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**ADAMS BOARD OF HEALTH  
MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021  
4:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman David Rhoads, Vice-Chairman Peter Hoyt and Member Laura Grandchamp

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Code Enforcer, Mark Blaisdell; Dr. Daniel Doyle; and Administrative Assistant Pam Gerry

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Rhoads called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

Join Zoom meeting by video

URL:

<https://zoom.us/j/91968081387?pwd=YWx0NldPWXFHeGpIaDNIWWFUTDNXZz09>

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**Note:** If you are having trouble joining, please call David B. Rhoads, Ph.D., Chair, at 781-507-1627.

**NOTICES ON RECORDING & PANDEMIC WAIVER TO CONDUCT PUBLIC MEETING VIRTUALLY:**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chairman Rhoads opened the meeting to public comment. There was no public comment.

Chairman Rhoads closed the meeting to public comment.

A motion made by Vice-Chairman Hoyt, seconded by Member Grandchamp to enter into Executive Session at 4:03 P.M., passed unanimously. A roll call vote was taken with Chairman Rhoads, Vice-Chairman Peter Hoyt and Member Grandchamp 3-0.

Chairman Rhoads stated that there should be no additional attendees who were not authorized to be included in the Executive Session Meeting other than the Board of Health members, Code Enforcer Mark Blaisdell, Dr. Daniel Doyle and Administrative Assistant Pam Gerry.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

***#1. To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.***

Topic: Public health matter

Chairman Rhoads turned the Executive Session Meeting over to Code Enforcer Mark Blaisdell for discussion.

Mr. Blaisdell began his discussion by stating to the board members that a business in town that had contacted him requesting a recommendation by the Board of Health regarding a situation that involved an individual who had tested positive for COVID-19 in November, 2020 and continued to test positive. He informed the board members that the individuals attending physician, as well as an additional physician had not offered a "scientific opinion" of his diagnosis nor were they allowed to visit their offices. Mr. Blaisdell further noted that this individual had contacted [PHYSICIAN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTISE] from the Board of Health Office in [BERKSHIRE COUNTY MUNICIPALITY] to obtain an opinion on the matter. Mr. Blaisdell explained that he began seeking clarification regarding the situation, as well as obtaining an opinion from the Medical Director of the Berkshire Public Alliance. Mr. Blaisdell asked the board members if they received these opinions he had forwarded to them. Chairman Rhoads, Vice-Chairman Hoyt and Member Grandchamp stated that they received them. In closing, Mr. Blaisdell stated that he communicated with Dr. Doyle to request his opinion on a patient who had consecutively tested positive for COVID-19 without being contagious.

Mr. Blaisdell stated to the board members that he would turn the discussion over to Dr. Doyle at this time.

In response, Dr. Doyle stated that early in the pandemic, the CDC recommendations of continued isolation for patients with COVID-19 infections required them to obtain two PCR tests that proved negative for COVID-19 24 hours apart and that the patients were clinically improved while 10 days had passed since they were diagnosed for COVID-19 or showed symptoms. He continued to inform the board members that individuals were testing positive for months following their COVID infection. Dr. Doyle explained to them that the sensitivity of the PCR tests detecting viral RNA would turn positive upon testing. He stated that the individuals who were COVID infected underwent a study completed to determine if they could continue to culture the virus from a nasal test even if they again tested positive on the PCR test. Dr. Doyle further noted that it was determined that after 10 days you could no longer culture COVID-19 from the individuals even with a PCR test that continued positive. Dr. Doyle explained that the test was so sensitive that it was detecting fragments of viral RNA which explained why the tests were coming out positive but the individuals no longer were shedding live virus. Dr. Doyle stated that this was the reason the PCR tested positive after weeks of the initial infection. He stated that the CDC changed their recommendation to eliminate any need for serial testing in order to discontinue isolation upon a 10-day period of the onset of symptoms, or obtaining a positive test of someone asymptomatic, a clinical improvement of individual as well as being off temperature lowering agents within a 24-hour period. He stated that this was the criteria for discontinuing isolation. Dr. Doyle stated that there was no reason to continually test an individual at this point unless they are immunosuppressed or severely ill from COVID-19. He informed them that the CDC would then recommend a 20-day isolation for these individuals. Dr. Doyle stated that at this point, there was no reason that the individual should be continually tested, isolated or not allowed to visit the practitioner's office.

