

LUCAS COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
Board of Health Meeting
Kuhlman Auditorium
March 23, 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, Ted Kaczorowski, Donald Murray, Susan Postal, Johnathon Ross, MD, Barbara Sarantou, Donna Woodson, MD

Excused: Barbara Conover, Matthew Heyrman, and Michelle Schultz

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

II. February Minutes

(Resolution 2020.03.040) A motion was made by Susan Postal and seconded by Fritz Byers to table the February Board of Health Minutes for corrections. Motion carried. 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

III. Agenda

Dr. Woodson asked that the agenda always have an update of the COVID-19 number of cases and deaths. Dr. Ross suggested to look at Johns.Hopkins.edu which is a great resource of all of the COVID cases. Has the most current information.

Eric Zgodzinski asked to add an Executive Session before the Personnel Report.

IV. Financials/Vouchers

- a) Tina Stokes stated that there was no Audit Finance Meeting held in February. The February vouchers were presented for approval. There are no changes to what was sent to Board members prior to this meeting.
- b) Tina brought attention to Page 3 of 4 for Republic Services has two entries, one is a Then and Now and the other is a blanket purchase order to cover the services for the rest of the year.
- c) Total expenditures in February were \$1,011,387.23.
- d) Financial Statement report: we are at 17% of the years totals. The cash balance at the end of February, 2020 was \$4,698,641.96 and last year at this time was \$4,103,609.14. The difference is due to the grants on the last page. The ending balance of \$966,448.49 is the IM HOT grant (H9319), which has over \$1 million cash balance which will have to be paid back.

(Resolution 2020.03.041) A motion was made by Fritz Byers and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski for approve payment of the February vouchers. Motion carried. 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

(Resolution 2020.03.042) A motion was made by Fritz Byers and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to proceed with the grants which are highlighted in the grant document dated March 23, 2020. Motion carried. 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

Contracts:

A motion made by Fritz Byers and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to approve the contract for Dr. Jason Smith and the disbursement of \$100 per hour not to exceed \$6,500.

Discussion:

Dr. Woodson asked as a member of the Health Service Committee to see a CV for this position.

Josie Smith stated she received an email last night from Dr. Smith stating that he had already reached the amount of \$4,300. Josie asked if we wanted to consider increasing the amount due to the additional work being done regarding our COVID-19 response.

(Resolution 2020.03.043) The above motion was amended by Fritz Byers and seconded by Susan Postal to approve the contract for Dr. Jason Smith with the amendment of the contract amount being increased from \$6,500.00 to \$20,000.00 to cover the additional costs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Motion carried. 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

(Resolution 2020.03.044) A motion was made by Fritz Byers and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to hire Nurse Practitioner Teresa Betts-Cobau, CPN at a rate of \$55.00 per hour, not to exceed 1040 hours. This is a shared position between the two Nurse Practitioners in the Reproductive Health Grant. The term is from March 25, 2020 to the end of the year. Motion carried, 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

There is no Transfer of Appropriations for the month of February.

(Resolution 2020.03.045) A motion was made by Donald Murray and seconded by Fritz Byers to approve the change in the Revenue Estimate in the amount of \$755,294.59. Motion carried, 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

V. Executive Session

(Resolution 2020.03.046) A motion was made by Fritz Byers and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to enter into an executive session for the purpose of employment and compensation for individuals and to discuss pending litigations. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried. 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

(Resolution 2020.03.047) A motion was made by Donald Murray and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to return to the regular session. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried. 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

VI. Personnel Issues

(Resolution 2020.03.048) A motion was made by Fritz Byers and seconded by Perlean Griffin to hire Denise Presley, RN in the full-time position of Public Health Nurse in the TB/Child Fatality Review at \$23.28 per hour. Motion carried. 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

(Resolution 2020.03.049) A motion was made by Donna Woodson, MD and seconded by seconded by Barbara Sarantou to hire Patrice Fraker as an Epidemiologist on a part-time temporary basis at the rate of \$29.67. Motion carried. 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

VII. Public Health Orders

Fritz Byers presented the following Public Health Orders:

- a) A policy guide came out from FEMA on March 18, 2020 related to non-congregate sheltering delegation of authority and pursuant to authority that we have under the Ohio Revised Code 3707.31 and 3707.32.

