

LUCAS COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
Board of Health Meeting
Virtual Meeting on Zoom website
June 25, 2020 – 8:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Dr. Johnathon Ross, President, called the meeting to order at 8:36AM.

A roll call was taken of Board Members for attendance:

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

Matthew Heyrman and Donna Woodson, MD entered after the roll call as indicated.

Excused: Perlean Griffin

II. Introduction of Guests

Union Representatives: Nate Fries and Cathy Nearhood

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

Matt Heyrman entered the meeting

III. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Eric Zgodzinski asked that an Executive Session be added for the purpose of employment following the Approval of the Vouchers.

IV. Approval of Board Minutes from May 28, 2020

(Resolution 2020.06.079) A motion was made by Richard Fernandez, DPT and seconded by Fritz Byers to approve the May 28, 2020 Board of Health meeting minutes. Motion carried, 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

V. Approval of the May 2020 Vouchers

The Audit/Finance Committee met via virtual meeting on June 15, 2020. Ted Kaczorowski stated that there was nothing out of the ordinary to report and no changes to the reports which were emailed to the Board Members.

There are several items listed on the bill schedule which are refunds due to events being cancelled during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

(Resolution 2020.06.080) A motion was made by Fritz Byers and seconded by Susan Postal to approve the May 2020 vouchers for payment. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried, 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

VI. Executive Session

(Resolution 2020.06.081) A motion was made by Richard Fernandez, DPT and seconded by Susan Postal to enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of employment. Roll call vote was taken. 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Donna Woodson, MD entered the meeting

(Resolution 2020.06.082) A motion was made by Richard Fernandez, DPT and seconded by Fritz Byers to return to the Regular Session at 9:47 AM. Roll call vote was taken. 11 Yeas, 0 Nays

Eric thanked the board for all the support during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Dr. Jay Smith has been our part-time Medical Director during this time and did a phenomenal job. Eric asked for a motion from the Board to allow the Health Commissioner to seek out a Medical Director with the salary of \$100.00 per hour and five (5) hours a week. The number of hours may fluctuate during the upcoming second wave of the pandemic.

(Resolution 2020.05.083) A motion was made by Susan Postal and seconded by Michelle Schultz to allow the Health Commissioner the ability to hire a Medical Director as outlined above. Roll call was taken. Motion passed. 10 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstain.

VII. Legal Update

Kevin Pituch stated where the circumstances of the Board as they are now, the Board of Health is required to have a licensed Medical Director. How the Board retains the MD is entirely up to the Board. Dr. Ross stated that so far we have followed our process, with some discussion for future meetings.

Update of any legal issues with COVID. At the state level, the Ohio Director of Health has been the subject of several law suits. There have been four court cases in Ohio. The first suit was filed in April at the federal level which upheld the Stay at Home Order. However, the next 3 went against the Ohio Health Director. The other suits were from Lake and Erie Counties. Erie County sued for the opening of the Kalahari Resort. Lake and Adams counties also sued on behalf of the auto racing tracks and the ability to allow spectators. They are able to open them with the same precautions as other businesses such as restaurants in regards to social distancing and other precautions. Toledo Speedway is also making a request to allow spectators. We expect to see the same results here.

VIII. New Business/Points for Consideration

Dave Welch stated that the Toledo Speedway has submitted a plan. Dave asked if we should we go ahead and allow the request to avoid going through the court system which will probably side with Toledo Speedway as they have in Lake and Erie counties. Dr. Ross asked if it is a reasonable plan for public health.

Dave responded that Toledo Speedway is following the same precautions as the county fair plan for guidance as far as spectators. This plan also models the ones from Adams and Erie counties. Eric and Dave will discuss it further.

Eric asked Kevin Pituch if we are putting the Board in jeopardy if we do not approve the plan. Kevin Pituch suggested that we offer our suggestions or changes to the plan. Dave Welch stated that we approved the plan for them to open up without spectators and this plan opens it up to add spectators. Dr. Ross suggested that we observe the races and if they are not following the plan then we should shut it down.

Dave stated that we have approved plans for other events in the county. If the organizers are not adhering to plan we can shut it down. We also add wording that there is still COVID in the community and that we are not approving the plan, however we are urging the organization to not hold the event

at this time. If there is a threat to public health, we would shut the event down. We would bring back to the Board and work with Kevin Pituch. There are fiscal penalties for not adhering to social distancing rules. It is 2nd degree misdemeanor with a \$750 fine. Ohio Investigating Unit can help out with this if needed as they have in the bars/restaurants.

