



# UTAH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

151 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
PROVO, UTAH 84601

## MINUTES May 24, 2021

Members Present:			
Jeff Acerson, Chair	X	Ryan Schooley	Phone
Ann Anderson, Vice-chair	Phone	Sam Jarman	X
Gaye Ray	Excused	Carl Hanson	X
Mark Donaldson	X	Amelia Powers Gardner	X
Jordan Singleton	X		

### Others present:

Eric Edwards, MPA, MCHES UCHD Executive Director  
 Julie Dey UCHD Secretary  
 Number of people in attendance 18

- Welcome by Jeff Acerson
- Approval of the minutes from March 22, 2021

**MOTION:** Sam Jarman made the motion to approve the minutes from March 22, 2021 as written which was seconded by Amelia Powers Gardner and passed by unanimous vote.

- Introduction of new board member Amelia Powers Gardner

Eric Edward's introduced Commissioner Amelia Powers Gardner. To Eric's knowledge, this is the first time that Utah County has had a Commissioner that has held an office prior to becoming a Commissioner. Amelia has been the county Clerk/Auditor for the past three years.

- Public comment by James Powell, Utah County Resident

James Powell introduced himself as a resident of Provo and was representing himself. He thanked the Health Department and recognized all the work that has been put in during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most recently James was the owner and director of an elderly assisted living facility. He graduated from the CDC Infectious Disease Control Preventative Course. He has served the state of Utah on two

different medical licensing boards. He cares deeply about the health and safety of our citizens, particularly the elderly.

James said his point of attending the meeting today is to discuss the steps necessary to expand the utilization of all religious houses of instruction in Utah County following proper protocols so that the citizens here can benefit from the psychological, social, emotional and spiritual benefits of being able to utilize the facilities that they have been limited to using for the past year.

James asked for the board to please educate him on what would need to happen to re-open religious houses of instruction.

Eric Edwards explained to Mr. Powell that as of February 2021 the restrictions for different religious houses of worship ended in the state order. There were restrictions prior to that from the state. Different organizations, religious entities have the ability, when deemed safe, to open churches and other religious houses of worship which is good news. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and other denominations have still waited for businesses and others to fully open prior to their opening up fully. To my knowledge, I was told that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is leaving it to the local area authorities who then work with their local stake presidents and bishops to work for each stake. We are starting to see variations of certain geographical locations are starting to open up.

Eric reiterated what James Powell said by saying that, "All of us would agree that we find spiritual edification and other things like that and opportunities for personal growth, this is definitely one area that is essential to emotional health and beyond. Right now, it is not under a public health order and hasn't been since February."

Jeff Acerson made comments, "Quite honestly, I think you are going to see things move very quickly because the (Covid) numbers are coming down. We are getting to a point where open meetings and people being able to gather. I don't know if you saw the announcement today from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints regarding the timing of the Mission Training Center which will be opening up in the next several weeks. It will be a gradual opening. The Utah Jazz had 13,000 fans at their game. It was nice to see some normality come back. But it is happening because we have turned the corner with the crisis, the vaccinations have taken place, a lot of things that were encouraged and guidelines have been followed, people have been very good about doing that. I think we are towards the end of the challenge. We are much closer to the end than we are to the beginning. I think there is a refreshing outlook that you are going to see things open at a rapid pace. So again, it is not the public health department now, there isn't a state mandate or guidance as far as restrictions, it's really left up to the local entities, businesses, the private sector to determine their feeling of safety and what is appropriate."

Amelia Powers Gardner said, "I think that it is important as we look at the health guidelines that we are looking at the overall health of the individuals and not just one area of health and in particularly with teens. Their mental health has suffered significantly. This has been very difficult on my four teenagers." Amelia gave the example of a family whose local church congregation was not holding teen activities, so the family chose to have the teens attend activities at another local church which

helped with their emotional and social health. This shows that the local churches have the option to have activities or not have activities.

#### 5. Review and Adopt Changes to the 2021 Fee Schedule

The fees that will be changing effectively on July 1, 2021 are for Vital Records regarding birth and death certificates and paternity testing. The state sets the fees and the date of implementation.

**MOTION:** Mark Donaldson made the motion to approve the Vital Records Fee Schedule which was seconded by Amelia Powers Gardner and passed by unanimous vote.

