

# Barton County Board of Health Agenda Meeting Minutes

Recorded audio is available on compact disk upon request to the Barton County Clerk's Office, 1400 Main – Room 202, Great Bend, Kansas 67530.  
Phone (620) 793-1835 \ Fax (620) 793-1990 \ Email [clerk@bartoncounty.org](mailto:clerk@bartoncounty.org)  
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March 16, 2020

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 16th day of March 2020, at the Barton County Courthouse.

## *Members present:*

Kenny Schremmer, Commissioner, 1st District, Chairman  
Homer Kruckenberg, Commissioner, 2nd District  
Don Davis, Commissioner, 3rd District  
James R. Daily, Commissioner, 4th District  
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District *(Chairman Pro-Tem)*  
Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk  
Phil Hathcock, County Administrator  
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor  
Karen Winkelman, Interim Health Director

## **I. OPENING BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Schremmer called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the agenda with the following changes to rename Item A. to Item B. and add new Item A. Resolution 2020-01.

Commissioner Daily seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the minutes of July 8, 2019 Meeting.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. RESOLUTION 2020-01: A Resolution Appointing the Interim Barton County Local Health Officer and Medical Consultant and Rescinding Resolution 2014-18, Same, Adopted December 8, 2014:**

-The Commission will consider the appointment of an Interim Local Health Officer and Medical Consultant.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said this resolution would appoint Karen Winkelman as director and Dr. Stanley Hatesohl as medical consultant. He has graciously agreed to do this on very short notice and has already contacted Karen Winkelman.

Commissioner Schartz said that spoke highly to the professionalism of both Karen Winkelman and Dr. Hatesohl, stepping up in a time where it would be much easier not to.

Commissioner Daily moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-01 as presented by Phil Hathcock our County Administrator.

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

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**B. Novel Coronavirus (2019-NCOV) Update** – Karen Winkelman, Interim Health Director, will provide an update.

Karen Winkelman, Interim Health Director, said the number one priority of our work is public safety. Public Health is instrumental in the containment, the mitigation and the recovery during this time of uncertainty. A little background, the 2019 Coronavirus, now called Covid-19, is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person to person. Novel just means new, as in people do not have immunity, there is no vaccine, no medication specifically approved for this virus. Most people will recover on their own drinking plenty of fluids, rest and taking medications for fever. Winkelman said the first case in the US was on January 21, 2020 with the first case in Kansas being on March 7 in Johnson County. On March 12, 2020, Governor Kelly declared an emergency declaration for the State of Kansas. Some of the symptoms associated with this virus have been mild to severe and typically include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Winkelman said in severe cases, the infection could cause pneumonia, bronchitis and severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death. Illness seems to be more severe in older persons and those with other health conditions. The symptoms are usually spread through the air and by touching. The incubation is 2-14 days. The testing is provided at KDHE with commercial labs coming forth now. We started at around 15 tests per day and are now in the hundreds. The best thing to avoid the virus is to avoid being exposed and to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Sanitizer should be at least 60% alcohol. Clean surfaces. Currently no vaccine. Education is being provided to the community with signage, technology and adding a HOTLINE for calls to direct people to KDHE for information. An epidemiology hotline is also available to medical professionals. Health care facilities have access to the BCHD 24-hours a day. If a person presents to a medical provider and meets specific criteria, that person is considered a person under investigation. That person will be isolated until testing is completed. While waiting for results they will investigate who that person had contact with, which is very labor intensive. Winkelman said the protective measures such as cancelling classes, events, etc. is not because they believe the virus is so deadly, but because they are trying to limit exposure, as there are only so many hospital beds and supplies. Winkelman stressed people need to be informed and be patient.

Tammy Hammond, Rosewood Services, said you mentioned you are meeting with EMS personnel and we are asking to be included as there is a whole segment of our population that is not being included.

Commissioner Davis said they are doing a survey in Korea. Can be a carrier and not even get it. Winkelman said that is right, the virus seems to be milder in the young. We need to do our part in social distancing and practicing good hygiene.

Commissioner Daily said there seems to be some fiction about wearing masks in public. Winkelman said the masks are really for those who are sick and keeps droplets from spreading. If you are sick, yes wear the surgical mask. In general, it is not recommended you walk around with the surgical masks since they are in limited supply.

Tammy Hammond, they have anti-viral meds in the drugstores not only for those who come down with the illness but also for our care personnel. Dr. Hatesohl said he knows they are testing different things in Omaha, but he has not seen anything specific yet.

Sheriff Bellendir said Tammy Hammond and I are sort of both in the same situation. They cannot let their population go isolate. The virus will eventually get in the jail and they will eventually need masks, etc.

Amy Miller, Emergency Risk Management, said Health and Human Services would be in charge. Just now developing questionnaires, so surveys can be completed on what resources are available at the local level. This information has to be vetted, sent to Health Care Coalition, then to Miller to set up through

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Kansas Division of Emergency Management. Miller said she was unsure on where they were on meeting the requests.

Sheriff Bellendir asked if they have a stockpile of supplies. Miller said they have an SNS (Strategic National Stockpile).

Miller said they need to get together to have a situation meeting with county officials. Hammond asked if they could be involved. Miller said no, this is for upper level management. Miller said they would then get information out.

Dr. Hatesohl said it is not a matter of IF it comes; it is a matter of WHEN it comes. We may be out of school much longer than two weeks. Hatesohl said KU's plan right now is if you think you have been exposed, you want to come to St. Rose as they have a special isolation area.