Fritz Byers left the meeting at 10:00 am

IX. Prior Business

A. COVID-19 Update

Eric reported that local cases are relatively low right now about 307 positive cases in June. We are watching hospital bed cases and mortality. We are looking at the ability to do real time data. It is time to recognize staff for their exceptional work during COVID-19. Environmental Health Supervisors; Jodi Vaughan and Jennifer Gottschalk stepped up and developed process for contact tracing. They spent many hours working on this. Staff is currently shifting back to their regular job duties. We were notified from ODH to start looking at our Mass Vaccination Plan. We still have the contact tracing going on and now need to look at a potential for vaccinations sometime in the future and we will look to these two to help with this. These are two of the many who have done such a fantastic job. We will be memorializing with a Board Resolution once we are done recognizing everyone.

Eric presented a graph of numbers of confirmed cases every day. Brandon Palinski has been working on this daily getting numbers together. The current trend is moving upward, and we are seeing this both statewide and nationally. The second graph looked at cases from March until now. We had cases originally with the elderly and now we are seeing an upswing with the younger population. We surmise that the older age group is taking more precautions but the younger group think they are immortal and are going back to work, bars, restaurant, less mask using, and social distancing. The questions of the protests has come up however we are not seeing an upswing from these events, but that doesn't mean that we won't.

B. Racism as a Public Health Crisis

Eric discussed a document shared by Dr. Ross about racism being a public health determinant of health. We will be reviewing these within our department. This supports the need to look more at the underserved populations in our community. Eric will share the document with all of the board members.

Dr. Ross: COVID-19 will have a more detailed discussion on the effects of racism on public health. It is obvious that we have an epidemic that is attacking the underserved populations and communities of color more than those more well to do. We have to begin to talk more about the effects of racism in the community and how to address it as a Board. We will have a deeper conversation about this at the next meeting. Look at the documents that have been sent out which will be a road map to dealing with some of those problems.

Eric wants to let this community know that our Board takes this situation seriously and that we are attentive to develop a program, thought process, and logic model to help this community that will not be just not talk of the problem. Dr. Ross asked if there is a section in the Strategic Plan that addresses racism - which there is. We will be focusing on this in the upcoming meetings when we have more time to dig deeper into the subject and how we will address this.

Matt Heyrman asked if the Board could be provided specific information about health outcomes in our county related to race. This information is critical. Boards should not just be reactionary. The

County Commissioners have passed a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis. Our board should consider adopting a resolution as Columbus did that recognizes racism. This would help us in focusing where to put our resources. There are many grants out there but there are only so many hours in our staff time particularly with COVID and there is so much money we have to match. If we would elect to consider declaring a public health crisis that would mean that we are making a commitment to allocate a portion of our funding and staff time to deal with this. This is something we should share between this meeting and the next and consider at the July meeting. Dr. Ross said that we should make a definitive statement about racism and the BOH's desire to improve the negative effects of racism as a public health crisis.

Eric stated that Columbus, Cleveland and Summit, along with several others, have made that resolution. Eric will go ahead and draft a resolution tailored like these. We need to have that discussion and decide what we want to do as a Board.

X. Audit/Finance Report

Ted Kaczorowski reported that the committee met on Monday, June 15, 2020.

The Personnel and Audit/Finance committees discussed what we need to do to recognize all of the hard work done by staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Would like to put forth in motion to add 40 hours of sick time to each employee's bank. With a second wave being expected, and there will be times when staff and their family members will be ill. Also, to give each employee \$150.00 of hazard pay. This would be prorated for part-time staff. This would be a recognition for their work and acknowledge that we realize this department went through a lot. This would be financed from funds ODH gave us for our accreditation, about \$100,000.

(Resolution 2020.06.84) A motion was made by Barbara Sarantou and seconded by Richard Fernandez, DPT, to approve 40 hours of sick leave and \$150.00 hazard pay for each full-time employee and prorated for part-time employees. Motion carried. 10 Yeas, 0 Nay

CDBG Continuation Grant

The CDBG (rodent grant) contract was received after the Audit/Finance committee met on June 15, 2020. We are walking this on today so that it can be approved by the Board prior to the start date of July 1, 2020. This is \$62,800 grant which we receive annually. The grant funds 1.5 staff members for rodent abatement. This contract will be added to the contract list and be made part of the Audit/Finance Committee's report.