#### 6. COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Aislynn Tolman-Hill, Public Information Officer, provided the Covid-19 update to the board members. The case overview data are attached to these minutes. The first Utah County Covid-19 case was March 20, 2020. Our highest seven-day average was November 20, 2020 with 811 cases per day. Our highest seven-day total was January 2, 2021 with 1,318 cases.

The Health Department began administering Covid vaccinations on December 23, 2020 and the population age 70+ began January 18, 2021.

Currently our seven-day rolling average is 53.6 cases per day with a percent positivity of 3.23% test over test indicating minimal spread in the community.

Utah County Health Department's Epidemiology bureau is currently investigating an average of 65 cases per day and performing full contact tracing on all of those cases.

Mark Donaldson asked if there are numbers as to how many were immunized and still got Covid.

Curtis Jones, Bureau Director of Epidemiology, said that there have been about 115 breakthrough cases since January. These are people who have been fully vaccinated and 14 (plus) days afterwards became infected.

For Covid case counts the information is always available on [coronavirus.utah.gov](https://coronavirus.utah.gov).

Utah County's highest vaccination rate is in Mapleton and the lowest is South County. The vaccination rate is grouped together by zip code on [coronavirus.utah.gov](https://coronavirus.utah.gov).

Aislynn reviewed the vaccination numbers for Utah County residents with the board members. The slides are attached.

Eric let the board know that the Covid vaccination numbers in the presentation are for vaccinations the Health Department has issued. The numbers do not include the vaccinations given by NOMI and other partners and retail organizations so the number of residents vaccinated in Utah County is higher than the slide presentation.

Aislynn shared a video of the Covid-19 vaccination clinic located in American Fork. Find the new story link.

Jordan Singleton made a comment that he is still seeing Covid patients almost on every shift. The Covid patients coming in have not been vaccinated. It is an amazing thing to see how it has impacted so quickly what is going on at our hospitals. Hopefully, we can convince the higher risk people to get vaccinated soon. Some of the people with Covid were not necessarily vaccine resistant, they just had questions. Hopefully with time those questions will get answered.

Eric said that as the high demand Covid vaccination clinics run by the Health Department begin to slowly shut down because the demand for Covid vaccinations has been reduced, now the smaller, low volume providers such as physician offices and other places become available, perhaps vaccine hesitant people will be able to receive answers from their doctor regarding the vaccine and can make an informed decision for themselves.

Another thing Eric added is that we are entering into this new time that as we have capability to shift staff from the high through vaccination sites, we can join with the national guard to focus on vaccine equity. The high through vaccination sites, unfortunately, don't reach some of the underserved population. We are relying on partners as well as a vaccine equity plan to make sure that everyone who wants a Covid vaccination receives one. We are doing all that we can to remove any barriers and to not leave any stones unturned. We have done mobile vaccination clinics in the Genola and Santaquin areas and we will return to the locations to give the second doses. We have had a good response. We have also been to an Eagle Mountain location and gave 341 doses of Covid vaccine. We are making sure that cultural barriers can be addressed such as when people don't speak English, that we have language assistance. We are also accepting walk-ins at our Covid vaccination clinics. The vaccine is free to all residents. Nine states in the nation have reached herd immunity with over 70% of residents vaccinated.

Jeff Acerson asked if there will be a Covid vaccine booster shot available this fall. If there will be a booster vaccine available, we need to start that education process now.

Eric responded that Dr. Flinders has said it is too soon to know when a booster will be available. We do know that Moderna and Pfizer are currently working on booster shots so when they will be available or even if they are necessary isn't fully known yet. Just because the boosters are being created, doesn't mean that one will be required or recommended. It will depend on data from the current vaccine and the protection it provides on various strains of Covid.

Carl Hanson had a question to Curtis Jones, "We know the number of cases, we also know the mortality rate associated with Covid. Are we also tracking, from the county or the state, co-occurring diseases along with Covid?" Curtis said they are tracking co-morbidities, but the information may not be readily available.

