

BENTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2022

The Benton County Human Services Board met in regular session on February 1, 2022 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Board members Beth Schlangen, Scott Johnson, Ed Popp, Jared Gapinski and Steve Heinen present. Call to order by Human Services Board Chair Johnson was at 9:46 AM.

Heinen/Popp to approve the Human Services Agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Gapinski/Popp to approve Consent Agenda items 1-2: 1) approve the Human Services Regular Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2022 and authorize the Chair to sign; 2) approve the contract renewal for Independent Lifestyles, Inc. to provide customer support grant program services on behalf of Benton County Human Services. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Community Health Supervisor Jaclyn Litfin provided a COVID-19 update to the Human Services Board. Litfin reported that as of yesterday, there were 449 active cases, 12,853 cases total, 532 hospitalizations total, 96 ICU cases total, and 159 total deaths from COVID-19. Benton County is still considered to be in the "High" level of community transmission per the CDC guidelines with a test positivity rate of 25.16%. Litfin stated that we will have to continually watch the data to see if we have reached our peak and are on the decline. Litfin added that they have seen a slight decrease in COVID-19 cases among adults and children. Litfin then reported that Benton County saw vaccination rates increase in all areas except in the ages of 65 and older, and currently Benton County has 55.2% of the population that have received their first vaccination, and statewide, 69% have received their first vaccination. Litfin added that our local health care system saw a slight decline last week in COVID-19 cases and Moderna has received FDA approval for their vaccine. Litfin recommends getting vaccinated, wearing a mask, getting tested, staying home when sick, washing hands, avoiding large crowds, and avoiding exposure to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Litfin then provided information on where to get vaccinated and tested for COVID-19. Gapinski asked Litfin if we have hit our peak yet, and Litfin responded by saying we will have to monitor the data in the upcoming weeks to see if we have hit our peak yet or not. Gapinski then added that Benton County's Employee Masking Mandate will be ending on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 and he would not be in favor of an extension. Heinen reiterated that he would not be in favor of an extension to the mandate either. This topic was for informational purposes only. No action was taken; no motion was made.

Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:57 AM.

Scott Johnson, Chair
Benton County Human Services Board

ATTEST:

Montgomery Headley
Benton County Administrator