

- I. **Call Meeting to Order:** by Dr. Mehlhaus at 5:31 pm
- II. **Attendance:** Present: Dr. Mehlhaus, Kriss Haglund, Vicky Severson, Steve Duffy  
**Additional Attendees:** Debi Pestotnik, Daniel Ramirez Villa, Sue Eldridge, Pam Dodge, Julie Trepka, Brian Horn.
- III. **Changes & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes 1-6-2020)**
  - Motion by Kriss Haglund, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vicky Severson to approve minutes as submitted. Motion carried.
- IV. **Changes & Approval of Meeting Agenda**
  - Dr. Brian Mehlhaus Motioned to switch items VII. And VIII. On the agenda , 2<sup>nd</sup> by, Kriss Haglund to approve agenda as submitted. Motion carried.
- V. **Open Public Hearing(s) and Consideration Of Request(s)**
  - A. None
- VI. **Unfinished (Old) Business**
  - A. None
- VII. **New Business**
  - A. **Masking in School system-** The state is not going to put out any guidance it's going to have to be this this board here. I guess I'd like to see at this point discuss it and see if they want to have something similar to what story county does with some small changes like changing Iowa State to DMU I mean to DMACC. I have asked our three superintendents to be here. I also asked Drew Nelson to be here and he was unable to be here. But he had read all this and was in full support of it. So I will open the floor to discussions. Let me just say, first that the American Academy of

Pediatrics came out with a statement last week, a couple days for this came out and they basically are recommending, number one, get off kids back to school if possible. Number two, everyone that can wear a mask in school that is all teachers basically five through 12. Wear a mask and unusual complication that requires a doctor's note, such as bad cerebral palsy, or inability to get the mask off on their own in a timely manner. Claustrophobia probably doesn't fit. I had a conversation last Monday with the other eight family doctors here in Boone County and tell them about this. They're all in support said that they'd be very hard pressed to figure out a reason to write a note. No one under 2 should be required to wear a mask. Preschool, lower Elementary if you can get them to wear a mask great and then also for the teachers who need to be using their mouth if you got someone who may be as far as the deaf /lip reads, or working on vocabulary, they would suggest is using a facial shield that is American pediatrics recommendations.

They said that the reason to these kids back in school is that, this is where public health comes in. Is that a lot these kids. Number one, the only square meal they get every day is at school. Number two is a lot of these kids. We're missing a lot of sexual abuse, child abuse at home because the kids are never seen by any other adults. And that's a known fact if you look at the last three months' time, registries for abuse are down. Because the kids aren't being seen. So those are two of the main reasons also the socialization relaxed socialization skills in American pediatrics were those three reasons were probably the main reasons

-Quality of learning when you're online versus the quality learning in person learning and stuff I'm seeing is not necessarily real good. To the three superintendents I'll allow you to either walk you through on chime in on that or tell me I'm wrong. I think we all agree that being on campuses in the better way so I do think that as much as we can be on campus the better. When we're working in some of the special Ed rooms with some of the kids that won't use them or kindergarten first graders, it's considered a lot of people are saying, wear the mask and face shield as much as possible, especially on special Ed rooms to try prevent things from happening, so I think those are reasonable alternatives.

You know, when I see that language, I would say that what we would communicate right now is face mask are highly encouraged, highly recommended, but not required for students.

(Pam Dodge)I believe will have a high rate of wearing masks. I just I think it's a common sense thing. I think people will do it. I think the reason the DEA takes the position and the legal teams that work with our legislators

and the School Board Association that people that front load us for, you know what it is? I mean, it's, it's, what do they call it the Office of Civil Rights?, when you start using that word required, so can have the authority to require it that will be the question at the end of the legal case, right. And so, you know, what, if the end result is the different tiers of mitigation, and the common sense, I think, I working with people that will use the common sense and do it, but I think when you start saying required, you're going to have a whole contingency of people that are going to say you can't require this. And that's going to be challenging, and they would still argue it. I think that there are people, I just I feel like I just, (Julie Trepa) I understand what you're saying. I think we need to be careful. I'm a rule follower. And so we follow what we need to follow. But I'm going to say when challenged, where's the authority? Because I don't know that the board has that authority and I believe it's a great recommendation. I believe in all the data. I know what's smart and what's safe. But I just also, I mean, you have to pass that stranger test because the three of us will be the ones sitting there at the other end of that case. You guys do many tough decisions and many tough areas, right? But this is one where I'm going to point here. You know, what you guys say is, you know, here when it comes to remote, hybrid, whatever, we have all that that we need to do, and I got nobody else to point to when it comes to the health and you know, we're going to match what you say.

