

LUCAS COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
Board of Health Emergency Meeting
Virtual Meeting on Zoom website
May 6, 2020 – 8:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Dr. Johnathon Ross, President, called the emergency meeting to order at 8:33AM for the purpose of discussion of the BP/Husky Contract and Pandemic Mitigation.

A roll call was taken of Board Members for attendance:

Present: Fritz Byers, Barbara Conover, Richard Fernandez, DPT, Perlean Griffin, Ted Kaczorowski, Donald Murray, Susan Postal, Johnathon Ross, MD, Barbara Sarantou, Michelle Schultz, Donna Woodson, MD

Excused: Matthew Heyrman

II. Introduction of Guests

Union Representatives: Nate Fries and Cathy Nearhood

Staff and others: Eric Zgodzinski, Dave Welch, Shannon Lands, Tina Stokes, Josie Smith, Gwendolynn Gregory, Alice Dargartz, Jessica Poupard, Legal Counsel – Kevin Pituch

III. BP/Husky Grant

The BP/Husky agreement for the \$1.2 million grant for lead abatement that was previously presented was discussed in detail. Ninety percent of the agreement has been vetted by both BP/Husky and our prosecutor. The Scope of Work has been completed and sent to BP/Husky. We were hoping to get the agreement voted on at this meeting, however BP/Husky requested additional time to review the Scope of Work. This will be presented at the May 28, 2020 Board of Health Meeting.

- The funds will be used to remediate houses in the Toledo area with lead issues.
- A number of homes that have had lead assessment completed but failed to meet all of the requirements of the City of Toledo and HUD grants have been identified.
- These funds can be used for properties but must be rented to residents in a lower economic status.
- There is funding to complete 40 to 60 properties in the three year timeframe. If we get to the end and need additional time we can work with BP/Husky to extend the agreement because we got started late due to COVID-19.
- There will be a covenant with the property owners stating if they sell the property within three years they would have to repay the money. The money would go back into the fund to do work at other homes.

VI. Legal Update: Kevin Pituch gave an update on the Lead Ordinance court case. The Supreme Court has rejected the appeal on the lead case. The plaintiff has filed a motion for reconsideration of the order and our brief is due on May 11, 2020. We do not believe that the court will take the case. This should be the end of the lead litigation regarding administration and enforcement of a

similar ordinance, the board is free to do so. Eric stated that we are working with the City to work through the implementation of the lead law.

V. **Pandemic Mitigation Strategies**

Staff has been working with many issues of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contact tracing is immense along with non-essential/essential business and social distancing being investigated. One thing that was asked was if there are there other things this Board should or could impose to help with limiting the spread of COVID-19.

The documents from the State of Ohio outline the mandatory and recommended best practices for reopening for each of the business types. Topics such as personal space, handwashing, hygiene, requiring employees to wear face covering, physical assessment (fever, not feeling well, staying at home) are covered in these documents.

- Things that we were looking at for the Board to put into a resolution are already being done through the mandatory orders by the Governor and the Director.
- Enforcement of the requirements will continue through investigating the complaints that come in. There had been about 1200 calls when the original orders came out. These were handled by staff either making phone calls or visiting the facility when necessary. Law enforcement has work with us when needed.
- There was discussion concerning our current phone tree and making it more helpful and user-friendly in directing callers.
- Other major entities in Lucas County which are on the Governor's list of having to stay closed have sent plans for opening. Unfortunately we cannot open those up which are on the list without the Governor directs us to open those.

Main Mitigation Strategies:

- Contract Tracing – we have 18-30 staff and the ability to use 50-150 UT students – need to solidify for the 2nd wave.
- Testing – PCR (nasal swab test) using in long-term care facilities and other shelters and other and antibody
- Immunities – antibody testing will give us more insight into the immunity in our community
- Waste water treatment study for COVID-19. Pulling samples and sending to the University of Arizona.
- Vaccine – it is not known when vaccine will be available.

Dr. Ross discussed items on the medical side:

- The treatment using the IV drug remdesivir which was studied on the most ill patients. If given earlier in the course of the illness may have a more potent affect. FDA gave emergency approval for its use.
- It was reported that convalescent plasma which is taken from recovered patients has been approved. Antibodies are then transferred.
- Some patients are testing positive 3 to 4 weeks after with those are probably fragments of the virus that are being picked up by the PCR test that are not active virus. They will probably not carry the illness to others.

- This is nurse's week and are the heart of the medical community. Thank the nurses and those who work with nurses on an everyday basis.

Dr. Woodson asked Eric how the work with nursing homes and long term facilities is doing.

Eric stated that we started early on to give the guidance. There have been conference calls between the facilities. Hospitals were assigned the long-term care facilities and were going into the facilities to test individuals and teach staff how to test the residents. More PPE was given to the facilities by the EOC. The hospitals worked with facilities for infection control practices. We now have the ability to mass test all the residences and staff which was set up by the EOC and Hospital Council. Quest has set aside 6,000 tests for Lucas County. If they come back with positives, staffing is then an issue. Most don't have infection control practices in place. Dr. Marsha Paul who is the director of Hospice has been able to get into the facilities to see what we can do to help them. Asymptomatic individuals who are not sick can go from room to room and the next thing you know an entire facility has come down with COVID-19. We have assigned one of our epidemiologists was assigned to each of the long-term facilities.

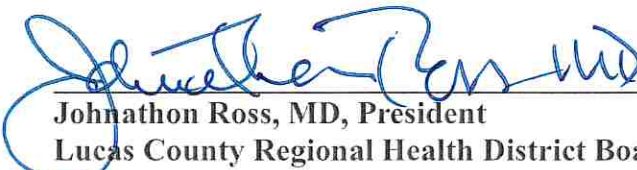
Thank you was voiced for all that everyone has done.

We are looking into finances and whether we will get any reimbursement for the time spend working on COVID-19. Some of our grand deliverables that have not gotten into. There has been two months we have not been able to get into for inspections, etc.

Dr. Ross discussed the issues of mental health during a time like this with being over worked and stressed along with those who have lost their jobs. Often we see a surge in substance abuse and suicide. We need to look at the consequences here from the emotional stress that will be surfacing. We need to be prepared how to mitigate too. We have a good contact with mental health and substance abuse agencies.

(Resolution 2020.06.066) A motion was made by Donna Woodson, MD and seconded by Don Murray to adjourn. Motion carried. 11 Yeas, 0 Nays

Signed By:



Johnathon Ross, MD, President
Lucas County Regional Health District Board

6/3/2020

Date

Attested By:



Eric J. Zgodzinski, DrPH, MPH, RS, CPH
Secretary to the Board of Health

6/3/2020

Date