

Moffat County Board of Public Health
221 W Victory Way Suite 130 Craig, CO 81625

November 19, 2020 – Emergency Meeting

In attendance: Ray Beck, Chair; Don Cook, Board Member; Donald Broom, Board Member (by phone); Rebecca Tyree; Lynnette Siedschlaw; KC Hume; Kari Ladrow (by phone); Mindy Curtis; Heather Brumblow

Call to Order – 11 am

Commissioner Beck called the meeting to order.

The purpose of this meeting is to determine COVID-19 community messaging.

Kari Ladrow spoke about:

- 2 deaths in the COVID unit at Sandrock Ridge Care & Rehab last night.
- Elevated concern regarding the hospital bed capacity in their COVID unit.
- The community really needs to do something to get this situation in control. The volume of exponential growth of cases per day is 4x what we originally had (18 cases by 10 am yesterday).
- From the Public Health perspective, they are doing their best, but really need the support of Elected Officials and/or anyone in position of authority to support Public Health with messages out to the community with mitigation efforts.

Beck asked Kari to forward any information that would be useful for these public messages and also said that Heather Brumblow can help by taking phone calls from the public.

Beck asked Sheriff Hume what kind of strength of language we can use to make the public understand the seriousness of this situation.

KC Hume:

It's important that the community understands there will have to be something of an enforcement process, moving forward, for individuals and businesses that are non-compliant. Kari stated the majority of calls she gets are more about businesses/locations, rather than individuals. Moffat County is unique and not like anywhere else and there is always people that won't comply. They need to be made to understand that their behavior is a public health risk. The key is being able to reach out to the regulatory agency that has jurisdiction over that business. He doesn't feel that criminal prosecution is the first tool out of the box; it needs to be incremental and educational, to start. If it gets to the legal point, a cease and desist order, initiated by the County, is the first step.

Kari commented that because of specific scientific research they know a lot more now about the areas of greatest transmission than we did in the spring when the pandemic first hit.

Commissioner Broom said he felt that if we can get some of the larger retailers in town (City Market, Walmart, Murdochs, and Ace Hardware) straightened out, the other smaller businesses will probably follow suit.

Commissioner Cook read some language he wondered would be effective in whatever kind of rules that are issued.

Hume gave some examples of some businesses (restaurants) in other parts of the state that were penalized for not following Public Health rulings.

Beck wondered if a strong message of the importance of personal responsibility, of not spreading the disease. Siedschlaw commented that as a business owner, it's hard to constantly police customers when they are in your business.

Tyree said we need to appeal to the public to save our community, save our businesses.

Kari said large gatherings since Halloween have been the main cause for so many cases. She also said that another source of transmission is people going to work, when they really shouldn't be and wondered if there would be a source of funding for people that don't have paid time off. The CARES business grants that are being issued should be able to cover that type of situation. Mindy said she would reach out to DOLA and ask if they could help with that.

Siedschlaw said that if the County is going to consider closing the Courthouse to the public (by appointment only) for the month of December, we need to step up and encourage other businesses to shift their office duties to off site, too.

Kari said she would like to see DHS pitch in to help people who are in quarantine, to get food, etc. so they don't have to leave their houses. Lynnette commented that there are other County employees that are not able to work from home that could be used in that capacity.

Beck wrapped up the meeting by saying the team needs to get the messages together so it can be released to the community as soon as possible.

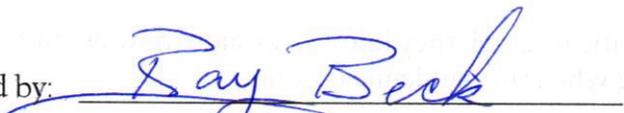
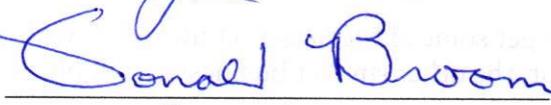
- Mindy reminded the BOCC that there is a Communication Line Item that hasn't been cut yet for the 2021 budget.
- Lynnette said it wasn't fair that the County is the only one to get this word out there, all entities should be involved.
- Mindy said we should be the community that cares, not just the one that wants to buck the governor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 am

Submitted by:

Erin Miller, Deputy Clerk and Recorder

Approved by:


Approved on: November 24, 2020

Attest by: Erin Miller