The three superintends can go back to your boards and saying here's local or Board of Health recommendations.

(Brian Horn)The situation isn't whether it actually working or not, so I have a little hesitancy in using the word required myself, but I can see the benefits of that and I don't know. It's maybe a little embarrassing. I'm not. I'm not sure of our legal jurisdiction. You know how much teeth that we have.

(Dr. Mehlhaus) that's good question everything starts with COVID-19. There's a lot of legal pushback. I know. That being said, we also have to remind, remind you that we're sitting here not only in the best interest of all our kids, but we're sitting here in the best interest of all of our teachers, and other support staff, some of whom are going to have some major health problems. Now, if you look at the literature, and we'll say let's look at the literature. Kindergarten through 12th graders they tend to have a very low morbidity mortality rate with the virus. That is they don't get sick too much, but it's usually a bad cough, headache, body aches, got a better chance winning the lottery or getting hit by a car than they do have this SARS. I mean of the Kawasaki syndrome they're talking about, it's that rare. On the other hand, they still can't transmit it to adults be a little bit

lower rate, but they can transmit to adults. So that's one reason why the American Academy of Pediatrics put the three foot rule because figure between the kids three feet probably good enough.

(Brian Horn) I think our survey question is going to come out after this board makes this decision, then I can send to the board. This is what we know, the Board of Health is recommending or requiring, or whatever it is. And then we can send a family survey and a staff survey about, you know, I'm not going to phrase a wall right now, but how safe they feel or whatever. And again, the reason I have held back a little bit is if this board requires, there's really not a survey question to send out as much if it if it recommends, then, you know, I would approach that question in that manner. So put the pressure on you guys.

(Steven Duffy) I think I see what's going on here, which I'm not saying isn't right. But the school board's I think all feel like the kids should wear a mask. Is that right? Okay. So I mean, I think what I've seen is that the school board, the superintendent or you are going to use if we pass this as mandated that you're going to use it as an excuse leverage that the board. Well talk to the Board of Health. I'm okay with that, too. Yeah, well, it's because the whole site is in our wheelhouse. So we'd like it to be enhanced. We don't want to see our board pass something that you guys are really against.

(Brian Horn) If you really believe that we should wear a mask, I would support the passing rule that from the board of health, we require to be required.

(Dr. Brian Mehlhaus) We pulled this meeting up two weeks just because we knew this is going to be a hot topic issue. There is a rare chance from when I talked to the official at the State Department of Public Health. Last week in she said there's a rare chance the Department of Education, Department of Public Health are going to come out with some uniform guidance. Because they're still trying to wipe all the tomatoes and eggs off their face. They've been thrown at them for their non-committal response two weeks ago. But this lady was not up high enough in the food chain. To know exactly what they were thinking. All she knew where the people higher than her were having meetings. I know about the FAQ, where they made it pretty clear why they did not read those questions and I think all of us even if we require it as part of how we will be able to answer those questions.

(Dr. Brian Mehlhaus and Pam Dodge) I think Ogden and united will be in session every day. Yep. And I think there will be exceptions to the rule for the guidance we're getting is get those kids enrolled. And don't you know

what, right now, what parents are asking is how do I can I homeschool and get the services I got last spring? Those were voluntary services. Those were not required services as soon as we all come out and answer that question, right back to your survey data, you know, 98% of my kids are going to be in school and part of ours was realized.

(Julie Trepan) I am really hung up on recommended versus required because I'm worried about the Office of Civil Rights Office of Special programs. I mean, we're just we're not going to win that. I just don't think you can. I don't think you can required unless our state requires it. You might see more pushback with that with the older maybe seventh and eighth on up with those students making a some sort of stand that hey, we don't have to do this, you know that most kids, they don't want to be the one or 2% that aren't, you know, are wearing a mask. What I could see come from this would be like, parents get together, hire a lawyer and seek an injunction you know, the other thing you got to look at too is your teachers union if they don't feel they're being supported or they can go to court or something.

(Steve Duffy) How do you feel about required versus highly recommend?

