 6,010 of those were in Polk County. West Valley Hospital is currently doing the vaccine clinic, however right now we are in a pause due to a lack of vaccine. They were out at the

Polk County Fairgrounds but will be moving to the Western Oregon University. We were not allocated any more vaccine this week but were told we had the opportunity to accept 400 doses later this week that is for the 1A population. Beginning January 25<sup>th</sup> the vaccine clinic will be opened to include educators. The state has also divided the 65 and older age group into brackets.

Heron Pointe has a vaccine clinic scheduled for this week and she is working on another one that will move forward as soon as there is vaccine available. She is also waiting for a headcount of how many people in the facility want to receive the vaccine as well. All of the other long term care facilities have a schedule vaccine clinic date except for one that she has not heard back from. Commissioner Pope pointed out that the population that falls into these categories need to live or work in Polk County but the challenge is that we don't know how many people fall into each one of these categories in Polk County because there is no census data on it. Ms. Umstead stated that she does request as many as she can so the county can run the vaccine clinics without interruption as much as possible to get the vaccination to as many people as possible quickly. Commissioner Pope stated that it's important that we do ask people to show residency or that they fall into one of the categories because we are allocated those shots based on population and need. If we are having people come from all over that don't live or work in Polk County it could hinder some residents from being able to get it. Ms. Umstead said that she did see some cars turned away so she believes they have gotten more of a handle on that screening process than when this first started.

Dean Bender, Emergency Operations Manager, informed the Board that he is still getting some orders for PPE. Last week he sent out about \$4,200 worth and that was only about 4 orders. This indicates that people are getting their own PPE more now. The only request he has put in has been for case investigators.

Commissioner Pope stated that the vaccine clinic moving to WOU is pending a contract per the West Valley Hospital Administration. Mr. Bender stated that the county has done a lot of work to make the Fairgrounds a good place to hold the vaccine clinic because it is a good centered location in the county. Josh James, IS Director stated that he has been out there every day checking on the broadband. Alyrica has also done a lot of work to ensure that the internet is up and running and reliable as well as the backup. Mr. James also stated that his data shows that they are only using a fraction of the data that is available to them. Commissioner Mordhorst has concerns about the elderly population getting from the parking lot all the way to where the vaccine clinic is being held.

#### **4. DISTRICT ATTORNEY UPDATE**

District Attorney, Aaron Felton, stated that he wants to discuss Measure 110 and how his office is working through the pandemic as well as a few other things. Measure 110 decriminalizes the most commonly known controlled substances. It shifts what was previously a felony possession of controlled substances to a misdemeanor possession of controlled substances. It is now a violation and non-criminal level and the punishment is a \$100 fine or an evaluation at an assessment center, which has not been created yet. D.A. Felton will be meeting with the Judges and Sheriff to coordinate how this will work in Polk County. There has been a transition policy created in the DA's office which is that they are treating many other types of misdemeanors under measure 110 right now because of the pandemic things are being delayed. There will be a larger conversation about this at the LPSCC meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

There is a new program for the mentally affected population that should be considered for the Oregon State Hospital. These people should not be in our jail for an extended period of time, they need to move through more quickly. The DA's office met with the jail staff and the Sheriff to discuss how this could be achieved. They will start meeting every week with the court as well so they can get the status update on these cases to ensure they don't linger in the jail.

Commissioner Pope asked D.A. Felton what kind of platform he plans to use to ensure the public that measure 110 will not threaten their safety and way of life. The DA's office has a Facebook page where information is disseminated as well as Zoom meetings, but that it is a difficult time for that considering the circumstances we are all in. Attending neighborhood meetings is another way he tries to engage with the residents of Polk County.

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

None

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha  
Approved: January 27, 2021