



701 Olson Drive, Suite 101, Papillion, NE 68046 | 402-339-4334 | FAX 402-339-4235

**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
March 22, 2021**

Board President, John Harris, MD, called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m., at the Sarpy County government offices, located at 1210 Golden Gate Drive, Papillion, NE 68046.

**Roll Call:**

Erin Ponec, Acting Recorder

**Roll call States as follows:** Autumn Sky Burns – present; Dr. Brandon Grimm – present; Deb Jones –present; Don Kelly – present; Janet McCartney – present;; Dr. Arman Pajnigar – not present; John Sheehan – excused.

**Staff Present:** Sarah Schram, Director; Jenny Steventon, Assistant Director; Erin Ponec, Acting Recorder

**Guest(s) Present:** Dean Liff, Auditor, Lengemann & Associates

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Per the Open Meetings Act the agenda may not be altered after 24 hours prior to the meeting, unless an emergency arises.**

Dr. Grimm moved, seconded by Burns to approve the agenda as submitted. Roll call states as follows: Burns– aye; Dr. Grimm – aye; Jones – aye; Kelly – aye; McCartney – aye;; Dr. Arman Pajnigar – not present; Sheehan – excused.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Kelly moved, seconded by Dr. Grimm to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021meeting as submitted. Roll call states as follows: Burns – aye; Dr. Grimm – aye; Jones –aye; Kelly – aye; McCartney – aye; Dr. Pajnigar – not present; Sheehan – excused.

**Audit of 2020 Financial Statements Ending June 30, 2020, Dean Liff, Lengemann & Associates**

Burns moved, seconded by Kelly to approve the audit of financial statements ending June 30, 2020. Roll call states as follows: Burns – aye; Dr. Grimm – aye; Jones –aye; Kelly – aye; McCartney – aye; Dr. Pajnigar – aye; Sheehan – excused.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Kelly moved, seconded by Jones to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Roll call states as follows: Burns – aye; Dr. Grimm – aye; Jones –aye; Kelly – aye; McCartney – aye; Dr. Pajnigar – aye; Sheehan – excused.

**Director's Report:**

**See at the end**

**Other Business:**

None

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Nomination Committee:**

Term Renewals: Dr. John Harris and Dr. Matt Neumann, 3 year term (March 2021 – March 2024)

Dr. Grimm moved, seconded by Dr. Pajnigar to renew Dr. Harris and Dr. Neumann for 3 year term. Roll call states as follows: Burns – aye; Dr. Grimm – aye; Jones –aye; Kelly – aye; McCartney – aye; Dr. Pajnigar – aye; Sheehan – excused.

Nomination of Officers is tabled until the May 24, 2021 meeting.

**Finance Committee:** Nothing to report

**Policy Committee:** Nothing to report

**Personnel Committee:** Nothing to report

**Program Committee:** Nothing to report

**Medical Director's Report:** Nothing to report

**Public Input:**

None

**Information:**

**Announcements:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**Next Meeting: May 24, 2021**

**Adjournment:**

Burns moved, seconded by Jones to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 pm. Roll call states as follows: Burns – aye; Dr. Grimm – aye; Jones –aye; Kelly – aye; McCartney – aye; Dr. Pajnigar – aye; Sheehan – excused.

**ATTEST:**

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Dr. Janet McCartney, Vice President  
Sarpy/Cass Board of Health

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John Sheehan, Secretary  
Sarpy/Cass Board of Health



# SARPY / CASS

## Health Department

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Health Directors Report

Board of Health

March 22, 2021

### State & Federal Legislative Update:

- LB585 (Senator Vargas) Appropriate funds for local public health departments
  - The Appropriations Committee has voted to fund local public health departments at an additional \$1.5 million for fiscal year 2021-2022 and an additional \$3 million for 2022-2023. This funding will become baseline or ongoing funding in future budgets unless the Legislature decides to make cuts. LHD determined that the initial \$1.5 million for next year would go to infrastructure (approximately \$83K per department) and the second portion of the funding in 2022-2023 would go to per capita. The budget still needs to be approved through three rounds of debate by the entire legislature and signed by the Governor but this is a good position to be in.
  - So for FY21-22, \$1.5M split equally among 18 departments.
  - And for FY22-23, \$3M with half split equally and the other half proportionally per capita.
- American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
  - See attached overview summary
  - In April, Nebraska should receive almost 1 billion in federal dollars from this plan
    - LB 488, bill prioritized by the Appropriations Committee, will contain language on how these funds will be distributed.