Transfer of Appropriations:

A transfer reallocates funds from one cost object to another. Board of Health Resolution is required to approve Transfers of Appropriations performed in the month of May 2020 in the ordinary course of business. Total transfer is \$17,750.00 consisting of changes in various expense categories.

(Resolution 2020.06.085) A motion was made by Matt Heyrman and seconded by Barbara Sarantou to approve the Transfer of Appropriations for the month of May, 2020 in the amount of \$17,750.00. Roll call vote was taken. Motion carried, 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

Revenue Estimates and Expense Appropriations: Board of Health Resolution is required to approve changes in Revenue Estimates and Expense Appropriations for the month of May 2020 in the amount of \$910,197.00 for Revenue Estimates and Appropriations.

(Resolution 2020.06.086) A motion was made by Matt Heyrman and seconded by Richard Fernandez, DPT, to approve the Revenue Estimates and Expense Appropriations for the month of May, 2020 in the amount of \$910,197.00. Roll call vote was taken. Motion carried, 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

Residual Funds Transfer:

Board of Health Resolution is required to authorize the Fiscal Director to transfer residual funds from the Special Revenue – Grant Fund in the amount of \$449,653.95 to the Various Departments of the General Fund, and to classify the transferred funds as unrestricted.

(Resolution 2020.06.087) A motion was made by Susan Postal and seconded by Michelle Schultz to approve the transfer of Residual Funds for the month of May, 2020 in the amount of \$449,653.95 to the Various Departments of the General Fund, and to classify the transferred funds as unrestricted. Roll call vote was taken. Motion carried, 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

(Resolution 2020.06.088) A motion was made by Richard Fernandez, DPT, and seconded by Susan Postal to approve the Audit/Finance Committee report as given. Motion carried, 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

XI. Personnel Report

Michelle Schultz reported that the Personnel Committee met on June 15, 2020.

- 1) There was one new hire for the month of May, 2020.
 - a) Denise Presley, PH Nurse full-time permanent position TB Nurse, 5/18/20
- 2) One resignation was reported for the month of May 2020.
 - a) Bethany Anteau, Health Educator/Safe Sleep program, effective May 22, 2020.
- 3) Action is required on the creation of the following six (6) positions, in response to COVID-19.
 - 1- Project Coordinator –Non Bargaining Unit -Full-Time, Temporary, No later than December 30, 2020
 - 1- Community Health Worker (African-American Community) - Non-Bargaining Unit -Full-Time, Temporary, No later than December 30, 2020
 - 1- Community Health Worker (Latino-Hispanic Community) - Non Bargaining Unit -Full-Time, Temporary, No later than December 30, 2020
 - 1- Epidemiologist- AFSCME Bargaining Unit -Full-Time, Permanent
 - 1- Clerk II- AFSCME Bargaining Unit -Full-Time, Permanent
 - 1- Clerk II- Non-Bargaining Unit (Temporaries not covered by AFSCME bargaining agreement) Full-Time, Temporary, No later than December 30, 2020

(Resolution 2020.06.089) A motion was made by Barbara Sarantou and seconded by Barbara Conover to approve the six position as outlined above. Motion carried. 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

- 4) Of the above list of new positions, action is required for the creation of the following three (3) job descriptions:
 - a) Project Coordinator
 - b) Community Health Worker (African American Community)
 - c) Community Health Worker (Latino-Hispanic Community)

(Resolution 2020.06.090) A motion was made by Ted Kaczorowski and seconded by Barbara Sarantou to approve the above job descriptions. Motion carried. 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

- 5) Action is required on the following four (4) requests for hire.

- a) **Elizabeth Carpenter**- to the full-time, permanent position of Medical Assistant in the WIC program, at the rate of \$14.72 per hour.
- b) **Marie Olinger**- to the full-time, permanent position of Community Health Worker for Healthy Start, at the rate of \$13.83 per hour.
- c) **Tracey Lewis**- to the full-time, permanent position of Community Health Worker for OEI (Ohio Equity Institute), at the rate of \$13.83 per hour.
- d) **Victoria Simpson**- to the full-time, temporary position of Project Coordinator for the COVID-19 Emergency Response, at the rate of \$26.35 per hour.

