

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 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 MAY 4, 2021**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, reviewed the COVID-19 case data for Oregon, Polk and Marion County. As of May 11th Oregon had a total COVID-19 case count of 191,774, COVID-19 deaths 2,533. Overall in Oregon the positivity rate for the date range April 25th through May 8th was 6.4% and the case rate per 100,000 population was 252. Polk County's positivity rate for the same date range was 6.1% and the case rate per 100,000 population was 208.8. Marion County's positivity rate was 8.3% and case rate was 292.2. Polk County's total case count is 3,721, 6 current hospitalizations, 52 deaths and the number of people currently isolating is 74. Marion County's case count is 21,859, 36 hospitalizations and 306 deaths.

Dallas Retirement Village has a total of 6 cases, which is unchanged from last week. McDonald's in Dallas had one more case making their total 11. Marquis Spa in Independence still has 5 cases. Contact Tracing is going well and being done by WOU. They are currently monitoring 59 close contacts. Ms. Umstead reviewed the chart showing COVID cases linked to a location by sector in Polk County. The chart showed education being the highest at 29.7% with restaurant/Bars being second at 27.1%. This data is based on information received by Polk County contact tracers.

This week is a movement week for Oregon and the statewide metric related to hospital beds was not met. The Peak number of beds occupied by COVID positive patients in the last 7 days was 345 which is a -2.3% change from the previous 7 days. Polk County will remain in High Risk and will be re-evaluated on May 20th. Ms. Umstead reviewed the charts breaking COVID cases down age, zip code, and positive cases with symptoms versus no symptoms.

As of May 10th 37,277 Polk County residents have been vaccinated. 29,117 of those have been fully vaccinated and 8,160 have received their first dose. These vaccinations were also broken down by race/ethnicity and age range. During the week of May 2nd 51.6% of positive COVID cases were traced to a known source. 46 cases were not traced to a known source and 24 of those were unable to be reached or refused the questionnaire. 18 were close contacts, 23 were exposed to a person within the home and 8 were found to be from workplace/school/other. Overall in Oregon 1,467,659 people have been fully vaccinated and 515,176 are have received the first dose. 56.6% of eligible people (16 or older) have been vaccinated, 14.7% are in progress while 41.9% are fully vaccinated. Ms. Umstead reviewed the number of doses that were administered day by day and the vaccination rates by county. In Polk County 56.2% of adults 16 years and older have been vaccinated and 43.9% are full vaccinated.

The West Valley Hospital vaccine clinic is still operating weekly on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Ms. Umstead reviewed the number of vaccine doses that were allocated to the pharmacies in the county. Polk County Public Health's allocation will be distributed to local

clinics and pharmacies. The FDA extended the Emergency Use Authorization to the Pfizer COVID vaccine for children ages 12-15. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices will review the data and make a recommendation to the CDC, which is who will then issue guidance. The Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup will discuss the data and issue a memo to Governors in participating states. Both of those meetings will take place on May 12th. The West Valley Hospital and Salem Hospital have started offering vaccine to inpatients and patients in the Emergency Departments. Some of the local primary care physician clinics have also been offering the vaccine in the office. The state is working to develop a regional vaccine hub that will be able to store and redistribute vaccine in smaller quantities for clinics that can't store/administer large quantities of vaccine, beginning with Pfizer. There will also be pop up clinics operating in high traffic areas in Polk County.

Ms. Umstead also stated that the case investigators have reported that they are having trouble getting people to answer the phone on Sunday's and holidays. Because of that Ms. Umstead is asking if the Board is ok with them discontinuing case investigation on those days.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE REQUEST.

Dean Bender, Emergency Operations and Communications Manager provided the Board with a handout to show what personal protection equipment (PPE) have been distributed from Polk County and what those orders included. At this time Mr. Bender stated that he has a lot of liquid hand sanitizer left.

4. SHERIFF OFFICE UPDATE

Sheriff Mark Garton provided the Board with a year-end report that highlighted some of the events the Sheriff's Office participated in or put on during 2020. Even though COVID limited some of the community engagement events that normally occur they were still able to do the Toy Drive, Shop with the Sheriff, and Inmate Presents for Kids among many others. The Sheriff Office ran a month long Short Stories with the Sheriff campaign. Deputies from patrol and the jail participated in reading children's books that were shared on social media.

Each year members of the Sheriff Office recognize their own by selecting a deputy of the year from each division. The Corrections Deputy of the Year was Deputy Don Hofferber, Corrections Technician Emily Nunez won the Support Staff of the Year and Patrol Deputy Michael Lauderback was Patrol Deputy of the Year.

Sheriff Garton stated that the number of inmates is lower due to COVID but that crime is definitely up, mostly burglary crimes. Two Corporal position were created, one in Patrol and one is Corrections. Those position are meant to serve as a stepping stone to being a supervisor. The reserve program and volunteer position are more difficult to fill right now due to the negative attention that has been given to law enforcement lately. Commissioner Pope told the Sheriff that he wants to continue to have these conversations about how law enforcement is changing and how it affects their ability to do their job effectively.

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

a) **POTENTIAL LOBBYIST** – Commissioner Mordhorst proposed the possibility of securing a lobbyist to work on getting the funding needed for the Hwy 22 interchange. There are conversations with ODOT happening to discuss how the project can be split into three phases.

This would make it easier to secure funding because the total cost is so much. Commissioner Pope supports the idea and the work lobbyists do but said it would depend on who the lobbyist is because some are more effective than others so there will need to be a complete proposal brought to the Board before they make a decision. Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, stated that 20 years ago the county hired a lobbyist to get the funding for the Hwy 99 & Hwy 22 intersection, which took three years. Commissioner Ainsworth agreed that they would need more detailed information before deciding.

b) **JRI GRANT** – Mr. Hansen told the Board that the deadline for applying for the JRI grant is coming up and Jodi Merritt, Community Corrections Director, need an answer to the question of do they want her to apply or not. It was discussed that with the JRI money there are certain requirements that the state has and some of them are more complicated than others. If they did not go out for the grant they would be able to absorb the costs within the county budget but only temporarily. Mr. Hansen told the Board that he believes if we don't go out for it this year and then we try to in a year or two it might be more difficult because we skipped a year. Another factor is that if we don't get the JRI grant then the money spent out of Behavioral Health to cover that cost could be used for additional things that might help the mental health individuals. There is another application that has to be submitted later one and the Board would like Ms. Merritt to submit the initial application. If legislature comes through that makes it more complicated they will pull out of the application process. This way they don't miss a deadline based on legislation they don't know is getting passed or not yet.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Minutes: Ciera Atha
Approved: May 18, 2021