



Macon County Health Department Board of Health Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, November 24th, 2025 – 12:30 p.m.
Main Conference Room - Macon County Health Department
1221 E. Condit St., Decatur, IL 62521

Meeting called to order at 12:30 p.m.

Attendance

- Mark Scranton, President – present
- Jeff Entler, Vice President – present
- Jan Hack – absent
- Cody Parks – absent
- Debbie Hill – absent
- Dr. Bret Jerger – present
- Dr. Venkat Minnaganti – absent
- Dr. Jeff Smith – absent
- Deborah Pulliam – absent

Health Department Staff in Attendance

- Lindsey Munsterman, Public Health Administrator
- Laura Zuber, Chief Financial Officer
- Tiffany Reed, Administrative Assistant
- Dr. Kim, Dentist
- Kim Sabin-Pritchett, Dental Assistant

Other Attendance:

- None.

New Business

- Mark Scranton requested to hold a meeting to discuss the potential purchase of a 2018 Freightliner M2 Mobile Dental Clinic. Mark started by explaining how Cody Parks had brought the truck to his attention, and how he had done some asking around in the community to see if a service like this would even be welcomed. He stated that the consensus was positive and thinks the community would utilize a mobile dental service. He briefed us on some of the main topics that needed to be discussed before any decision could be made. Mark stated that he thinks it would be beneficial to put Macon County on the map for those who can't get to the Health Department for their dental needs. Lindsey reached out to the Director of Operations at Jefferson County, Steve Crawford, to discuss details of the vehicle and why they were getting rid of it. He informed her that their reasons for selling the vehicle is that, before COVID, both their youth and senior dental trucks were successful. But, after COVID, it seemed that their senior living procedures had changed and they were never able to get that specific truck back off the ground, so they no longer need that specific vehicle. Lindsey stated she asked Steve for candid feedback on the truck and its services, and he stated that they'd contracted with a specific specialist for RVs and semis, know who will siphon the dental waste, parking and storing it in a temperature-controlled environment, the Macon County Highway Department does not have space currently, he recommended it be powered at a 100 amp service, and work out an agreement with business if we plug in on who will pay for the electricity used. Mark mentioned the truck has a built-in generator that would be more than capable of power the truck. Lindsey said that in the summer the truck gets hot and stuffy even with the air running and that the previous staff had made complaints about it. The truck also must

be parked on a perfectly flat surface for the services, Mark mentioned that the truck has self-leveling equipment. Mark and Jeff estimated that the truck itself could be worth \$200,000 on its own without all the dental equipment, which could bring the value of the truck up to \$400,00 to \$500,000. Dr. Jerger confirmed that to put one dental chair set up in a building could cost \$20,000. Lindsey stated that Laura had gotten a quote on how much replacing tires should we need that, being \$5,000 for all tires at once. Kim Sabin-Pritchett brought up the fact that we currently do not have the staff to support a mobile dental clinic, and that for the schools, Miles of Smiles from Peoria comes down to visit the Medicaid kids and give them cleanings and check-ups. She also stated that they use portable dental equipment for their services, and that the children who need procedures done get referred to us. She brought up the fact that we have yet to receive an application for a part-time dentist for our in-house services, and voiced concern about finding the staff for a mobile clinic. Laura voiced her concerns about the cost for County liability insurance for adding a vehicle and a driver with a CDL license to the plan. Mark suggested talking to Tammy or Cheryl to crunch the numbers on how much it would realistically cost. Jeff mentioned that the insurance might have to be special to incorporate the dental equipment inside. Mark agreed that it would be wise to confirm the insurance cost before deciding and mentioned that the chairman had a positive response to the proposal, insinuating that the finances may not be a big hurdle to overcome. Jeff mentioned that compensating the truck driver(s) who are charged with moving the truck would be crucial in considering potential costs. Mark suggested looking for retired truck drivers or bus drivers who would be willing to work once or twice a week to move the truck for us. Laura also voiced that we need county approval to bid on the truck, leaving us very little time to get it approved before the deadline of the truck's auction. Jeff offered ways to present the proposal with offers on what funds to use. Lindsey stated that it could be put on the county agenda for the December 11th meeting and just present it to the finance committee specifically, potentially bypassing EEWH. There was a discussion between Mark, Lindsey, and Laura about why we needed to get approval from different boards to even place a bid. Mark raised the question that if our board acts as its own entity and uses the funds we raised from investors, why do we need approval from the county to place a bid on the truck. Lindsey and Laura explained that the purchase of the truck would fall under the category of a 'budget amendment' and that that is why we need county approval to place a bid. Jeff informed us that we would have to go through the finance committee to get the funds approved, and recommended calling a special meeting to discuss it, to which Lindsey agreed. Laura brought up the fact that between maintenance and staff costs, the truck probably wouldn't bring us in any surplus revenue. Mark asked Kim how the Miles of Smiles program was bringing in revenue, and she informed us that they only do basic cleanings and check-ups for kids on Medicaid. Jeff asked about the dental department's current staffing, and Kim informed us that they were already searching for another part-time dentist for in house services. Lindsey brought up the significant increase in salary costs for bringing on a whole other dental staff, and how much salaries would need to increase per the types of services they hope the truck could offer considering we would need a dental hygienist to service adults as well as kids. Dr. Kim mentioned that the revenue the services would bring in would not be enough to cover the salaries of the staff needed to run the truck. Lindsey mentioned that our current costs outweigh our current revenue significantly in the dental department, and adding a truck with all its maintenance and housing costs might only put us more in the hole. Mark suggested rescheduling their other meeting until after Thanksgiving to allow everyone to gather more information. He requested that Laura gather enough information to put together a rough budget on how much it would cost to maintain the truck to present to the finance committee. Mark suggested just offering basic services to those in the area who aren't currently receiving any care. Kim mentioned that to do most things, a dentist will have to be on the truck and present, but she pondered about whether a hygienist would be able to just be staffed in general and potentially work from home. Mark inquired as to why Miles of Smiles made the trip from Peoria to Decatur regularly to offer their services, making the point that they must be making enough of a profit to incentivize them into continuing the services. Jeff said that we should prioritize finding the staff to support the truck, commenting that the truck didn't need to make money so long as it wasn't actively losing money. He also stated that the truck itself, all things considered, was a genuine bargain given how much it would cost to recreate it on our own. Kim pondered that if we bought the truck, and couldn't find the staff, that we could probably turn around and sell it to make a little bit of a profit. Mark agreed and said that worst case scenario, we could part it out and sell off the equipment for to make our money back. Mark said that he had estimated the truck costing ten thousand a month, but understands that it will probably cost more, and he requested a rough monthly estimate on its actual