*All Hiring is subject to the successful completion of a drug and alcohol screening.

(Resolution 2020.06.091) A motion was made by Barbara Sarantou and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to approve the hiring of the four positions as listed above. Motion carried. 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

- 6) Recruitment is on-going for a number of other positions. We expect to potentially have additional requests for hire between Personnel Committee and the full meeting of the Board. Specifically, we could have additional requests for hiring for Public Health Nurse and/or Certified Nurse Practitioner.

Josie stated that there are 3 public health nurse positions open. We are doing additional advertising. The Nurse Practitioner position has been interviewed. This would be a contract position. Interviews have been done and Dr. Smith met with a candidate yesterday. With the change of Medical Directors, we will have the new Medical Director interview with her to be sure that he is willing to sign on with this candidate. The Personnel Committee, Dr. Ross and Dr. Woodson have all have reviewed the resume.

Dr. Woodson asked if Barb Conover was on the Personnel Committee and asked if she could be involved when there is a Nurse Practitioner position to assist in the vetting.

(Resolution 2020.06.092) A motion was made by Donald Murray and seconded by Donna Woodson, MD, to give the Health Commissioner the ability to approve the Emergency Hire for the Nurse Practitioner position once the vetting process is complete which included Dr. Ross, Ted Kaczorowski and the Personnel Committee. Motion carried. 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

(Resolution 2020.06.093) A motion was made by Ted Kaczorowski and seconded by Richard Fernandez, DPT, to approve the Personnel Committee report as given. Motion carried, 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

IX. Environmental Health Committee

Don Murray reported the Environmental Health Committee met on Wednesday, June 17, 2020.

Variance Requests:

- 1) Variance request for a replacement septic system at 2015 S. Eber Road, Monclova, OH. Owner is building a new home, a large portion of the lot has a very high water table. As such we are unable to get the entire leach field into in situ soil. Part of the field will have to be installed in sand fill. Further in order to keep as much of the field into in situ soil as possible the lines will not be able to be installed fully along contour. Given the sandy natural of the site this should not cause any issue.

(Resolution 2020.06.094) A motion was made by Barbara Sarantou and seconded by Michelle Schultz to approve the variance request for the property at 2015 S. Eber Road, Monclova, OH as outlined above. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried, 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

- 2) A variance was requested for a replacement septic system at 5024 Trellis Way, Sylvania Twp. Due to the small size of the lot we are unable to fit a system that meets all the requirements of ORC 3701-29, specifically the distance from the property lines and garage and the length, square foot and distance between trenches.

(Resolution 2020.06.095) A motion was made by Barbara Sarantou and seconded by Michelle Schultz to approve the variance request for the property at 5024 Trellis Way, Sylvania, OH as outlined above. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried, 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

- 3) BP/Husky Lead Abatement Program is in the works. There are two contractors who have been identified which are certified by the State of Ohio. There are a couple of issues being worked through regarding insurance requirements. Notices have been sent out to property owners with lead abatement orders already informing them of this program.
- 4) Wallace Road property: There was an issue with water coming up from a nearby pond to a neighbor's property. Staff have been to the property and did not find an issue with water migrating to the other property. The staff will keep monitoring it and if an issue arises, it will be properly addressed.

(Resolution 2020.06.096) A motion was made by Matt Heyrman and seconded by Donna Woodson, MD to approve Environmental Committee report. Motion carried. 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

5) Health Commissioner Comments


Eric shared that he will be talking on a national webinar this afternoon. A link to this was sent out last night. He will be sharing all the great things we have been doing here during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are very prominent people who will be on the webinar. This department has done so many great things the past 100 days and before which we need to tout.

Dr. Ross added that early on the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) was talked about and we then needed to pull out our plan as COVID-19 progressed and we had key people become ill. We need to share how we kept this department afloat during this time.

We need to be thinking about preparing for the second wave of COVID along with the issue of Racism as a Public Health Crisis. Both will be an issues on the next month's meeting agenda.

(Resolution 2020.06.097) A motion was made by Don Murray and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to adjourn. Motion carried, 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

Signed By:


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

Attested By:


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