(Resolution 2020.03.050) A motion was made by Fritz Byers and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to adopt a public health order effective immediately that would allow the Board of Health of Lucas County Regional Health District to exercise its authority to seize, occupy and temporarily use public facilities, focusing specifically on vacant facilities on the University of Toledo Campus. Further, that we authorize the Director of Health and Chairman of this Board, along with Legal Counsel to prepare the exact text of the order to make sure that it complies with State authority and law and accomplishes the objective consistent with our obligations and the request we received from FEMA.

The intention to do this is in cooperation with FEMA and cooperation with other public agencies, including the University of Toledo to take advantages of facilities that are adaptable to the needs of our public health crisis. Roll call vote was taken. 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

- b) Regarding a Public Health order pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3707.26 addressing public gatherings: yesterday the Governor's shelter at home order that was signed by Dr. Amy Acton, took very specific steps toward addressing the concern about public gatherings and the threat that large gatherings pose due to the science of how an epidemic can spread. The Board wants to authorize the Director of the Board of Health and the Chairman of this board to work closely with our counsel to fashion an order that will strengthen the application of the Governor's rules in our community and provide appropriate directive and where appropriate, encouragement to people in our community to flatten the curve the very best we can during this public health crisis.

(Resolution 2020.03.051) A motion was made by Fritz Byers and seconded by Donna Woodson, MD to proceed in that fashion as outlined above regarding the sheltering at home order issued by Governor DeWine. Roll call vote was taken. Motion passed. 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

- c) **(Resolution 2020.03.052)** A motion was made by Fritz Byers and seconded by Donna Woodson, MD, that once these orders have been completed on the advice of counsel, move

that the board authorize the Director of Health and the chairman of the board to execute these orders so they have full legal affect. Roll call vote was taken. Motion passed. 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

VIII. Health Commissioner Comments

Eric Zgodzinski gave an update on the current COVID numbers. There are 5 cases, all men over 60 years of age. All of these have underlying conditions, three of the five were white males, the race and ethnicity of the other two is not known. In the US there are 35,000 cases. Locally we are in ICS. We are working through many issues inside the structure. One is housing for potentially quarantined individuals. First responder issues are great to make sure we keep them working and on the line. Medical providers are a concern. There are glimmers of hope coming down the line next week. Some to do with the rapid testing that is coming out which is a 45 minute test to be done in doctor's office. Suggest only out to the grocery stores once a week or so and keeping the 6' social distancing.

We are monitoring illness for the staff and their stress levels, which are pretty high. There is a lot coming at us but they are handling it like troopers.

Jessica Poupard is Eric's eyes and ears here at the department while he is at the EOC. Josie Smith is keeping HR running and Gwen Gregory is the Health and Safety person to keep the clinics open where needed. We have TB and STD open at this time. WIC is being operated curbside at client cars to reload benefits. There is limited access to the building. Staff is doing a fantastic job.

Board President's Comments

Dr. Ross reported that we are fortunate to have a really good amount of resources in our county. The question is if we will run out of PPE, doctors and nurses who are getting sick, ventilators because we have too many sick people who need them or will we run out of unforeseen resources. We have the testing issue which will be a huge issue to control. A third of the people in China were asymptomatic and carrying it around and spreading. Whether you feel healthy or not you may have it. One bright issue this that the Chinese were using an old technique of using plasma which contains antibodies. This can transmit antibodies for people who have had the disease to someone who is sick with it and have an impact on that disease. Chinese were taking a bit of recovered patient's plasma to give to sick patients to alter the disease's course. It looks like it is the number one therapy that we can use. These could increase resources to treat the more serious cases. Eric stated that he will helping with developing policies and procedures for these issues while at the EOC.

Dr. Ross congratulated Eric on successfully defending his DrPhD last Thursday. The important thing he got from that defense talking with the committee members, is that they are highly energized and encourage that what we have done here can be a model for other health departments. What we are able to do, critiquing how we did our Strategic Plan implementation, should be able to be carried forward not only in this department but in others too. It is the work we have done here that will help carry other health departments forward. Dr. Ross stated that the sentiment of the board reflects back to the people who

helped achieve what was needed in the research which resulted in the PhD. Thank them for us and the community and thank you for your success in your defense.


(Resolution 2020.03.053) A motion was made by Donald Murray and seconded by Richard Fernandez to adjourn. Motion carried. 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

Signed By:



Johnathon Ross, MD, President **Date** 4/23/2020
Lucas County Regional Health District Board

Attested By:



Eric J. Zgodzinski, DrPH, MPH, RS, CPH **Date** 04-24-2020
Secretary to the Board of Health