



# Food Service Advisory Committee (FSAC) DRAFT Meeting Minutes

August 30, 2021 2 pm to 4 pm

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**Members Present:** Carollee Woodstock (Woodstock's Pizza Parlor), Barb Eveland (Normals); Chris Heuchert, Chair (Block 15); Jeff Franzoia, GM & Vice Chair (Applebee's).

**Excused Members:** Chelsea Baldwin (New member); Mark Tibbetts, General Manager – Food & Nutrition Services Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, Corvallis, Oregon

**Staff Present:** Benton County Environmental Health: Bill Emminger, April Holland (Deputy Director, Public Health), Kate Porsche (Economic Development); Scott Kruger, Robert Baker, Paula Felipe (recorder)

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**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2 pm by Chair Heuchert.

**II. Introductions and Citizen Comments.** No comments.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION** was made by Jeff Franzoia to approve the October 2020 minutes. Carollee Woodstock seconded it; **MOTION** passed unanimously.

**IV. Update on Business Support and Economic Recovery Efforts – Kate Porsche (Economic Development Manager, City of Corvallis).**

- Continue support of businesses with communications; received more PPE for businesses.
- No funds now for businesses: This could change in coming months with some fed money opportunities.
- Plans to extend public right of way space: talks with City Council extending pilot project another year.
- With delta variant, like to still have outdoor space available. Good chance of permanent Corvallis culture. Finish parking study first. Makes downtown and Monroe Avenue feel vibrant outside and less chance to catch covid.
- Good news: our office put in application thru legislature; we got a yes on \$550,000 for food hub in south Corvallis. Very excited; focus thru economic development lens and food manufacturing business. Tie in ag producers and aggregate farmers and help them make access to larger restaurants. It is not a food hub for Linn Benton food share. We support those ideas and the two projects could compliment each other. This is about strengthening farmers and small businesses in food and beverage industry.
- Questions? Chris: is that a commissary kitchen for places looking for shared kitchen space? Kate: It could be. We are sensitive though for our friends at the fairgrounds who built a beautiful kitchen not available yet for lease. We want to compliment the Benton county investment in fairgrounds. We understand the continuum of food spectrum; so putting together task force with university, farmers, community partners, whole spectrum and do a feasibility and gaps analysis so we can target those gaps; need for smaller places to rent.
- Scott: one clarification: we are not allowed to use the term "commissary kitchen" – that only applies to mobile unit operators and vending machines and does not apply to caterers. It is a very specific term in our world with a meaning and purpose. I would call it 'small business production space' or 'shared kitchen production space.' We should be at the table when

those talks are happening. Kate: Oregon state focus on bio tech companies--accelerator for food and beverage companies to grow their businesses and keep them here in Benton county.

- Barb: Food storage such as refrigerator and freezer storage are needed as well. Kate: feasibility study so important; we will be looking at the whole spectrum. Bill: where located? Kate: one possibility: a friendly developer, who owns land slated for neighborhood center development—thought the food hub could be a component of the development. Could be other areas too—we are targeting South Corvallis. Scott: involve Mac Gillespie from Benton County. Kate: yes, we have included Mac in our talks.

**V. Update on COVID-19 – April Holland, Deputy Administrator, Benton County Public Health.** Latest information in ever changing pandemic: **Surge of Delta variant is a mutation of SARS-CoV-2**

