



Sedgwick County...
working for you

Monday, February 8, 2021
6 p.m.

Zoom Online Meeting
Virtually

Board members in attendance: Nick Day, Maria Elena Gonzalez, Nalini Fraser, Philip Fraser, Madison Shriner, Deb Gruver, Zach Day, Sarah Dixon, Rob Simon, Jamie Buster, Maggie Ballard

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Fraser called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Adrienne Byrne, Health Director, opened a discussion about COVID-19 vaccines and the state's allocation. Kansas is one percent of the country's population, so we get approximately one percent of the vaccine that's distributed on a federal level. Our state health department has been receiving approximately 45,000 doses. The Health Department's first shipment totaled 1,400 doses, we didn't know how much was coming or when we were getting it until 12-24 hours prior to getting it. Initially it was thought a large-scale clinic would happen around April/May when more vaccine arrived but once we knew we were going to receive 8,500 doses from GraceMed then we knew that was an opportunity to get that large-scale clinic going.

The Health Department (SCHD) started vaccinating health care associated workers in Phase 1 and the State provided doses directly to long-term care facilities.

SCHD later learned that it would primarily receive Pfizer doses due to our ability to store it. The Moderna vaccine is easier to work with, you take it right out of the vial and put it into someone's arm. You treat it like any other vaccine, as far as temperature wise and temperature control. Pfizer is very different where it has to be kept at a certain temperature and you have to buy special equipment for it; freezers and it has to be reconstituted. You can't just draw it out of the vial, there's a whole delicate process to it.

Byrne continued, at this time the Health Department is acting as a vaccine hub, same as during H1N1 in 2008. The SCHD was the main distributor for the H1N1 vaccine. Since 9/11/2001, local health departments are trained and expected to set up a POD (point of dispensing) to dispense vaccine quickly if there's ever such a need.

Per Dr. Minns, he wanted to start Phase 2 of the vaccine plan with people aged 65 and older as the data that we have collected and the country during COVID-19 has shown that they having a greater risk for death and hospitalization. There are more than 75,000 residents 65 or older and we didn't want to open it up to all 65 and older like other places because of the concern of those who were older would not get to the computer first or wouldn't even have a computer to get scheduled. That's why we started at 90 and went down incrementally and created a phone line for those who didn't have a computer or found it too confusing.

As of Saturday (2/6/21), we have given 23,402 total doses. We have set up a curbside service, at the Wichita Transit Center; this is not for convenience but for those who have mobility issues. Anyone who gets the vaccine has to wait 15 minutes and if they have any history of reactions to vaccine then we ask them to wait 30 minutes.

We have been looking for a permanent home, and we have found one at the old library on Main Street. That will be our location from Monday through Saturday as long as we have a mass drive through.

Commissioner Cruse addressed the fact that people are frustrated and how she's heard from people discuss how this is being done around the country; we read reports about people 65 and older receiving the vaccine. One thing that I want to mention is that we're doing the best we can with the information we receive. There is a lot of back work to organizing a massive clinic.

Director Byrne confirmed the new location will be at the library on South Main and the meters will be hooded so residents don't have to pay for parking.

She discussed the details of approved providers that they will be distributing vaccines too. The challenges of Pfizer were discussed as not everyone has the ability to store it. Pfizer has a five-day window down to the hour of how quickly it must be used. Once the vaccine is at room temperature, it must be dispensed within six hours.

Deb Gruver asked if there's a point at which your first dose becomes ineffective if you haven't had your second dose in the recommended time? Byrne replied that it's still recommended to get the vaccine even after the recommended date because there still is some coverage but more information will be coming out on that.

Chairperson Fraser shared some thoughts/comments about promoting the vaccine in the county. Byrne shared that we have an official scrubber who checks if a resident qualifies.

Chairperson asked if the Health Department was taking volunteers for staffing assistance. Byrne responded that we certainly are and shared how to apply.

Adrienne added that we're going to get everyone vaccinated; it's just taking longer than what everyone wants it too.

Sara Dixon asked if she had any idea when those in Phase 4 will start to get vaccinated. Commissioner Cruse communicated we're working on some modeling which will give residents some peace of mind and a visual of when they could be looking at receiving the vaccine. Everything is changing daily but we're working on it so it can help give you an idea when it might be.

Byrne shared that Johnson & Johnson is also working on a vaccine and it protects the most severe possibilities with COVID-19. Moderna and Pfizer protect against the virus themselves.

Commissioner Cruse added that the kansasvaccine.gov page is a helpful site to know what's going on state wide in addition to what's happening here locally.

Maggie Ballard thanked Director Byrne and shared her good experience with getting the vaccine.

Chairperson asked how residents could keep up with phases if they're not tech savvy and can't access the county's webpage. Byrne replied that United Way's 211 line has been a crucial partner, and that she'll have to check with them to see what questions are being asked and make sure they receive the information in regards of phases.

Byrne shared that the 660-1029 line is set up to help with scheduling and is turned off when all the appointments are taken. A team was gathered to answer calls to let those residents know that there aren't any appointments and to answer any questions they might have.

3. Meeting Minutes from January 11th

After reviewing the December minutes, Gruver made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Maria Elena Gonzalez. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Other

Rob Simon asked for clarification about opening membership to this group.

Commissioner Cruse clarified they have one open position for a high school student and communicated there was also a discussion about having community members on the zoom call.

Gruver made a motion to adjourn. Chairperson Fraser seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

March 8, 2021- details to be determined.