

**LUCAS COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT**  
**Board of Health Meeting**  
**Department of Operations Center (DOC) #254**  
**March 12, 2020 – 8:30 A.M.**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Dr. Johnathon Ross, President, called the meeting to order at 8:39AM.

A roll call was taken of Board Members for attendance:

*Present:*, Fritz Byers, Richard Fernandez, DPT, Perlean Griffin, Matthew Heyrman, Ted Kaczorowski, Johnathon Ross, MD, Susan Postal, Barbara Sarantou, Donna Woodson, MD

*Excused:* Barbara Conover, Donald Murray, and Michelle Schultz

Staff and others: Eric Zgodzinski, DrPH, Dave Welch, Shannon Lands, Tina Stokes, Josie Smith, Gwendolynn Gregory, Nancy Benedetto, Alice Dargartz, and Legal Counsel - Jim Walter

**II. Executive Session**

**(Resolution 2020.03.036)** A motion was made by Ted Kaczorowski and seconded by Perlean Griffin to enter into an executive session for the purpose of contracts, personnel issues and operations. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried. 9 yeas, 0 nays

**(Resolution 2020.03.037)** A motion was made by Richard Fernandez, DPT and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to return to the regular session. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried. 9 yeas, 0 nays

A motion is requested to allow the Health Commissioner the ability to enter into a temporary contract for a Medical Director. This contract would be a temporary agreement for six (6) month with a ten (10) day notice to terminate.

It is the intention to take a more deliberate approach to hire a full-time Medical Director. This contract will cover the department in the immediate time of need. The final decision concerning a long-term Medical Director will be undertaken by the Board during this time.

**(Resolution 2020.03.038)** A motion was made by Fritz Byers and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to authorize the Health Commissioner to proceed with executing the contract for a Medical Director according with the terms of the contract with the goal of having the individual begin working in the position by March 16, 2020. Further, after that contract is executed it will be brought back to the Board of Health at the next scheduled meeting for ratification. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried. 9 yeas, 0 nays.

**III. Operations:**

- a. Eric stated if the Board of Health cannot meet we may have an issue with getting things accomplished such as paying bills, etc. Eric asked the prosecutor if, as Health Commissioner, he would be able to carry on operations. The Prosecutor's Office said no to this. In speaking with the AOHC about this issue, they will be contacting the Governor's office to attempt to figure how to make this happen. A lot of agencies are in this same position.

- b. Another issue is concerning our staff which is running ragged. Staff will be taking some time off during this time. If you are unable to reach someone contact Eric to see where they are working. We are looking at having staff work from home and Dave Welch is looking at the essential needs for staffing. We will be looking to see which employees can help in the essential departments. Dave stated that once there is a declaration of an emergency we can move staff around without much of an issue. If it is grieved then it will be dealt with later.
- c. We have had a large volume of calls coming in and the staff is doing a fantastic job of triaging these but this cannot last forever. Dr. Ross suggested to ask the hospital systems to help. Promedica and Mercy will be eventually asked to help. We are in need of Epidemiologists and will be asking for that type of support too. Testing is limited from ODH.
- d. General questions are being sent to the ODH call center and other questions are being directed to our Epi's. The City of Toledo afterhours line has the information for the ODH hotline to refer general questions. The ODH line is manned 24 hours a day. The TLCHD hotline has been up and running for the past week.
- e. In regards to schools being shut down, Eric and the Wood County Health Commissioner met with the public schools in Lucas and Wood Counties to talk about guidance. Taking kids out of school who receive their only hot meal from school, is a concern. Mercy is working with the Sheriff and Toledo Police for a plan to get meals out to these families in K – 12. If they stay in school, unfortunately the children are in contact with other children and may be bringing the virus home to their other family members.
- f. Fritz Byers stated that every entity in the state is concerned with the Sunshine Law in regards to holding meetings. It looks like there will be a legislative amendment to create an emergency exception for meetings. It isn't clear if Governor DeWine will be sponsor this but he will be doing something to fix this, possibly as early as tomorrow. Matt Heyrman stated that both the County Commissioners and the City officials throughout the state are lobbying for this.
- g. Dr. Woodson asked if there has been discussion regarding mental health issues in the schools. Dealing with grief and fear will be an important factor. Shannon Lands said the Ohio State Mental Health Board has a hotline available along with a printed of information on how to deal with mental health issues. Dr. Woodson suggested that we get that contact information to the media to have on the news crawler.
- h. Eric stated that the Ohio Department of Health has \$1 million that will be funneled to Local Health Departments. This will be on a per capita bases which will be about \$40,000 for TLCHD. This is just for COVID-19 activities and will have deliverables that need to be met. The deliverables are simple ones so it won't be an issue. There is \$15 million coming from the Federal Government which will be brought down to the local government.
- i. At the DAC meeting last night, we did not have a quorum but had the opportunity to talk to some of the representatives. We are asking for a 5% increase in the budget from the DAC, 2% for general, 3% for Disaster Planning and 1% for Epidemiology. Andy Glenn stood up and said some really great things about the work we do. He is in support of this and the other members in the room seemed to support it. We will come back in May to vote on it. This will help our budget for next year.

- j. Ted Kaczorowski asked how we are communicating the Coronavirus information to the entities. Shannon stated that it is available electronically and would get it out to everyone. Eric stated that there is going to be a meeting for elected officials throughout the county and possibly adding additional entities to discuss what this going on at this point.
- k. Matt Heyrman stated that there was a conference call last night with elected officials from Lucas County. Eric has had so many requests for meetings from so many different agencies. Today we will work to convince the elected officials to come together in an Incident Command System which will be held virtually. The Health Department and the Health Commissioner will be at the head of this as Incident Commander. There will be several support branches. A key piece of that is the Public Information Liaison who pushes the information out to the county officials. There will rumor control to get out in front of the rumors.
- l. Matt Heyrman gave credit to Eric and Dr. Acton credit for what they shared yesterday. Most officials, after hearing what Eric had to share and information from State and Governor, understand that this is serious and that we all need to unite under a unified structure to put out one message together. Dr. Ross's statement in regards to the Spanish Flu "Philadelphia chose to do nothing, Toledo chose to do something, and Toledo ended up in a much better state than Philadelphia," resonated well with the elected officials at the meeting yesterday.

IV. **(Resolution 2020.03.039)** Motion to Adjourn was made by Ted Kaczorowski and seconded by Matt Heyrman. Motion carried. 9 yeas, 0 nays.

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

4/23/2020  
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**Date**

Attested By:

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

04-24-2020  
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**Date**