- Emerged Dec 2020 in India
- US March 2021
- Good news: Vaccine protect very well against severe disease and death.
- Vaccinated less likely to be infected and spread the virus than unvaccinated people.
- Reduce risk by masking.
- Delta: Very Contagious: About 3X more transmissible than early COVID-19 virus.
- Delta specimens have much higher levels of virus than early COVID-19.
- Accumulating evidence of increased severity.
- New evidence that vaccine breakthrough maybe be as infectious as unvaccinated cases
- Increases in hospitalization among youth
- Long COVID (Long term impact of the virus)
- Delta: Equity Concerns; Racial disparities among hospitalizations.
- Unhelpful rhetoric: “Pandemic of the unvaccinated” “Your health is in your hands”
- Cases are increasing
- State & regional hospitalizations are in crisis mode.
- Cases: 9 weeks of increasing cases.
- 12.5 percent increase in cases from previous week.
- Last week 173; not possible to reach out to every single case; have to prioritize cases; focus on older and younger age ranges; and certain settings (residential; medical; schools): many outbreaks happening now.
- Ribbon graph of cases by age: increasing in number of youth.
- Fewer cases in 70 and older.
- Seeing some breakthrough cases
- The rate of reported infections for unvaccinated people was 3.25 times greater than that of vaccinated people.
- OHA website; new metrics 14-day case rate per 100,000 ; when hit 200 extreme category; take out only at restaurants; work from home, etc. OHA changed the metric to 7 day case rate align with CDC; case rate was 323 last week and it is 353 now. We have a lot of community transmission of virus.
- Last wed, 1,080 hospitalized in Oregon; many in ICU and on ventilators; peak in next couple of weeks; trying to mitigate that.
- Local hospitalized here in Benton County; previously had high number at 16 earlier in pandemic; matched in August and now back up to 30 plus (7 day average).
- Hospitals have surge plan.

- State actions: 8/11 OHA activated Incident Management Team
- Discharge issues, staffing challenges, critical need to strengthen system wide-capacity
- Addressing discharge delays, nurse crisis teams, mobile hospital, national guard, assistance from other states, licensing rules, expanding volunteer pool.
- Vaccinations in Benton county : 63.5 percent are fully vaccinated (60,100); 9.7 percent are under 12 (9,200) ; 26.8 percent (25,300) are partially/unvaccinated.
- Monoclonal antibodies therapy can be effective to help reduce needing hospitalization. Approved for subcutaneous use. Medical assistant could administer; we've had health updates go out and webinars that state has hosted to let providers know it's a resource available. It is one of the tools ; not same efficacy as people getting vaccinated.
- For less transmission; wear masks and avoid crowded spaces; lay low now; more likely to encounter virus now.
- Vaccination recent news:
  - 8/13: CDC provided guidance on 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of mRNA for immune compromised.
  - 8/18 CDC announced booster plan; starting 9/20; at 8 months after dose 2.
  - 8/23: Pfizer vaccine receive full FDA approval for Comirnaty.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> dose: CDC announced booster plan; week ago Pfizer vaccine received full FDA approval for Comirnaty. Mandatory vaccinations for military, healthcare workers, k-12 education.
- Focus on underserved populations; mapping with census data; wear a mask; physical distance; wash hands; avoid gatherings; stay home if sick; vaccine events in Sept and Oct.
- Planning for approval for kids under 12 vaccine. Encourage providers to make plans now.
- Vaccinations: pharmacies; medical providers; doctors offices; Samcare express; Clinics at schools; focus on underserved populations.
- For more info, see: [www.Healthoregon.gov/coronavirus](http://www.Healthoregon.gov/coronavirus)
- Seek Trusted Sources: beware of myths and misinformation.
- Masking: recent events: 8/17 Benton Co masking indoors and in crowded outdoor spaces; 8/27 outdoor masking statewide.
- Follow any applicable workplace guidance.
- Background on April Holland: She has served as Public Health Administrator in Benton County for nine months and replaced Charlie Fautin, who retired. Her expertise is in epidemiology. She is from California where she worked as epidemiologist during the huge spike in December.
- Questions? Scott: Restaurant owners will be interested to know what impacts covid will have on OSU Football games—one is coming up on September 11. April: work with OSU; 98 percent compliance with vaccination program at OSU; of all 94 percent fully vaccinated. OSU rolled out an vaccine verification process for games; starting on 11<sup>th</sup> sept show vaccination status or negative test within 3 days; not tests from rite aid; show vax card or recent test; still have to wear masks to abide by outdoor rule; oust putting into place move in testing residence for both vaccinated and unvaccinated; also done a lot with ventilation in buildings; reduce airborne transmission.
- Chris: OSU sounds good to reduce community spread. Looking at delta variant found in Dec 2020 in India and made it to us and Oregon; starts with one individuals and ultimately it spidered around the world to get to here. Incredible and scary at same time. How easily transmissible it is; Hope our vaccine is able to hold up to next dominant strain. April: need to get vaccines worldwide. Chris: talk of rolling out covid alongside flu shot. April: a lot in the works right now; the way flu shots are combined and created every year based on flu activity seen around the world;

