



**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE &
MARATHON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (JOINT MEETING)
MEETING MINUTES**

Date & Time of Meeting: **Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 7:45 a.m.**

Meeting Location: **Zoom Meeting/1000 Lake View Dr. Suite 100 Wausau, Wausau WI**

	Present	Absent
Tim Buttke, Chair	Z	
Michelle Van Krey, Vice Chair	Z	
Kelley Gabor	Z	
Dennis Gonnering		X
William Harris	Z	
Donna Krause		X
Tom Seubert	Z	

Board of Health Committee Members: John Robinson, Chair; Craig McEwen, Vice-Chair; Lori Shepherd, Secretary; Sandi Cihlar; Dean Danner; Kue Her; Tiffany Lee; Corrie Norrbom

Also Present Via Web or Phone: Kurt Gibbs, Lance Leonhard, Jason Hake, Joan Theurer, Laura Scudiere, Judy Burrows, Katie Rosenberg, Frederick Prehn, and Toshia Ranallo

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Tim Buttke called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m.

2. Public Comment (15 minute limit) – Dr. Frederick Prehn expressed his concern of delays in regards to distributing COVID vaccinations throughout Marathon County.

Chair Buttke read a letter of support from Supervisor Jennifer Bizzoto, District 2. She supports both the State’s and County’s role in developing the vaccination plan.

3. Policy Issues for Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Health care system and surrounding counties efforts to have a coordinated response to testing and vaccinations

1. Role of Marathon County Health Department in Phase 1A, 1B, 1C

Discussion:

Joan Theurer addressed the public comments and understands the frustration. Today’s meeting is to focus on the county’s response and moving forward in the phases as efficiently and effectively as possible.

She gave an overview of the vaccine distribution and explained who makes the decisions, how the decisions are made, and who is currently being vaccinated in Wisconsin and Marathon County. This information is to assist the committees into policy discussion to help define the Marathon County Health Department’s engagements and roles. The full presentation can be accessed in the [packet located here](#).

The vaccine is to be rolled out in the following series of phases:

- Phase 1 A: Health care workers and long-term care facilities
- Phase 1 B: (Currently under development) CDC recommending age 75+ and frontline essential workers (and as of 1/11/2021 the WI Dept. of Health Services moved to add law enforcement and fire personnel to this phase, even though the WI States Disaster Medical Advisory has not made this recommendation.)
- Phase 1 C: CDC recommending age 65-74, age 16-64 with high risk medical conditions, other essential workers
- Phase 2: General Population

Theurer indicated this could take several months because it depends on vaccine availability. Two manufacturers made vaccines available in WI on 12/14/2020 and 12/20/2020. Three things to keep in mind: 1. People who want it; 2. adequate supply, (which is being balanced by supply and demand); and 3. an adequate delivery system.

The [Marathon County Health Department Website](#) offers an abundance of information which outlines the Phases, defines who is eligible, and how to reach out and make appointments. Marshfield Clinic Health Systems is actively registering and vaccinating, Aspirus will be opening up their registration on Friday, January 15th, and Trigs Pharmacy has been identified as another local provider.

There was a lengthy discussion on concerns for communication distribution to reach the general public, including our Hispanic & Hmong population, rural communities (who have no broadband access) and the non-tech savvy community. Strategies identified included: More exposure on television (the Noon Show), radio interviews, newspapers, press releases, social media, Amber Alert type of notifications, cell phone apps, our website, and County Board Supervisors talking with their constituents. Boots on the ground may have to be an additional method to distribute information to the vulnerable population.

Press releases are difficult because the information may only be valid for about 12 hours. Information changes frequently and it can be a disservice to those who don't get it until a later time.

Supervisor Robinson indicated that Administration has expressed the willingness to make investments to satisfy communication goals. Administrator Leonhard will investigate a push button alert system through the county's EverBridge Technology Program.

Chair Gibbs acknowledged the communication barrier. He reiterated there hasn't been a clear definition from the state, and it is causing uncertainty. The communication plan needs to be clear, concise, and accurate. Our local population is receiving national news which can also be conflicting with the state causing more confusion and frustration. Gibbs commended the Health Department for reporting accurate information on the Marathon County website.

Supervisor Harris suggested incorporating vaccinations into the WIPPS study/discussions.

Follow Through:

Robinson will coordinate a brainstorming session to develop a communication plan including the following: Identify communication gaps, communicate with health professionals (local, state, and federal), define a clear role for the county, and looking beyond Phases 1B and 1C and into Phase 2, the general population.

4. Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution: - None
5. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion: - None
6. Announcements - None
7. Adjournment - Chair Buttke adjourned the meeting at 9:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Toshia Ranallo