

Barton County Board of Health Agenda Meeting Minutes

Recorded audio is available on compact disk upon KORA request to the Barton County Clerk's Office, 1400 Main – Room 202, Great Bend, Kansas 67530.

Phone (620) 793-1835 \ Fax (620) 793-1990 \ Email clerk@bartoncounty.org

Meetings Live Streamed through Microsoft Teams® at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3EVyxXA>

April 6, 2022

The Board of Barton County Commissioners acting as the Board of Health convened this 6th day of April 2022, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Kirby Krier, Commissioner, 1st District
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District (Chairman Pro-Tem)
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District, Chairman
Jon Prescott, Commissioner, 4th District
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District
Bev Schmeidler, County Clerk
Matt Patzner, Director of Operations
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor
Karen Winkelman, Public Health Director

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

Commissioner Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 9:45 A.M.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Esfeld moved to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2022, meeting.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

-Karen Winkelman, Public Health Director, will present a departmental update.

Karen Winkelman, Public Health Director, said National Public Health Week was April 4 – 10. The theme this year is Public Health is where you are, celebrates what we know is true and is the places where we are physically, mentally, societally and it effects our health and our lives. Winkelman said there are daily themes that they are highlighting in their department. Today's theme is community, collaboration and resilience. To achieve improved health outcomes for people of all identities and we look at that thoughtfully and meaningfully to engage all members of our communities.

Last week, Winkelman and three supervisors attended the Kansas Governors Public Health Conference in Manhattan. The conference had over 500 in attendance and was a much needed event. Soledad O'Brien was one of the keynote speakers. O'Brien spoke about what everyone had been through and now was the time to start framing public health. Their mascot was the buffalo. Buffaloes wait for storms to cross over the peak. When it is at the crest, they charge into it and run through the storm. They do this to minimize the amount of pain time and frustration. We are not cattle. Cattle huddle and wait out the storms. They sit in their pain. We are buffalo. We run through it. Winkelman felt we had done this the last couple of years with the pandemic and added she was very proud to be in Barton County for the pandemic.

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Whita State University had an individual that held a breakout session. They had contacted Winkelman previously asking for things they used in their training. The treatment towards their clients with the trauma informed care approach was used and Barton County was represented well at the conference.

There are disease investigation specialists, part of KDHE, whose role is to get out into field work. Barton County was identified as a potential site as a satellite office. This district representative will be housed at the Health Department but will cover several counties. Syphilis is something that really needs to be worked on right now in public health. The goal is to raise awareness, reduce the stigma, test and treat as well as addressing other barriers that may be keeping individuals from seeking treatment. The specialist started Monday and is a local individual.

They have received additional grant awards for opportunities to enhance programs.

Barton County Health Department will be participating at the Great Bend Farm, Ranch and Hemp Expo. They will be available for first aid, providing educational information and vaccines. They will have tetanus, COVID and flu vaccines available.

Preschool kindergarten enrollment, Farmers Market and Baby Shower event are things coming up soon.

It is time to do a community health assessment to see what the needs are in the community.

Winkelman said that as of April 1st, KDHE will only be updating COVID data on a weekly basis. Currently it shows Barton County at 96 deaths and 6,486 total positive cases reported. 54.2% of Kansans have completed the vaccine series. 46.6% of Barton County residents have completed the vaccine series. While at conference they learned that the Governor had signed off that Kansas was an endemic state. They continue to do testing every day.

Commissioner Krier moved to have a proclamation for the National Public Health Week, April 4 – 10.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion and said someone will draft that for us.

Commissioner Krier said Diana Watson, and she is watching this right now.

Commissioner Hutchinson said our motion is to have that drafted and then we will probably vote on it next week during our regular commission meeting.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Recommended motion – Information only. No action necessary.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

V. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Prescott moved to adjourn at 10:12 A.M.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Clerk



Shawn Hutchinson
Chairman