

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting Adams County Courthouse Ritzville, Washington

June 9, 2021
(Wednesday)

The meeting was held virtually via GoToMeeting.

Call to Order @ 9:00 a.m.

Present:

Chairman Dan C. Blankenship
Vice-Chairman Terrance J. Thompson
Commissioner Jay R. Weise

Board of Health Update

Dr. Brzezny, Adams County Health Officer, provided updates on the following:

- A decline in cases of Covid – currently the lowest since March, 2020;
- U.S. Covid deaths at lowest point since March, 2020;
- Regional hospitalization trends;
- Covid incidence rate in Adams County;
- Delta/India virus variant in United Kingdom – likely to dominate US by/in the summer;
- U.S. vaccinations dropping overall is a concern;
- Indoor masking is still recommended – the concern is with holidays or events that bring large numbers of people together, potentially causing a high rate of disease. Additionally, persistent hospitalizations with limited hospital capacity in Adams and Grant counties for severely ill patients;
- In Adams County, masking indoors and when not able to properly distance is still recommended;
- Employer requirements pursuant to Washington State Department of Labor and Industries;
- House Bill 1152 was signed by the governor in May, 2021 for the purpose of rebalancing local health boards across the state; and

- Emotional, mental and substance abuse has not yet reached a peak – behavioral effects on the community are rising with increased crime rates.

Public Health

Karen Potts, RN, provided a public health update noting, fewer citizens are Covid testing in Adams County; educational events are being planned for the community; and two nurses have been hired in the public health department.

Contracts

Commissioner Weise moved, Thompson seconded, to *authorize the Chairman sign Data Sharing Agreement for Confidential Information or Limited Dataset(s) between State of Washington Department of Health and Adams County dba Adams County Health Department, to assist with linking and accessing data in Washington Disease Reporting System (WDRS)*. **Motion carried.**

Commissioner Weise moved, Thompson seconded, to *authorize the Chairman sign Memorandum of Understanding between Adams County Integrated Health Care Services and NEWESD101 – NEWESD 101 Student Threat Assessment Cooperative Program memorandum of Understanding with Community Partners to actively participate in the Threat Assessment Program with NEWESD 101 i.e., Ritzville School District boundaries*. **Motion carried.**

Integrated Health Care Services Update

Integrated Health Care Services Director Guse discussed the Covid housing Memorandum of Understanding agreements with two (2) Ritzville motels; the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) allocation and the decision to defer or not defer CJTA dollars to the ASO. Additionally, Guse reviewed current/upcoming vacancies in her department.

Qualified Medical Professional for Behavioral Health

Director Guse provided an update on the soon to be vacant contracted position of Qualified Medical Professional for Behavioral Health, noting a qualified individual is interested in the position.

State and Local Sales Tax Refund

Adams County was notified by the Department of Revenue of an application submitted for a refund of the state and local sales tax paid for

construction of a renewal energy project in the county. The Board, by consensus, approved a one-time payment, in the amount of \$495,912.99, to satisfy the refund of state and local sales tax paid on a renewable energy project as required by Department of Revenue.

Adjournment @ 12:00

Submitted:
s/Patricia J. Phillips, CMC
Clerk of the Board

Edited and Approved:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
s/Dan C. Blankenship, Chairman
s/Terrance J. Thompson, Vice-Chairman
s/Jay R. Weise, Commissioner