

Macon County Board of Health Special Meeting

Open Meeting

**Macon County Health Department WIC Conference Room
1221 E Condit Street, Decatur IL 62521
January 30, 2023, at 5:05pm**

Mike Baggett stated just as a reminder, we are recording the meeting and by being present, you are giving your consent to be recorded. Mark said sorry used to Brandi making that comment.

Mark Scranton Board of Health President, said, good evening welcome to the Macon County Health Department Special Board meeting, Tuesday, January 30, 2023, at 5:00 pm. Could we please do roll call, roll call taken.

Roll Call

Mark Scranton, President - absent
Jeff Entler, Vice President - present
Candace Clevenger, Treasurer – present virtually
Carolyn Wagner, Secretary - present
Jan Hack - absent
Debbie Hill - present
Dr. Bret Jerger – absent
Dr. Venkat Minnaganti - absent
Cody Parks - present
Dr. Jeff Smith – present
Marsha Webb - present

Health Department Staff in Attendance

Brandi Binkley, MPA, SHRM-CP, CPHA, Public Health Administrator
Bethany Krieg, MPH, CPHA, Assistant Public Health Administrator
Evan Trimby, IT Support Specialist
Luke Leach, IT Support Specialist Assistant
Kathy Wade, Director of Environmental Health & Emergency Preparedness
Lindsey Munsterman, Asst. Director for WIC/FCM

Public in Attendance

Mike Baggett, Assistant State's Attorney

Mark Scranton asked if everyone would please rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Approval of Agenda Topics

Mark Scranton stated I would like a motion to approve the agenda topics. Motion made by Dr. Jeff Smith seconded by Cody Parks.

Public Comment

Mark Scranton asked if we had any public comment, Brandi are you aware of anything at all. Brandi said Kathy would like to make a comment. Mark continued sorry Kathy I was looking for public not staff so.

Kathy Wade stated All right, let me try and get through this. I remember getting the call from Julie Peter, Assistant Administrator at the time, offering me the job here at the Macon County Health Department. I was so happy! At that time, the County or City job highly was thought, was highly sought after. It was a job that everyone wanted because of the stability. Fast forward to almost 19 years later and four Administrators later, and I can say I've never seen this building in such a fragile state as it currently is in.

Can we blame this on COVID? Maybe. What I can tell you is COVID did public health in general absolutely no favor. Public health is suffering right now all over, not just in Macon County. The rapport and reputation of public health is at an all-time low.

A once highly sought-after county job now stays vacant for months on end. There are a multitude of reasons as to why, but I think that the one that it's forgotten about is our fragile infrastructure within this building. What that community sees is a revolving door of open positions. Positions that aren't getting filled or even positions that may be filled but are open again soon after. Now both our, now we have our Administrator, Assistant Administrator, and as of today, our CFO have putting their resignations in within a couple of weeks of another, one another. We are in a terrifying state right now. I implore each of you to stop for just a few seconds and ask what is going on? I applaud you, the Board, for already taking some steps to help retain our current team, but please don't stop. We not only need to retain our current team, but we also need to make Macon County Health Department be what it was once when employees wanted to be here.

While we aren't a, while we aren't a small business, a small for-profit business, we are a building made up of amazing team members all working together to provide our community valuable resources that are more often than not, dictated by grant requirements.

But that's not the real reason I'm standing in front of you today. Today I wanted to publicly thank Brandi and Bethany for their dedication to this facility, their team members and for this community. Their perseverance over the last few years has been nothing short of amazing. These ladies have comforted us during grief and loss, has celebrated our victories and have pushed us to succeed and to continue to grow. They have shown time and time again that women can be and should be in

leadership roles. Both of these ladies embody, sorry. Both of these ladies embody the definition of public health. I for one am glad that I've had the privilege for working next to these ladies, and for these ladies, saying thank you just doesn't seem to be enough. But thank you. Thank you for the support, strength, laughs, smoke-free enforcement, and just for being present to me and each of your team members in this building. Your strength and confidence has pushed us all for many years now. We've always said, when they go low, we go higher. May your next endeavor bring you success, meaning, laughter and may use were higher than ever before. Thank you.

Mark Scranton responded thank you, Cathy.

Carolyn Wagner responded thank you.

Mark Scranton responded I think we all resonate those words. Okay, any other public comments at this time?

Bethany Krieg responded oh, sorry. I just wondered if it was okay to share what the Assistant Director from the Illinois Department of Public Health submitted for Brandi.

Mark Scranton responded well, you passed it out to everybody, right?

Bethany said okay.

Mark Scranton responded yeah, we're good with that.

Bethany Krieg responded I didn't know if it should be entered into the public record.

Mark Scranton responded so, any other public comments at this time? Okay, hearing none I will make a motion that we go into closed session.

Mike Baggett responded for the record, Mr. President, this will be pursuant to section two C, one of the Open meetings act. That's five ILCs 120/2c1 in order for the board of Health to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific body or employees of the public body.

Mark Scranton responded okay; do I have a motion? Carolyn said a second. Carolyn continued I did make the motion I need a second. Cody seconded the motion, roll call taken, all votes yes, motion carried.

Okay, we'll take a few seconds to clear the room.

