

Burleigh-Morton COVID-19 Task Force

Business Community Subcommittee

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 10, 2020

3:30 PM via Teams

PRESENT: Brian Ritter, Sheri Grossman, Scott Staudinger, Maxine Herr, Renae Moch, Janelle Combs, Dawn Kopp, Kayla Hieb, Jennifer Wilson, James Eastin and Erin Ourada

1. **Call to Order:** Brian called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM.
2. **Discussion Regarding the Burleigh / Morton County COVID-19 Dashboard:** Renae provided an overview of the work that's been done so far to develop a local Burleigh / Morton County COVID-19 Dashboard after which each member of the Business Subcommittee provided their insights as to what they feel would be valuable to include. Brian responded that local hospitalization data, including capacity, would be helpful to fully understand the situation. Sheri said they are most often asked how many of positive cases are asymptomatic and are various age groups reporting more asymptomatic cases. Kayla said that Bobcat does not rely heavily on local data, so a dashboard would have limited benefit to them. Scott responded that Cloverdale uses county-by-county data already provided, but also agreed that knowing the rate of asymptomatic positives would be beneficial. He also asked if it was possible to know how many other coronaviruses are present in Bismarck-Mandan as the antibody tests that they use can detect them. Jen said that many of her patrons want to know more than just one, raw number of positives and asked for any information that could help break it down into more detail. James added along those same lines that anything that can make it easier to digest for business people, along w/ information regarding new assistance to businesses, would be very beneficial. Dawn also said that hospitalization data specific to Bismarck-Mandan would be helpful in addition to more information on how many people are being tested locally. Maxine added that data breaking down positive cases, those being tested, etc. by age would be helpful to understand the local situation. In response to some of the feedback,

Brian then shared the ND Department of Health's website section specific to cases and testing with particular attention to the hospitalization data. He then asked if that data could be localized to which Erin responded that it could not because in some cases doing so would violate privacy data. James reiterated that any information that can be pushed out to businesses regarding changes in guidance or assistance would be helpful. Along those same lines, Kayla asked if there was a way that changes to CDC or State guidance regarding testing, isolation or other areas could be pro-actively pushed out to the community to which there was no response.

3. **Discussion Regarding CDC Guidance on Close Contacts:** In response to a message from Kayla, Brian had previously reached out to Renae and Erin regarding the CDC's guidance and definition of a close contact. More specifically, a close contact being defined as someone you were within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more and whether or not that 15 minutes was singular or cumulative. Erin responded that it was cumulative over the course of one day to which various members of the Subcommittee responded that this would make contact tracing that much more difficult, especially for large employers. Renae responded that all anyone can do is give their best recollection to the contact tracer. Finally, Brian asked for clarification on whether or not both parties wearing a mask would somehow exempt them from being defined as a close contact given that this question has been asked by some Chamber EDC Members. Both Renae and Erin responded that it would not.

4. **Other Business:** Dawn reported that the Downtowners' Street Fair is still going on as scheduled with more precautions such as: having no tables, UV wands and less booths so there's more room to socially distance. Maxine asked if they were limiting attendance at all to which Dawn responded that they have over 7 blocks of space by which to socially distance and conversely to control entry. Renae asked if Dawn would be providing masks to which she responded that they would have some PPE if people request it, but not going booth to booth offering it to vendors or attendees. Jen added that in her experience at Kirkwood, people will bring their own masks. Renae asked if we wanted to keep meeting once a week to which the Subcommittee responded that meeting on an 'as needed' basis was acceptable.

5. **Adjourn:** There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 PM.