(Brian Horn) I if I was a voting member, I would vote for it to be recommended for all the reasons I've stated. I'm not opposed to following it. If I'm in the dissenting opinion, and everybody else says, let's make it required. I'll follow required but I would make it

(Pam Dodge)I would strongly lean on people. I don't need this board, for my school boards to do the right thing. Do you know what I mean? Like, I just I think I would I will take this level of conversation to both of those school boards and say they had a robust conversation. We're trying to decide if there's teeth to do it. The end result is the majority of kids and adults all adults wearing can weaken require adults, they are staff members. So I mean, I and we've all had adults that have said, Well, I'm not coming if you make me do it, or I'm not coming if you make everybody not do it, they don't get to decide that they haven't a master contract. So if they're either employed, and they follow our employment agreement, or they don't, they can resign. I mean, it's that simple. But we just don't have that kind of teeth with kids. When parents say, I'm not going to vaccinate my kids.

(Julie Trepa) I really hard because I'm brand new and brand new. So if I was already here and I hadn't better situational awareness so that I lean toward what Brian saying is really heavily on this board as the recommendation for the district, because I don't have that background or the trust level from the community yet. They don't even know me. So you

lean on that trust in times like this. And that's what's difficult is I haven't been able to provide that level of trust amongst the community with myself. So I'm leaning heavily on what the community saying and what I'm seeing initially, because we're going to send out more initially, it looks like they really want required to me, but I also know we have a fairly significant number of families that were pretty adamant the other way if it was like just five families, I'd be different. So too many families do know (Dr. Mehlhaus)What was your response rate? Your public, almost 900 responses. So what is that half of your population was about 5% are saying I have been told that was really good. Great for what they got me for actually 900 responses thus far. Today, so that's actually pretty good. Usually, for those surveys were usually how many say 400.I would probably lean towards a recommended right now and is really encouraged for the safety of others and go that direction, I think we would get a number that would go that way. If you said there's a concern of, you know, those that won't unless it's absolutely required

(Dr. Mehlhaus) The situation is if we go recommended, and it doesn't go well, and we spread things, and then you know, we have to take a little break and then we have to come back and say required,it's a lot easier say required in that case, and you hope someone doesn't die while we're doing that. I know that's mean that's the area that is the problem area with this all it's got me scared. So if we say required, then the parents that come at you with either they drop out, they don't go, that's not good for the kids. But if they want to push back and argue with you, I can reason with those people to explain to them why this is good. This is about the health of the greater good.

- Steven Duffy enters the motion to use the required for staff as opposed to highly recommended and match what story county says. no one second the motion, the motion died.

The board of health then outfitted the following recommendation.

#### Recommendations from the Boone County Board of Health

With the current surge of COVID19 that the county is experiencing, as well as the anticipation of the return of university students from all over the country, it is important that everyone in the county should continue to practice mitigation to prevent the spread of COVID19. We recommend the following based on published standards and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), as well as common sense. Detailed guidance from these entities are available and should be followed; the information below is

meant to share minimum guidelines and emphasize key points important in our community. Anyone reading this will notice the emphasis on wearing face coverings. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of wearing properly fitted face coverings, including cloth face coverings and face shields, worn over the nose and mouth when out in public or around people. Surgical grade masks and N95 respirators are also effective but should be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders. Individuals who should not wear face coverings include children under the age of two or anyone who has trouble breathing or is unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

1. Daycare. Face coverings in young children are hard to keep on and not recommended by the CDC for children under 2 years old. However, face coverings should be worn by all providers of care as well as staff and others occupying the daycare space such as parents. Hand cleansing stations should be plentiful and frequently used. Children should be kept in as small of groups as possible and the groups should not mix at playtime, outings and lunch. Temperature screening of all entering children, staff, and other individuals with a contactless thermometer is highly recommended. We recommend this guidance for both institutional and small, in-home daycares

2. Pre-K to 12 schools. When schools resume in the fall we recommend the following minimum measures. All staff should be required to wear face coverings at all times when they are around students or other staff. Face coverings should be considered on students as applicable. Social distancing in classes, minimizing classroom changes, staggered lunches and recesses as well as temperature screenings should be followed. Hand cleansing should be frequently practiced and encouraged.

3. Events/gatherings and religious services. Social distancing (at least 6 feet—or about 2 arms' length) should be practiced. People who have already been in contact with each other and feel comfortable that they are all practicing social isolation (such as families) can be grouped together. Groups less than ten are recommended. Face coverings should be required for all present. Hand cleansing stations should be plentiful and encouraged to be used. We recommend individually, pre-packaged foods rather than communal foods. We recommend that the event organizers make sure mitigation measures such as use of face coverings continue to be practiced after the event if participants continue to congregate in the area. Contactless temperature screening should be implemented when feasible.