Tammy Hammond said she can appreciate you need to meet first, but you need to know who you are protecting. Our population goes mostly unnoticed. Important to identify our folks and where they are in your emergency planning.

Commissioner Daily said it appears testing will be available at the Health Department I assume. Winkelman said not yet, they are to contact their health care provider to see if they need testing.

Tammy Hammond said they have been stockpiling supplies and have 250 masks on-hand, but are going to need a lot more if we have an outbreak.

Sheriff Bellendir said once we get a positive in the jail their procedures will change. Even feeding a prisoner will become an issue. Bellendir asked what about group homes.

Hammond said they have located at least one or two locations for isolation, but they do not have supplies. Will they need to provide their own cots for example? Bellendir said they cleaned out a cell, but asked what about staff if they are infected. Hammond said they have identified a large number of their folks who are at-risk to become critically ill. Hatesohl asked what Hammond's ability to self-isolate was. Hammond said they have a day-service location they will turn into a quarantine area. Hatesohl said if one person becomes ill, the whole home becomes isolated. Bellendir said he could not move people out. He will have to bring healthy people in to care for them. Bellendir said they have one cellblock they will try to use.

Barb Esfeld asked what is the length of time for it to run its course. Winkelman said last week they had them look ahead for events that might need to be cancelled. This brings a lot of questions on should they close. Winkelman said they would have a discussion with them to help them make that decision. Hatesohl said that typically influenza drops off once the weather warms up, but we do not know about this coronavirus. Winkelman said people are getting well. Hatesohl said people going skiing in Colorado are to be quarantined for two weeks and said do not travel.

Commissioner Daily said "common sense" and the problems at the jail and for Tammy Hammond are inevitable. Pandemics are nothing new, this one is hitting around the world. Daily said it is important we use due diligence and cool heads and said the toilet paper run is crazy. Hammond said speaking of toilet paper; she got several calls this weekend for paper. Bellendir said their population is generally younger with only 3-4 who are older out of approximately 90 prisoners. They can deal with sick inmates, but cannot deal with sick staff. Hammond said a lot of their population are high risk with chronic medical conditions. Her worst fear is they start doing testing, determine her direct care staff are positive, and have to be pulled out. Already discouraging visitors and questioning symptoms. No activities and eat-outs. They are concerned about having enough supplies. Hannelore Kitts asked Hammond if she has a

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doctor who comes in-house. Hammond said they do not have a doctor, but do have a registered nurse. Hammond said she wonders if they can come to them or can their nurse administer the tests. Hatesohl said their testing supplies are also pretty limited. Hammond has over 200 employees with over 200 consumers, so it is going to be very difficult to contain over 200 people in their homes. Bellendir asked if we are going to reach a point where we will no longer test, that everyone is sick. Hatesohl said if we get a peak, we probably would not have testing available. Unless they are experiencing shortness of breath, they might just be told to go home. Winkelman said prior to Thursday, if a person is a Category 3 risk and quarantined for 14 days, the Health Department would be required to go to their home and do daily checks. Category 2 can be followed up daily by phone. Winkelman said she thinks that will change Thursday because it is too overwhelming on Health Departments. Esfeld asked how you test for it. Winkelman said that has changed too. Initially, it was a nasal pharyngeal and an oral pharyngeal. Now, it is just the nasal pharyngeal. The test has to be sent in to KDHE and can take possibly two days. Hammond said Rosewood has the capability of tele netting.

Information Only. No Action Required.

## IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

## V. OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

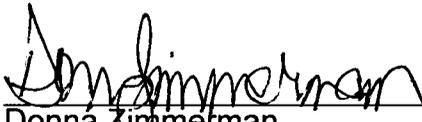
## VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Davis moved to adjourn at 11:25 A.M.

Commissioner Daily seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
Donna Zimmerman  
Barton County Clerk

  
Kenny Schremmer, Chairman

**RESOLUTION 2020-01**

**A Resolution Appointing the Interim Barton County Local Health Officer  
and Medical Consultant and Rescinding Resolution 2014-18,  
Same, Adopted December 8, 2014:**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to KSA 65-201, and any revisions thereof, the Barton County Commissioners act as the Board of Health for Barton County, Kansas. Said Board is empowered to appoint a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery, preference being given to persons who have training in public health, who shall serve in an advisory capacity to the County board of health and as the Local Health Officer; and

**WHEREAS**, Karen Winkelman, RN, employed by Barton County as the Interim Public Health Director as of March 16, 2020, has the necessary educational and professional qualifications for appointment as the Local Health Officer with the oversight of a consultant.

**and WHEREAS**, a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery or person licensed to practice dentistry shall be appointed as a consultant to the Local Health Officer.

**NOW, THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that pursuant to KSA 65-201, Karen Winkelman is appointed and shall act as the Local Health Officer, serving at the pleasure of the Commission acting as the Board of Health; and

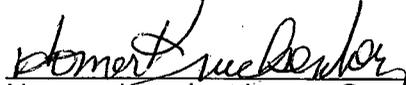
**AND FURTHER**, Dr. Stanley M. Hatesohl is hereby appointed to serve as a medical consultant to the Local Health Officer.

Adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

**BARTON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

  
Kenny Schremmer, Chairman

  
Don Davis, Commissioner

  
Homer Kruckenberg, Commissioner

  
James R. Daily, Commissioner

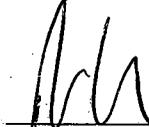
  
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

  
Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk



**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
Patrick Hoffman,  
County Counselor