Dr. Flinders said at the present time, the immune titers seem to be staying up pretty well. The biggest concern is 'will we have an emergence of new variants or variants of concern that are either more virulent or more infectious than the current virulents.' Both the Pfizer and Moderna are working on boosters with the primary emphasis on covering variant strains of the virus. But the current vaccine

seems to work pretty well for most of the variant strains. For instance, in Utah the predominant strain now is the B117 United Kingdom variant and the vaccine seems to work very well for that. All three vaccines, Pfizer, Moderna and J&J, work well for the P451 South African variant. Whether there will be problems with the Brazilian variant or other variants that come along, they may require a little different spike protein and that is what they are working on. The messenger RNA vaccines can be modified very quickly so that it won't take a long time to develop. It may be, in the long-term, that we need to have boosters for Covid.

7. Mosquito Abatement Presentation by Dan Miller

Dan Miller, Mosquito Abatement Manager, explained that the Mosquito Abatement division works from an integrated pest/mosquito management grouping which is doing everything we can that is comprehensive to prevent and control the mosquito populations within the county. We do that with the ability to try to maintain the least amount of impact the environment and the greatest amount of help for the people. There are dangers of mosquito borne diseases. We may feel like we are relatively safe if we don't have Malaria, Chikungunya and Yellow Fever that we find in other places. But we have had West Nile here and we test for West Nile, Western Equine Encephalitis, and St. Louis Encephalitis all three have been prevalent in the past. We want to make sure that these diseases stay out of the population.

We set 36 mosquito traps throughout the county each week where we collect the mosquitoes and bring them into our lab. We separate the mosquitoes and sort them. The mosquitoes that are vectors for West Nile, we test them with our QPCR and have real time data within 24 hours of catching them so that we are then able to react and respond appropriately and quickly.

Dan Miller's presentation is attached to the minutes.

8. WIC – Women, Infants & Children presentation by Jillian Porto

Jillian Porto, WIC Division Director, presented the Utah County WIC program updates that have occurred during the past year.

- EBT Cards – These are cards that look and work like a debit or credit card but are loaded with WIC funds for WIC approved grocery purchases. Using the EBT cards make the shopping trip check out easier for the client and the retailers.
- Nutrition Education – Nutrition Education classes can now be held online through the WIC Shopper App and clients can receive notifications through the app.
- WIC Mobile Clinic – WIC applied for and received a grant for a Mobile WIC Clinic. Currently WIC uses the mobile van to go to different locations to reload the clients EBT cards with benefits. Approximately 25 families have been served each time the Mobile WIC Clinic goes on location. This a productive and efficient way to serve WIC clients.
- WIC is partnering with the Head Start programs and centers around Utah County. Parents will be able to drop their children off at Head Start and the WIC Mobile van will be at the school so that parents can have their EBT cards reloaded.
- Caseloads are always a concern for WIC. Caseloads have been reducing since 2017. The reduction is due to Public Charge. The fear has been if immigrants participated in WIC,

Medicaid or Food Stamps, it could decrease their possibility of getting a green card. WIC is exempt from Public Charge. However, WIC clients were still scared and has lost some international/immigrant clients. The caseload effects WIC's funding and caseload numbers are watched closely.

Jillian Porto's presentation slides are attached to the minutes.

9. Employee Changes

Eric reviewed employee changes. The changes include many term-limited employees to help with the Covid vaccination process. Mosquito Abatement employees are seasonal.

10. Other Business

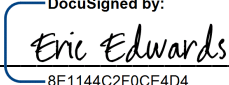
Employee Awards:

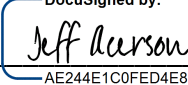
Mandy Chamberlain Public Health Nurse (School) Employee of the Year at Mountain Trails Elementary School	Erin Hoehne Public Health Nurse (School) Employee of the Year at American Fork Junior High
Kim Lowe Public Health Nurse (School) Employee of the Year for Alpine School District	Aislynn Tolman-Hill UPHA Public Health Hero Award

Facebook has recognized the efforts of Utah County Health Department and has provided a \$30,000 grant to promote Covid related efforts through September 2021. We are now able to promote through social media like Dr. Jordan Singleton and Carl Hansen have suggested. Receiving the grant speaks to Aislynn and our crew. The grant is limited to Covid vaccinations and Covid prevention social media posts.

Eric thanked Superintendent Sam Jarman for serving on the Board of Health. Sam is retiring from Alpine School District. Sam Jarman is the reason the Health Department has the donated space for the Covid vaccination clinic in American Fork where approximately 45,000 people have been vaccinated.

**MOTION:** Mark Donaldson made the motion to adjourn which was seconded by Jordan Singleton and passed by unanimous vote.

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