Closed Session

Went into closed session at 5:20 PM

Open Session

Returned to Open session at 6:25 PM

Mike Baggett responded of and closed sessions are back and in attendance. Mr. President, the motion discussed during the closed session that the Board would need to take formal action on at this time. A board member would need to move to appoint Lindsey Munsterman as Interim Public Health Administrator effective immediately at the salary discussed with the candidate during the interview.

Mark Scranton so moved and made the motion seconded by Cody Parks. Roll call taken, all votes yes, motion carried

Mark Scranton responded okay, Lindsey, congratulations.

Several members said congratulations and applauded.

Mark Scranton responded and, on that note, Lindsey's responsibilities for Interim Administrator will start effective tomorrow morning. And I would please ask the current administrative staff to do everything you can to assist going forward. We have a lot of challenges in front of us, and I appreciate the remaining time you guys have here to make sure that we can move accordingly. And if any of you have any concerns along the way, please reach out to us. We can all get together and address whatever those items might be. So, Lindsey, you're now going to take this on.

Lindsey Munsterman responded I'm ready and I'm excited. And thank you all for taking the time to meet and ask me questions, get to know me, I appreciate that. I look forward to serving all of you, and while I realize it's in an interim regard, I look forward to the coming months. So, thank you again.

Several Board members said thank you.

Mark Scranton responded okay. Anything else from the floor? Yes, ma'am.

Brandi Binkley responded you had referenced earlier today about communication that you would want to get out to staff or want me to do or something. What would you like them for that? Like, as far as telling them, since they will know from the meetings we had.

Mark Scranton responded I'm good with whatever you choose to do. I don't know if you have people coming in at different times in the morning, is there by kind of arrive at the same time or what?

Brandi Binkley responded no they come at different times. As early as 6:45 or around there.

Mark Scranton responded I am open to suggestions how you guys want to disseminate that information. I'd like to make it a formal announcement, of course, in some manner, but how we do that, I'm open to discussion.

Marsha Webb responded I just think staff should know before the media.

Mark Scranton responded well, yeah, that's a given.

Carolyn Wagner responded so in email with that, would that be appropriate?

Bethany Krieg responded or should come from Lindsey; I don't know.

Lindsey Munsterman responded I'd be happy to send it, but obviously if you guys having their endorsement would mean a lot to the staff. So, if you want me to send it, I'm totally comfortable with that. But I think just having our prior leadership endorse the fact that there's going to be a new person would go a long way with staff. It respects them, and so I would greatly appreciate that if it's allowed, but if it's not, I'm happy to also share that information.

Mark Scranton responded, and I think that's what Brandi was alluding to. I think that would be satisfactory. Now that being said we will get media inquiries, we're going to get some.

Jeff Entler responded I kind of have an open one from Taylor. Is that who you usually talk to?

Brandi Binkley responded well, Taylor had reached out, and I just forwarded that Mark's direction to you too.

Jeff Entler responded I've traded some messages with her, and I told her that I would more than likely be back with her tomorrow. So, this is a good level set.

Mark Scranton responded well make sure midday or later. We need to draft a press release or want to set press conference up, just let me know, I'm pretty open tomorrow. If we want to schedule a time to to that without getting into too much details, the media is going to have some kind of coverage.

Carolyn Wagner responded that's fine about the staff. Can we send one to them this evening?

Brandi Binkley responded yes. Carolyn said would that be alright.

Mark Scranton responded because I think that's fine with me.

Brandi Binkley responded yeah, that's fine with me. That would be better than people do check their emails at night. So, the sooner people know instead of tomorrow morning right. I think it's better.

Carolyn Wagner responded correct.

Mark Scranton responded well, in light of light of coming and speaking to the staff this morning, I mean, I know Jeff had somebody talk to him afterwards? I had a couple of people come up with me, too. Obviously, I want to say a little bit of concern about where we're headed, but they came up. Were very positive about appreciating that we took the time to come in and talk with them and kind of explain the process we're working through. I think they give them some confidence going forward, and I think that's really important for all, for all of us, everybody included in the room, that we do that and continue that support. Because the end of the day, we've got a lot of people out here working that are probably still going to be nervous for a while. And so we'll work together. I'll touch base with you three towards the end of the week, kind of check in, see how things are going and the other

resignation, we're going to look at that and decide what we're going to do. And honestly, I don't feel that it's the Board's place. I mean, obviously we want to kind of be involved in that, but moving forward, we don't want to start the process of making decisions on jobs. Going to be a lot to absorb. And so, if you feel like you want the assistance of the board to help facilitate the process with looking for a CFO, we're definitely going to get your posting out there. The only thing I would ask is that we'll read through this tonight, look at it tomorrow, I'll let you know. But probably going to do the same thing for us, changes so the way the documents come in, but probably they can come to me and they can come to her, however we decide to do that going forward.

Brandi Binkley responded so you do want it posted immediately or you do not?

Mark Scranton responded no, I'm going to read through it because I literally just got it right before the meeting, so want to read through it first.

Brandi Binkley responded but you'll touch base with me and or Lindsey?

Mark Scranton responded yeah; I'll keep you guys together in an email loop. That way we don't have to repeat the same story three different times. It'll be easier that way. Okay. Candi, I just want you to know we still like it, even though you're in a climate that all was supposed to be in.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. Thank everyone.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Hertel
Administrative Assistant

President: _____

Secretary: _____

Date: _____