construction different than covid; can be co-administered now. Data came in showed safety of vaccines; looking forward to fall co-administration clinics.

Carollee: what to do about tailgating in parking lots at football games? April: I can find out.

**VI. Update on HealthSpace – Scott Kruger:** It is a cloud-based system that replaced ibm program. Formatting issues to be addressed. This program has to be connected to Wi-Fi; accompanying app does not function; they are working on it.

**VII. Review and Recommendation for Adoption for Restaurant License Fees for 2022 – Bill Emminger**

- Review attachments and see justifications for environmental health fees.
- Fiscal year GL for environmental health (not all revenue and expenses in one GL-easier to track programs and estimate costs) (GL – general ledger).
- Final document: environmental health fees for 2022 as proposed.
- Chris: I did review them; no specific questions.
- Bill: legal limits to fee setting for restaurant industry in Oregon ; administrative rule reviewed.
- Calculate 15 percent of direct cost: meet that requirement.
- Hourly rate calculated (see attachment).
- 4 field environmental specialists
- Full cost recovery 233.53 per hour, includes covering Environmental Health director; salaries; permit clerks salaries; computer; cost for health space.
- Partial cost recovery; allocations up to 15 percent; 233.53 down to 205.49.
- More details in justification sheet. Will be briefing document for BOC presentation.
- Next piece is fees: Attachment A; partial cost recovery 207; this year 205 -- basically 2 dollar per hour reduction; will reduce our license by 1 percent.
- Restaurants: review fees:
  - back in 2019; average 3 percent; 2020; no fee adjustments; 2021 this year increase 3 percent but due to pandemic and staff pulled off inspection work due to being assigned to emergency ops center, saw 50 percent reduction of inspections, so in 2021 license we applied a 50 percent credit to people who got license in 2020.
- **Recommend for consideration:** *Many years ago we might not ask for fee adjustments annually; 2-3 years could cause significant increases; made commitment we would not do that again; every year we would look at adjustment and adjust appropriately.* Three things to consider:
  1. Do we want to hold fees flat for 2022?
  2. Do we want to decrease fees on average by 1 percent
  3. Or do we want a modest fee increase—let’s discuss.

**DISCUSSION:**

- Jeff: 1 percent is \$10—correct. I’m for either flat fee or 1 percent.
- Carollee; \$10 is not a lot; good with flat fee; not in favor of raising costs; my other costs are going up.
- Barbara: flat seems appropriate and simpler.
- Chris: I do not support an increase; I support either flat or decrease. It would be helpful to see how many in each categories there are; what does it mean to have 1 percent decrease? A lot is based on last year’s numbers. Carollee loves data and wants to see more as well.

**MOTION made** by Carollee Woodstock to keep fees flat for 2022; Barb Eveland seconded the motion; all in favor: **MOTION** passed unanimously.

- Bill set date for BOC on Tuesday meeting in October (might be first Tuesday—will check). Typically 2 weeks later BOC does a vote to approve fees and hear additional public comment.
- Bill: on seeing some numbers/more data: There are a lot of formulas; considerations; and assumption to make when calculating the numbers.
- Want formulas to be as accurate as possible; excel spreadsheet used for fee calculations.
- For example, 15 seat restaurant; there are a number of formulas.
- Chris: looking at impact factors when considering fees is very helpful, even if number of sites off a year or two; think it is important data to see.
- Bill: will keep updating with more current numbers; love to get it at 100 percent.

**VIII.** Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.