Dr. Doyle, Medical Director of the Berkshire Public Health Alliance concluded with his opinion for the Board of Health members.

Chairman Rhoads had a question regarding cycle threshold numbers. Dr. Doyle offered clarification stating that when they performed a PCR test they "amplify the signal to try to get a positive result." He stated that the more cycles it took to get a positive result, the more likely an individual would obtain a false positive test result or very few viral particles being present.

Chairman Rhoads thanked Dr. Doyle for his opinions and clarifications that he offered to assist the Board of Health with this case.

Mr. Blaisdell explained to the board members that the reason he suggested they convene was for the purpose of making a determination of protocol in dealing with a similar type case that

may arise in the near future. Mr. Blaisdell further noted that he communicated with the town's public health nurse who deferred to [PHYSICIAN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTISE]'s assessment.

He explained to them that the individual was an Adams resident but our public nurse could not gain information on this case due to privacy regulations. Mr. Blaisdell stated that he further communicated with the individual's physicians attempting to understand the reason why they did not share [PHYSICIAN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTISE]'s assessment.

Mr. Blaisdell addressed the board members asking them for their recommendation for this business to follow or they could act on their own discretion.

Chairman Rhoads stated that the Board of Health does not have the authority to tell a business that they have to serve an individual that tested positive for COVID-19 even if the individual was highly unlikely to be positive for COVID-19. He stated that the board should recommend whether the business needed further assurance to reach out to the proper individual.

Mr. Blaisdell stated that if this situation arises in the future, he would reach out to Dr. Doyle for his assessment and then pass on the recommendation to the business to allow them to make a determination of the protocol they would follow with the patient. Mr. Blaisdell emphasized that he wanted the board members to be involved in this decision-making process.

Chairman Rhoads asked Dr. Doyle if this situation had occurred in the past with someone refusing service under these circumstances. He stated that it had not occurred since last April or May, 2020.

Member Grandchamp stated that she believed that the confusion that was created under these circumstances pertained to the individual being repeatedly testing positive for COVID-19 rather than following CDC recommendation and current guidelines.

Chairman Rhoads stated that the board needed to convey the current guidelines to the business and then if necessary they would request that Mr. Blaisdell intervened.

Vice-Chairman Hoyt stated they should be "pro-active" and remind health care providers in the community of the current guidelines to assist with any confusion that could arise in the future.

Chairman Rhoads stated that he would create some documentation specifying the current guidelines for public health information that would assist future businesses that have to make decisions regarding these matters.

Vice-Chairman Hoyt suggested that the Board of Health could offer a link to be provided on the town's website for the public to access.

Chairman Rhoads agreed to address these issues and submit the information to the members and Mr. Blaisdell for their review.

Chairman Rhoads asked if there was any further discussion before they ended the Executive Session Meeting. There was no further discussion. Board of Health members thanked Dr. Doyle for his time.

A motion made by Vice-Chairman Hoyt, seconded by Member Grandchamp to end the Executive Session Meeting at 4:19 P.M., passed unanimously. A roll call vote was taken with Chairman Rhoads, Vice-Chairman Hoyt and Member Grandchamp voting 3-0.

Chairman Rhoads moved to open the public meeting.

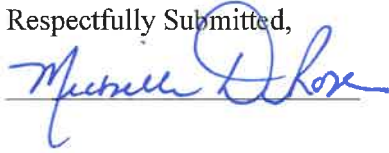
Board members discussed their next scheduled meeting being held on February 10, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.

Mr. Blaisdell thanked the members.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion made by Vice-Chairman Hoyt, seconded by Member Grandchamp to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 P.M., passed unanimously. A roll call vote was taken 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Lox", is written over a horizontal line.

Date

6/9/2021