4. Sporting events and athletic teams. While we understand that wearing a face covering during the strenuous activity of sports may be very difficult,

at a minimum, all coaches, officials, support staff, spectators, and athletes who are not playing should wear a face covering at all times while other people are present. Sporting events should practice social distancing for spectators as well as athletes when they are not playing. Screening of athletes and staff daily with a contactless thermometer is indicated. Group meetings and/or meals should be put on hold at this time and remote meetings should be used. Exercise sessions, such as weightlifting and/or swimming, should be staggered to allow social distancing. Restrooms should be monitored to limit crowding. Concession stands should be closed. Hand cleansing should be frequently practiced and encouraged.

5. DMACC. Detailed guidance from DMACC is available and should be followed; to supplement these guidelines and emphasize key points, we recommend the following minimum measures. Face coverings should be required for all students in classes and when in university buildings. University sponsored gatherings should be cancelled unless the recommended practices (see events/gatherings and sporting events above) can be followed. Hand cleansing stations should be plentiful and encouraged.

Students should be encouraged, in the strongest language the university can legally use, to practice mitigation principles when off campus and when using mass transit.

Group living situations, such as dormitories and fraternities/sororities are a special and difficult situation. However, certain practices can be used to mitigate risks. Face coverings should be worn at all times except when in sleeping chambers with roommates. Dining should be staggered to allow social distancing. Hand cleansing should be encouraged. Social events should be cancelled unless the principles outlined in events/gatherings and/or sporting events, as applicable, can be followed. All group living situations need to develop a plan of how to isolate a resident who is found to be COVID-19 infected.

6. Shared or congregate housing facilities. These facilities should continue to follow published CDC guidelines.

With the current rise in cases in Boone County, we strongly recommend these guidelines are followed. We fully understand that what we are proposing is difficult and also that no mitigation plan is foolproof. However, if these principles are followed we can get and keep this virus under control until the availability of a vaccine. As a County Board of Health, our duties include the protection of public health of the residents of Boone County; thus, our recommendations are made in light of what is best for the public's health, and we stand by our recommendations.

- Vicky Severson motioned Motioned to adopt the recommendation by the BOH for maksing in school systems, 2nd by, Steven Duffy . Motion carried.

## VIII. Department Update

- A. Public Health Department Report- Well, the counts are still going up. Initially, we thought we saw a little bit of a, you know, stabilization if we want to say that and then all of a sudden, we just saw it ramped back up. Sol don't think we're here the first wave even right now. And then I think we're going to probably be at risk. Talking about school. As we send kids back to school, we start getting people to start going about and doing their normal activities. I'm seeing that that will have an increased risk and we'll probably see more and more cases. So far, we only have one death in the county. I would say probably no more than that a dozen cases in Boone County. Which goes along with the National Statistics. They're saying about 10% are the one who test positive 10 to 15% could be end up hospitalized and you're probably going to lose one to 2% of the patients as die. So our numbers are following national trends If not, slightly better. (Haglund)-So when you say the counts are up, what is a weekly count or how give us an idea of what you have.
- (Debi Pestotnik) -I've seen that projection or trajectory up in how many cases were getting assigned every day to do the investigations on so they are kind of started to flat line out a little bit, we are seeing that continuous and then all of a sudden it just went like this again. (up) So I would say it in about three weeks. We triple the cases. It really got worse after Memorial Day. The good part of it is More of them are in the 20-40 age group than the 40 to 60 age group and in the 60 plus age group. So those are the

ones that theoretically should be less Severe and less risk of complications are unfortunately those 24 year olds are going to go home to mom and dad who in their 70s and 80s are Great Aunt Sally. And spread that way, so then you got to worry about that spread. We'll see in a few weeks too. So that's why this is a serious business. That's what we're going to talk about the masking issue later on. End or report.

B. Health and Sanitation Department Report: this morning there was an illegal dumping over by Kale road I believe someone dumped a boat full of stuff and we were able to track it down. And deputy sheriff Brian, Pontius was able to track down on who's it was and were able to get that cleaned up. Within the boat full of stuff and they found the registration paper. So it was a quick fix. But yeah, that came in at 8 this morning. End or report.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

Steven Duffy entertained a motion to adjourn. Vicky Severson moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kriss Haglund to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 pm. Motion carried

**Next Meeting September 21<sup>st</sup> , 2020 5:30 p.m. at Boone County Hospital: 4th floor Board Room**