

Sept 15, 2020
Boquete Health and Hospice
Special Council Meeting

ITEM 1)

Review of Covid Policy:

Attending: Bev Tyler, Craig Gatrell, Denise Daniels, John Earle, John Ferguson, Bill Hinrichsen, Lesley Hughes, Dra. Shannon Tuer (Medical Director)

Dra. Shannon started the meeting by giving an overview of Covid here in Boquete. She said her office was seeing 4-6 new cases a week, along with other viral infections. Due to 70% of the population being vaccinated, fewer people are going into the hospital, and fewer still into the ICU. The outbreaks here in Boquete are mainly the BA-4 and BA-5 variants. She reiterated that all health care locations are still requiring masks to be worn.

BHH should encourage new volunteers to be vaccinated. BHH can relax some of the restrictions based on where and with whom the volunteer will be in contact with.

Previous infections do not provide any protection any longer. Current vaccines can help people from getting severely ill, but not full protection. New vaccines for BA4&5 should provide better protection.

While Panama still has not received the bi-valent vaccine, the current vaccine available produces less severe symptoms and less change to infect others.

When outdoors, the chance of becoming infected is low.

When indoor, the chances are higher, unless all parties are masked and social distancing.

Drs. Shannon suggested that BHH could start easing on their vaccination requirements for those entering New Volunteer Training classes, but that those volunteers who deal with the public or patients should still be required to be vaccinated. Dra. Shannon also recommended that masks be worn by all participants at any event or class when inside.

Discussion of how the meal team operates followed. Dra. Shannon said that masks were required by law for those preparing and delivering meals. She also recommended that anyone receiving meals from BHH do so only while masked.

Discussion of BHH events – masks should be required by all participants indoors. For New Volunteer Training, try to determine what the new volunteer wants to do. If they want to work with the public or patients, they need to be vaccinated. Other attendees should be encouraged to be vaccinated with the understanding that if they are not, they will not be able to work with patients or the public.

Lesley read out her suggestions for the new policy:

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE POLICY

Regardless of the illness the following will be the policy for Boquete Health and Hospice with regard to ANY communicable disease:

Masks will be required at all indoor events and social distancing will be required.

Vaccinations (where available) for Team Members will be required for the following teams:

Equipment team

Bed Team

Respiratory Team

Hospice and Home Health Care Team

PCC

Tuesday Market

And any future team that interacts with the public

Vaccinations are ENCOURAGED for all New Volunteer Trainees with the understanding that if they are not vaccinated, there are limitations on where they can volunteer.

Meal Team – all preparation of meals must be done by persons wearing a mask. Those delivering meals must wear masks. Those receiving meals must wear masks. Vaccination of Meal Team members is ENCOURAGED.

This Policy will be written up and submitted for editing by the council.

In general, the above policy was unanimously approved.

ITEM 2)

Vice President:

Kat McKay was approached to fill the Vice President vacancy. She agreed. The council voted unanimously to elect Kat to the position. Lesley will send her an email. When she returns, John E. should meet with her to discuss duties.

John Ferguson informed the council that he will not be running for re-election to the post of Secretary in January. Lesley said she thought she had someone who would be interested. John will continue to lead the Respiratory Team.

ITEM 3)

Bringing items/suggestions to the council:

Suggestions or proposals for changes to BHH policies or bylaws should be presented directly to Council and not to Council plus others. Suggestions/proposals should be emailed to the Secretary at: johnstpete@gmail.com. This email address will change at the end of the year.

Lesley will write a short article for the newsletter.

ITEM 4)

New Volunteers:

There are presently 4 persons scheduled for the next new volunteer training class.

We are getting a lot of interest from the Spanish speaking community to join BHH. We may have to explore providing the class in Spanish.

ITEM 5)

Database:

Craig mentioned that we have no idea where the new BHH database, email servers etc. are housed and associated usernames/passwords. The secretary should maintain this information. Craig will send a list of information that is needed to John Earle to discuss with Chris.

ITEM 6)

People in new positions:

When people take on a new position, it is kind to give them a chance to figure it out. Lesley suggested that Bill H. be given some time to learn about Treasurer job, and that the website may have to take a back seat for a couple of weeks.

ITEM 7)

Concentrator:

BHH was contacted by an individual selling a concentrator. John Ferguson, from our respiratory team inspected the unit and performed an oxygen level test, which indicated that the unit was under performing. John has asked for guidance from another senior member and our repair person on whether to make the purchase or not. The family is asking for \$550.00.

ITEM 8)

Facebook Posts:

Our recent post regarding needing a person to help repair equipment. Deb Hornstra mentioned that this post utilizing graphics was the most shared and viewed of any in the past. Deb has only been a member since the end of August and (along with the rest of that class) are already making a huge impact.