cost. Kim explained that the fees for basic cleanings and x-rays is where most dental departments bring in their revenue, the average fee for a cleaning being \$288. Dr. Jerger commented how the fillings and extractions don't really bring in any revenue and agreed that it would be more efficient for us to physically be at a school to just work through cleanings, even suggested getting a portable dental chair to increase the turnover. Kim mentioned that we used to have a program like Miles of Smiles. Mark mentioned that we would be saving time and effort by having the truck for a program like this because they wouldn't have to set up temporary dental stations. Lindsey mentioned that there will be a lot of kids and people who wouldn't use the truck and just stick with their current dentist, stating that we would need to be realistic about the expectancy of usage. Mark said that the goal would be to have the truck up and running by spring or summer to get a little bit of publicity on it before the school year started to get the word out. Mark thinks that, with just the cleanings, the truck could potentially pay for itself. Laura asked if we were going to shift focus from adults to just kids for our services, and Mark responded by suggesting that we keep in mind what we'd like to do in the future but focus on what we can realistically do in the meantime given that we would need additional positions filled to service adults. He suggested marketing the position of dentist to young dentists just coming out of school who would love to be part of a program that helps give back to the community, and Kim brought up adding that if they work through us, the county helps pay back on their loans. Mark stated that at the end of the day, it needed to be a business decision and wanted to get the factual logistics on what it would take. Laura brought up that our in-house services were currently pushing clients back for appointments due to needing more staff. Kim confirmed her claim, stating that they were currently booked out two months in advance for fillings, asking for assurance that the truck would have its own staff to ensure that they would not have to close the clinic on the days they are utilizing the truck. Mark confirmed that there would be an additional staff dedicated to the truck's services. Mark suggested keeping an open mind on how quickly the truck could get up and running smoothly. Kim and Lindsey agreed that the biggest hurdle would be finding a dentist given how little they've had any traction on even finding a part-time dentist for the clinic. Dr. Jerger asked about potentially reaching out to the local dentists to see if any of them would agree to help on their off days, and Kim said that if they're fine with it, she could make sure they are credentialed through us for any services they offer, since she has the capability to do that for them. She then described how the process would work to contract local dentists for the truck and how they would get paid for the work they did. Lindsey asked about going to Missouri to visit the truck, stating that it was highly recommended that someone see it. She suggested going with Matt, a mechanic from County Highway, to check over the truck. Mark agreed that it would be smart. They started talking conversing about a timeline on when to go visit the truck and schedule the meetings with the county and EEWH. Mark stated that we should plan to see the truck on the first of the month to make sure we had as much information as possible before presenting everything to the additional boards. Mark mentioned that there were other opportunities for us to utilize the truck in if being a mobile dental clinic ended up not being as successful as hoped, like mobile vaccinations, wellness clinic, or even just parting it out. Mark agreed to go with Lindsey to see the truck to video call Dr. Jerger to have someone look over the dental equipment. Lindsey mentioned that she had reservations on purchasing the truck given how difficult it has been to find a part-time dentist for the clinic, and that the driver of the truck would need a CDL that would have to be an employee of the county. Lindsey mentioned that other mobile dental clinics in surrounding areas have vehicles that don't require CDLs and expressed concern about how we could find a driver. Mark explained that the reason for a CDL being required probably had to do with how large the truck is, and the fact that the truck has air brakes. Mark mentioned that it should be expected to have bumps down the road in getting the service on its feet but that he holds confidence that we can work it all out.

Closed Session:

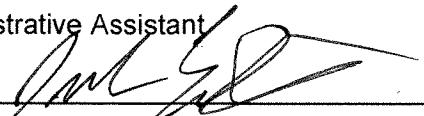
- No Closed Session

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tiffany Reed

MCHD Administrative Assistant

President: 

Secretary: Deborah Pilliar

Date: 1-20-26