

Barton County Board of Health Agenda Meeting Minutes

Recorded audio is available on compact disk upon KORA 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

Meetings Live Streamed through **Microsoft Teams**® at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3s8KzrR>

October 12, 2021

The Board of Barton County Commissioners acting as the Board of Health convened this 12th day of October 2021, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Kirby Krier, Commissioner, 1st District
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District (*Chairman Pro-Tem*)
James R. Daily, Commissioner, 4th District, Chairman
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District
Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk
Barry McManaman, Interim County Administrator
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor
Karen Winkelman, Public Health Director

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

Commissioner Daily called the meeting to order at 10:18 A.M.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Minutes of the October 5, 2021, Meeting were not available.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PROCLAMATION 2021-01: Declaration of Essential Workers in Barton County, Kansas:

-Commissioner Kirby Krier will present Proclamation 2021-01, Declaration of Essential Workers in Barton County, Kansas.

Commissioner Krier said he is basically asking for a proclamation showing that every person working in Barton County is an essential worker. There were classifications of who were essential in the past. Knows of one individual who was a contact of an individual. He works in agriculture. Asked if he had to quarantine. In the classifications it said agriculture workers had to wear a mask. Commissioner Krier said everyone who works is an essential worker. Does not know if the classifications are still in place, but if it comes back, he wants the proclamation already in place.

Commissioner Schartz said it was brought up last week and she appreciated having another week to study it. She appreciated the sentiment and thinks Kirby is right. Thinks the word essential was used as a way to determine who received the vaccination first. Commissioner Krier said they use essential in quarantines. If you were essential, you could wear your mask and go about your work.

Commissioner Schartz said she thinks we need to keep people safe. Need to support our businesses and keep our economy strong. Would suggest that instead of using the word essential we should use the word crucial. Afraid of some confusion. Think if we change this wording, it might minimize some confusion. It might help Karen (Winkelman) not have to field so many calls. Commissioner Krier said it gives them some direction.

Commissioner Daily asked Karen if the list that identified the word essential was still being used. He understood essential meant first responders, medical field, agriculture, etc. Winkelman said no, essential

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Workers was defined to interpret for each person to see if they fit by definition to qualify for the different phases of receiving the vaccine. Who was eligible? We got calls saying we were discriminating. Now it is more about critical infrastructure. Goes back to quarantine recommendation and being able to come up with a plan to figure out a way to help them get to work.

Commissioner Daily said the term essential means something that is critical, absolute. Since it is not being used anymore as a classification of a person, that if you do not fall into a certain category, you are not essential. Commissioner Krier said it is all about the quarantine.

Commissioner Esfeld said she was not thinking about it in terms of quarantine. If the government said to stay home except for essential workers, would that determine who could go to work. Are they still doing that now? Winkelman said she does not know whether they would use it again or not.

Patrick Hoffman said it may come up again in the booster shot debate. What the county puts forth might not have an impact.

Winkelman said if we do go into the booster phase, there are going to be different preparations, the 5 through 11-year-olds will have a different packaging. If the state starts using the essential verbiage again, it could be a problem.

Commissioner Esfeld said everyone is an essential worker.

Commissioner Hutchinson said maybe I can help. My beautiful, wonderful wife said she is a prime example of why something like this is important. She could be a contact of a positive case and have to go to work with the most vulnerable people. Cancer treatment can sometimes be put off, I do not know if it would harm the patient. When it is used to classify someone over the next person, it can be hard.

Mark Rondeau said when you look back this has been going on for a year and a half. They were shutting businesses down. Those applied to everybody BUT essential workers. Those stay-at-home orders are long since gone. Rondeau said saying everyone is essential, means no one has to stay at home. We do not want everyone running around spreading the virus. If the objective is that if there is ever another stay-at-home order, that you want to exempt every person in Barton County from having to stay home, just say that. I am concerned we may be creating an ambiguity here.

Commissioner Krier moved to declare the Proclamation of Essential Workers in Barton County, Kansas and the reason I do it is because of that quarantine deal.