### Administrative Updates:

- Staffing Update:
  - Filled positions
    - Public Health Data Analyst
  - Open Positions
    - WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor
    - Clinic RNs – Temporary & PRN
- COVID-19 Funding
  - Coronavirus Relief Funding: Slated to sunset 12/31/20 – extended. All payments made up to now are CRF (Federal Funds).
  - LB1008: 2 million for LHDs (~105 thousand/LHD/State Funds) contracts signed and working on transitioning to this as primary.
  - Enhanced Epi and Lab Capacity for Infectious Disease: \$240,000 total award for additional contact tracing support through November 18, 2022.
  - Vaccine for Children – COVID-19: \$26,455 (Federal Pass Through) for temporary RNs for vaccination clinics. Waiting on DHHS for contract.

- FEMA Funding: Just received contract on this – investigating partnerships with CHI-Immunization Clinic and UNMC- Bellevue Medicine.

COVID-19 Update: \*Data as of this afternoon

- Cases –
  - 22,587 confirmed cases
    - 20,205 – 89.5% Sarpy County
    - 2,381 – 10.5% Cass County
  - 15.33 cases/day/100,000 – 7 day rolling average
  - 122 deaths (24 new deaths since last meeting) - .54% Case Fatality Rate
    - 45% residents 80 plus
    - 26.2% 70 – 79 years old
    - 18.8% 60 – 69 years old
    - 6.5% 50 – 59 years old
    - 3.2% 20 – 49 years old
- Contact Tracing
  - Since last BOH Meeting (February 1, 2021):
    - 9,690 tests have been conducted on Sarpy or Cass residents
    - 2,218 case investigations
      - 276 investigations (12%) were Cass; 1942 investigations (88%) were Sarpy
      - 161 investigations (7.3%) were kids aged 5-12; 288 investigations (13%) were kids aged 13-18
      - 33.4% of cases were community acquired; 34.9% direct contact, 3.8% travel; 27.9% unknown (lost to contact, refused interview)
    - Positivity rate for week ending March 20 is 20%, the lowest it's been since the week ending October 24 (may still have a few more cases coming in with last week's collection date though)
- Tests –
  - 113,483 residents have been tested – 53% of population

- Hospitalizations

Weekly Averages	In House COVID Pts	COVID Pts on Vents	ICU Occupancy	Ventilator Availability
2/14-2/20/21	103	19	70	72
2/21-2/27/21	88	16	73	72
2/28-3/6/21	86	18	70	73
3/7-3/13/21	82	18	67	72

- Vaccine –
  - 62,533 vaccinations have been administered to Sarpy and Cass County residents.
    - 42,579 first doses
    - 19,954 second doses
    - 14.59% of our residents 16 and older (at the last meeting we were at 2.39% of population 16 and older) have completed their vaccination series.
  - Second Dose Breakdown
    - 25.9% are 75 and up
    - 12.8% are 65 – 74 years old
    - 61.3% are 16 -64 years old
  - Weekly allocations are still fluctuating
    - Week of 3/14 – 4,830 doses
    - Week of 3/21 – 5,030 doses
    - Weekly allocations are a mix of Moderna and Pfizer – received Johnson & Johnson just once
  - Currently vaccinating residents born in 1961 or before, phase 1a and 1 b priority groups.
  - In Sarpy Co. just over 39,300 and in Cass nearly 7,250 residents 50-69 years old – because of this large number of people and limited weekly vaccine we have had to prioritize by higher age range and move down.
  - A group of medical experts representing the OMHCC (for residents of the counties of Douglas, Sarpy, Washington, Dodge & Saunders) have been working to develop a process of identifying those at highest risk based on HER information of the 4 major health systems. SCHD will allocate 10% or 500 doses/week for these identified patients.
  - 9 COVID-19 State approved providers in the community.
  - Retail Federal Pharmacy Program
    - This week 2 locations received product from the Federal government; Hy-Vee in Plattsmouth and RelyCare.
    - The locations that are activated and the amounts of vaccine they receive is changing weekly.
  
