

Logan County Commissioners Work Session

January 12, 2021

Present: Byron Pelton, Joe McBride, Shannon Graves, Alan Samber, Marilee Johnson, Jerry Casebolt, Jeff Rice and Jennifer Crow.

Chairman Pelton called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION – Commissioner McBride moved to approve the minutes of January 5, 2020 as written. Commissioner Pelton seconded and the motion carried.

REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA – Pelton None.

REVIEW AND APPROVE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SCHEDULE OF BILLS AND PAYROLL – Shannon Graves met with the Board to review the Logan County Department of Human Services schedule of bills dated January 12, 2021. The Board approved all bills as presented. The Board also approved the Payroll for the period December 19, 2020 through January 1, 2021 as presented.

FIVE STAR PROGRAM - Jerry Casebolt met with the Board to discuss the Five Star program. Logan County's application was submitted to CDPHE and has been reviewed by CDPHE. CDPHE has formed a list of items they did not like, which is basically the whole application. Jerry discussed this with Michelle Child of CDPHE. The Five Star program requirements have changed three times since the governor announced the program. Most of Logan County's application was based on Mesa County's information. Due to the change in guidelines, the application will have to be re-submitted. Ms. Child asked several times why Logan County is applying for the Five Star program. The county wants to be able to operate in yellow and wants to have the program available if it is necessary to go back to red. With the Five Star program in place, restaurants would still be able to operate.

Counties must meet all three metrics to be eligible for Five Star. Counties can get Five Star started but until all three metrics are met they cannot operate as yellow. Sedgwick County was green on everything for almost four full weeks and never got moved out of red. They finally were moved to orange the day before the governor announced that several counties were moving to orange. It was implied that the standards have had to be reworked so many times because of the governor's office changing the requirements.

CDPHE didn't like the structure of the county's compliance group but did like the administrative structure. CDPHE wants names and positions of people on the groups. Jerry stated that our administrative group is all of the people that CDPHE told us to have on that committee.

The compliance group consists of Jerry and two people from the Chamber Board. That is a concern to CDPHE because the health department is not involved. However, the health department is not involved because the guidance directly says that they are not supposed to be a part of it as it must not take away from the health department's day to day business and vaccinations.

CDPHE feels that the health department's environmental health person should do the inspections. Mel Bustos is the health department's environmental health person and was on the call with them and has been in on the planning meetings. The compliance committee is not going to go in and check food temperatures and check cleanliness of bathrooms. This committee is more for making sure people are wearing their masks and doing the registrations for contact tracing and that they have hand sanitizing stations and making sure that their tables are set up using distancing measures.

Another concern was the wording of documentation of the inspection process. The program was set up for restaurants, not retail businesses. Under red, retail organizations are not forced to close. Restaurants were only open for outside dining under red. When the weather is cold, it is not feasible for restaurants to be open for outside dining. There is no control over retail, they can't force people to wear masks, there is no recourse. That's why the program is geared towards restaurants. Restaurants can have their liquor license and food and beverage licenses revoked for non-compliance.

CDPHE did not like the county's letter of support. They want a letter from each entity on their letterhead and signed by the appropriate official. The letter of support came from Summit County and Summit County's Five Star was approved. They now want individual letters of support. The Board agreed to keep monitoring the situation to see if it is something that can be accomplished.

The Board inquired about the current hospital situation. Casebolt has not talked to Wade but the numbers are starting to plateau. Christmas would have hit last Friday and New Year's should start to hit right now. The hospital is not in bad shape according to the NCHD site.

The county's metrics are hurt because of having one of the major hospitals in the area and sometimes adjacent counties bring their patients to our hospital. These patients are supposed to county towards that county, not Logan County. Also, the prison numbers aren't supposed to hurt us but Casebolt thinks they are being counted. Two new hospitalizations in the last seven days are from prison and they are showing up as new hospitalizations. Incarcerated persons are not supposed to count. Casebolt knows that they are counting because he hears the radio traffic and he knows when prison inmates are being transported to the hospital.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

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