Commissioner Hutchinson said part of the reason for it, correct me if I am wrong Commissioner Krier, is the Federal Government likes to hand out one size fits all orders to the whole country. In Barton County, we kind of invented social distancing, you know. So, we feel like there's probably reason to retain as much of our local power as we can because we may need it in the future.

Commissioner Schartz said I am going to go back to what I heard Mark say, this does not have anything to do with quarantine, it does not even have the word quarantine in there. So, the fact that you brought this up Kirby, that it's because of that, if that's what it needs to be, do we not need to say something in there.

Krier said this is fine the way it is written. I stand by this way it is written.

Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed

IV. OTHER BUSINESS:

• Comm Krier: Asked Winkelman to provide COVID statistics for the past few months.

• Karen Winkelman: June 10 or 11 positives; July a little over 100; August 226; September 502; and 106 for October as of this morning.

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Comm Hutchinson: The national average is on a steep decline finally. Appears by Thanksgiving we might be out of this pandemic.

- Comm Daily: Hospital stays are lightening up as well according to the news.
- Winkelman: Locally there are more hospitalizations, and the hospital is having to keep people here because there is no place to transfer to.
- Comm Krier: Recent cluster at Hoisington hospital and nursing home. They were vaccinated and they still got it.
- Winkelman: Not all were vaccinated.
- Comm Krier: But they came through it all right.

V. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 10:40 A.M.

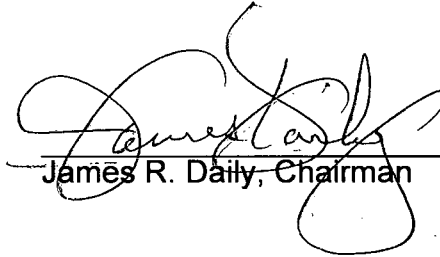
Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:



Donna Zimmerman
Barton County Clerk



James R. Daily, Chairman

PROCLAMATION 2021-01

DECLARATION OF ESSENTIAL WORKERS IN BARTON COUNTY, KANSAS

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, federal and state governments declared certain positions to be "essential" throughout America; and

WHEREAS, persons in essential positions continued to work on-site, providing needed goods and services throughout our country in an effort to protect public health and the economy; and

WHEREAS, examples of essential positions include those persons in agricultural services, communication and technology fields, financial services, governmental services, health care, personal services, certain retail stores, transportation and those services involving the food supply chain; and

WHEREAS, as a local governing body, it is paramount that the Board of Health of Barton County, Kansas, protect the lives and economic investment of County citizens by declaring which services are of vital importance in this community.

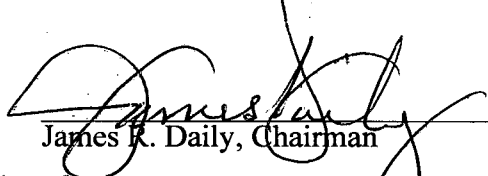
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of Health of Barton County, Kansas, that, in protection of the lives and economic future of County citizens, each current position of each business in Barton County, as well as any positions created from growth, are hereby declared to be essential; and

FURTHER, that the Board of Health believes that the monies invested in our economy must be protected through this and like measures; and

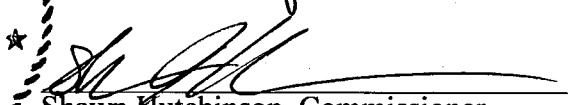
FURTHER, with respect to public health, all persons, businesses and other organizations are urged to use universal precautions in protecting themselves, their families and their livelihoods against the effects of the coronavirus and its variants.

Adopted this 12th day of October, 2021.

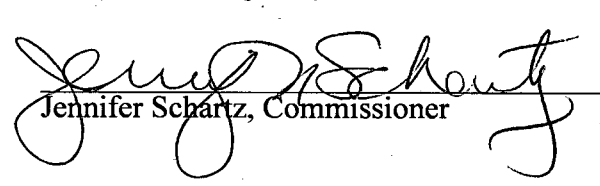
BOARD OF HEALTH


James R. Daily, Chairman

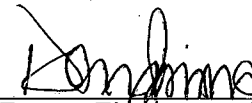

Barb Esfeld, Commissioner


Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner


Kirby Krier, Commissioner


Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Donna Zimmerman
County Clerk

