

Minutes from February SCSCC Meeting 2021

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 CST. Rich Ruggiero introduced the board except Terri was absent. Rich announced he is leaving early as he has a funeral this afternoon. There were 23 attendees today.

Nick Preys read the reports. The treasurer's report indicated the dues are due the end of March. Either mail them or pay thru pay pal; \$30 or \$32 (pay pal). A motion was made to approve the financial report as well as the minutes from last month.

Roz introduced the presenters starting with Dr. Debra Sturgis Hinton of Oak Street Health on COVID. Pfizer and Moderna have a high efficacy rate. 90 percent in phase 3 trials with good diversity. The two shots of Pfizer are 21 days apart while Moderna requires 28 days apart. They have different refrigeration levels. It was found that older adults have less severe side effects. 80 percent experience some pain at the injection site. 10 percent have a high fever. Side effects are more common with the second dose. Johnson and Johnson have a single dose shot that is evaluated now with 66 per cent effectiveness. 100 per cent at preventing hospitalization and death. Astra Zeneca hasn't applied yet for certification. They have two doses 28 days apart. There are COVID-19 variants in UK, South Africa, and Brazil. Pfizer and Moderna seem to work against these. The rollout plan was discussed with the Illinois Equity Centered Approach. There is a higher death count among African Hispanic Americans. So, they need it the most. Clinics and pharmacies are rolling out the shots now. The following phases for rollouts are:

Phase 1A- Healthcare and Long-term Facilities

Phase 1B-65 years and older, first responders, manufacturers, etc.

Phase 1C-16 -64 Years with chronic conditions. Other essential workers.

Phase 2- 16 years and older and everyone else.

Oak Street Health locations is in medically underserved areas with a focus on seniors. They are using clinics, mini clinics, weekday and evening clinics, and Saturday clinics.

Should I get the vaccine? -The benefits are better than the risks. You also don't pass it on. We still need to wear masks, wash hands and social distance until other information is available.

Ms. Kart Sounes, an attorney who represents Rush Hospital, spoke about vaccines. Vaccinations of staff for COVID is not a mandatory requirement at the hospital. She discussed who gets vaccine. Everyone receives information about it and are given a document that they agree not to hold the hospital responsible and to hold harmless. Its voluntary but many of the doctors have received it. It was offered on December 28 to all employees. On February 8th 70 per cent received the first dose. There is a 76 per cent decline in COVID related illnesses. 40,000 individuals have been vaccinated. Their target area is the West and Southside with mass vaccination sites set up.

Ms. Ruth Prasauskas of Leading Age, spoke about long term care and COVID. Discussed visitation in senior facilities and teaching about PPE. She also spoke about telehealth and sharing best practices with assisted living. CVS is rolling out immunizations there. She also spoke about how to continue with immunization to staff and residents. We continued with a Q and A. Member and guests introduced themselves. Illdk of Kresz Associates was our guest this month. It was announced that Leslie M. Stern will be the guest speaker on March 18th. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.