

BOCC Wrap-Up / COVID-19
October 15, 2020
3:01 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson, County Manager Erik Martin, Amber Smith, and John Abplanalp

Zoom: Chris Rust, Gary Fredricks and Lee Napier

Guest(s): Claudia Yaw

Recorder: Tammy Martin

Chris Rust, chair of the Lewis County Committee of Superintendents and Toledo School District superintendent, wanted to thank the Commissioners. He said 75 additional hotspots were purchased to cover 100% of the kids in Toledo schools. He wanted to share information he feels is missing from public discourse. He also wanted to share the importance of public education. Chris said teachers work twice as hard with half the results. Child care is a huge issue.

Twenty percent of families won't be returning to school due to COVID-19. Lewis County has the 9th highest cases in the state, but also has the most aggressive return to school policies.

Amber Smith wanted to explain in greater detail how best to communicate about current cases. Public Health is working on ways to legally and lawfully provide information about cases to the public. On October 2, 2020, HB2064 was extended. Any physical characteristic cannot be legally released. Amber said there was a request for information about cases within the congregate housing and she stated that Public Health has information that cannot be publicly shared. This is based on RCW, WACS, and HIPPA laws. Commissioner Fund said that Thurston County can break data down by zip code and Amber Smith said the reason why Lewis County cannot breakdown by zip code is because at this time it is too close to an identifying detail based on population of each zip code.

John Abplanalp said today there are 5 new cases, no additional recoveries. Weekly update from Oct 4-10 reported 27 new cases and total of 8 new deaths. Currently 45 patients are hospitalized, 625 total cumulative cases, and there are 10 total cumulative deaths. Lewis County is the 9th highest positive testing county in Washington State. The numbers are updated by commissioner district and age.

Commissioner Stamper said there are several people requiring assistance with utilities. Commissioner Stamper inquired about additional funding. United Way, LCPUD, LCPHSS and Salvation Army have received funding and Becky will have final result during Monday's update.

Calendars: The Commissioners agreed to have the COVID-19 / BOCC Wrap-up meeting on Wednesday October 21, 2020, at 2:30. John Abplanalp agreed to have statistics for the meeting.

The Commissioners agreed to sign thank you letters and a letter of support after a minor fix in verbiage.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.