- Directed Health Measures
  - In “Green” phase which currently runs through the end of April.
  - Gatherings – no restrictions
  - Reopening plans – 500 or more has to be approved by Department
  - All other points in previous DHM versions are in guidance and strongly recommended.
  - Added in section regarding exposure after a person has made it to 14 days post receiving a full series of vaccine.
  - All COVID-19 providers will transition to VRAS.

## American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 –Overall Summary

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the latest COVID-relief package, is a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package which was passed by the Senate last week and is under consideration by the House today. The following are details on the broad sections of funding included in the stimulus package.

### Direct Financial Payments

The plan provides for direct \$1,400 stimulus payments to people making \$75,000 or less annually. Individuals with adjusted gross incomes (AGIs) of \$75,000 or less—and couples with AGI s of \$150,000 or less—will receive the full amount. So will each of their dependents regardless of age. Payments to individuals with AGIs over \$75,000 will be reduced until they disappear entirely at \$80,000. (\$160,000 for couples).

### Extended Unemployment Benefits

The plan extends unemployment benefits of \$300 a week through September 6, 2021. In addition, the first \$10,200 in 2020 benefits is tax free for families making \$150,000 or less. The plan also provides a 100% subsidy of COBRA health insurance premiums so unemployed workers can remain on their employer healthcare plans through the end of September.

### Eviction and Foreclosure Assistance

The plan includes \$30 billion in emergency rental assistance and \$10 billion for mortgage assistance but does not extend the current moratoriums on evictions and foreclosures which are set to end March 31.

### State and Local Government Aid

The plan includes \$350 billion in aid to states, cities, tribal governments, and U.S. territories. These funds are designated to help replace lost tax revenue due to the pandemic.

### Increased Food Aid

The plan includes \$510 million for the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program which will be used to provide overnight shelter, meals, one month's rent or mortgage assistance and one month's utility payments, it provides extended emergency nutritional assistance to food-stamp recipients, including a 15% increase in benefits that will continue through September, instead of expiring at the end of June, and it includes over \$5 billion in the Pandemic-EBT program that provides schoolchildren with emergency nutrition benefits and also provides \$800 million in additional funding for the WIC program for low-income women and infants.

### Expanded Child Tax Credit

The plan calls for payments of \$3,000 a year for each child ages 6 to 17, and \$3,600 for each child under age 6 for couples who make \$150,000 or less and single parents who make \$112,500 or less. Payments would be sent by direct deposit on a monthly basis. A family with one child under 6 would receive \$300 per month and \$250 per month for children from 6 to 17. As written, the bill provides for one year of credit payments. The idea behind regular payments is to help families pay for ongoing costs instead of claiming a credit when they file their taxes. The credit is refundable, meaning everyone who qualifies will get it no matter their tax situation.

### Schools and Childcare Block Grants

The plan sets aside \$130 billion for K-12 education. This money will be used to reduce class sizes, improve ventilation, purchase personal protective equipment, and fund other steps to help schools reopen safely. Almost \$40 billion would go to colleges and universities to provide emergency financial aid grants for students. An additional \$40 billion will go to childcare providers through the Child Care and Development Block Grant program. The act also includes \$1 billion for the Head Start program.

### Small Businesses

A new program for restaurants and bars allocates \$25 billion in pandemic assistance grants. The grants can provide up to \$10 million per company with a limit of \$5 million per physical location and used to cover payroll, rent, utilities and other expenses. The Paycheck Protection Program will receive an additional \$7.25 billion and more non-profits will now be allowed to apply for forgivable loans to help cover payroll and other operating expenses.<sup>2</sup>

### Pandemic Response

About \$50 billion will pay for additional COVID-19 testing and contact tracing, and \$19 billion will help increase the size of the public health workforce. About \$16 billion will fund vaccine distribution and supply chains. The bill provides \$46 billion to expand federal, state, and local testing for COVID-19 and to enhance contract-tracing capabilities with new investments to expand laboratory capacity and set up mobile testing units. It also contains about \$14 billion to speed up the distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines across the country.

### Student Loan Forgiveness Tax Free

While the plan does not include student loan forgiveness, it does include a provision that any student loan forgiveness passed between Dec. 30, 2020 and Jan. 1, 2026, will be tax free. Normally, loan forgiveness counts as taxable income.