

LUCAS COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
Board of Health Meeting
Zoom Virtual Meeting
October 22, 2020 – 8:30 A.M.

I. Medical Student Mahbod Pourriahi and Allison Gerren attend the meeting and thanked the Health Department for the time and effort that was given by the staff during October for their public health elective in order to observe our programs.

II. Dr. Richard Munk was sworn in as the new representative from the City of Sylvania by Kevin Pituch.

III. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Dr. Johnathon Ross, President, called the meeting to order at 8:38AM.

A roll call was taken of Board Members for attendance:

Present: Fritz Byers, Richard Fernandez, DPT, Ted Kaczorowski, Donald Murray, Susan Postal, Johnathon Ross, MD, Michelle Schultz, Donna Woodson, MD, Richard Munk, MD.

Excused: Perlean Griffin, Matthew Heyrman, Barbara Sarantou

IV. **Introduction of Guests**

Union Representatives: Nancy Benedetto (ONA), Nate Fries and Gillian Wilke (AFSCME), and Legal Counsel – Kevin Pituch,

Staff and others: Eric Zgodzinski, DrPH, Daniel Cadigan, MD, Dave Welch, Tina Stokes, Josie Smith, Gwendolynn Gregory, Shannon Lands, Brandon Palinski, Alice Dargartz, Jessica Poupard,

V. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

There is no Executive Session needed for this meeting.

VI. **Approval of Board Minutes – September 24, 2020 Minutes**

Dr. Cadigan asked for the following changes to the September 24, 2020 minutes. The Halloween guidance was reviewed and added that Brandon and Dave did a great job on this guidance. The statement regarding schools is that the State of Ohio template looks like ours regarding the school COVID-19 decision matrix.

(Resolution 2020.10.155) A motion was made by Donald Murray and seconded by Donna Woodson, MD to approve the September 24, 2020 Board of Health meeting minutes with the above changes. Motion carried, 9 Yeas, 0 Nays.

VII. **Legal Update**

Kevin Pituch stated there is nothing to report this month.

VIII. **Medical Director Report – Dr. Daniel Cadigan**

Dr. Cadigan reported on the activities he has been involved with during the past month.

- Welcomed Dr. Munk to the Board of Health
- Welcomed new CNP to Reproductive Health Clinic – Zeba Hadar.

- The Health Department recently hosted a pop-up clinic this week at Anthony Wayne district and had informal discussions with some local school districts concerning COVID.
- Reviewed and offered guidance to Health Commissioner on COVID-19 test system options for potential purchase. Reviewed the PCR and Antigen systems.
- Met with Director of Health Services regarding the planned Reproductive Health Clinic open house. Kudos to the Director and other staff involved for a well-organized and successful open house.
- Began contacting local community faith leaders and community stakeholders by phone. Shannon provided lists of these leaders.
- Started updating the Venipuncture Protocol with John Pluto in the lab. The present protocol is dated from 1999.

Dr. Ross asked about the funding that is being used for the pop-up testing sites. There were substantial funds being used to the events. Eric stated that the testing is covered by the Cares Act and funded through Columbus. The cost incurred are for salaries and supplies such as tents, etc. We are using the local grant and some general funds. Pop Up testing is being held in areas of concern in our county and is open to anyone.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Audit/Finance Report

The Audit/Finance Committee met virtually on October 19, 2020. Ted Kaczorowski stated that there was nothing out of the ordinary to report in regards to the September 2020 vouchers.

(Resolution 2020.10.156) A motion was made by Dr. Fernandez and seconded by Susan Postal to approve the September 2020 vouchers for payment. Motion carried, 9 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Write-off – Uncollectible Accounts

A motion is requested for the write-off of uncollectible accounts in the amount of \$13,071.99. In the future we will be looking at the write-offs to be done on a regular basis for invoices that are 180 days or more. Eric stated that when we had the FQHC we were incurring some large charges. With our current clinics we are performing fewer procedures and are not incurring such high costs. Our collections and billing procedures have been much better over the past year. Eric gave kudos to Gwen and the Reproductive Health Clinic staff who have been doing a great job. Last month we collected \$7,000.00. This month \$9,000.00 was collected through that clinic. We are becoming more efficient and effective in serving the community.

(Resolution 2020.10.157) A motion was made by Fritz Byers and seconded by Dr. Munk, MD to approve the write-off of \$13,071.99 from uncollectible accounts over 180 days. Motion carried. 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

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 September 2020 in the ordinary course of business. Total transfer is \$17,177.85 consisting of changes in various expense categories.

(Resolution 2020.10.158) A motion was made by Dr. Fernandez and seconded by Sue Postal to approve the Transfer of Appropriations for the month of September, 2020 in the amount of \$17,177.85. Motion carried, 9 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 September 2020 in the amount of \$3,279,146.61.

(Resolution 2020.10.159) A motion was made by Fritz Byers and seconded by Michelle Schultz, to approve the Revenue Estimates and Expense Appropriations for the month of September, 2020 in the amount of \$3,279,146.61. Motion carried, 9 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 2020.10.160) A motion was made by Fritz Byers and seconded by Michelle Schultz to approve the Audit/Finance Committee report as presented. Motion carried, 9 Yeas, 0 Nays.

B. Personnel Report – Michelle Schultz

The Personnel Committee met on October 19, 2020 and provided a report to the Board of Health. The following are items which need Board action:

1. The Personnel Commitment discussed and recommends a change in appointment status for the emergency hire of Angelic King to the full-time, permanent position of Public Health Nurse in the ONA (Ohio Nurses Association) bargaining unit at the rate of pay of \$23.78 per hour.

(Resolution 2020.10.161) A motion was made by Ted Kaczorowski and seconded Dr. Munk, MD to approve the change in appointment status for the emergency hire of Angelic King to the full-time, permanent position of Public Health Nurse. Motion carried, 9 Yeas, 0 Nays.

2. The Personnel Committee recommends the hire of Nikeshia Cross to the full-time, permanent position of Tobacco Prevention Program Coordinator in the non-bargaining unit service at the rate of pay of \$26.35 per hour.

Dr. Woodson asked if an exit interview was obtained from the former coordinator in this position as was requested at the September meeting. Josie Smith stated that she had reached out to that employee but has not received a response from her.

(Resolution 2020.10.162) A motion was made Dr. Munk, MD and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to hire Nikeshia Cross to the full-time position of Tobacco Prevention Program Coordinator as described above. Motion carried, 9 Yeas, 0 Nays.

3. The Personnel Committee recommends the hire of Christopher Sah to the full-time, permanent position of Epidemiologist in the OEI (Ohio Equity Institute) Program in the AFSCME bargaining unit at the rate of pay of \$22.27 per hour.

(Resolution 2020.10.163) A motion was made by Don Murray and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to approve the hiring of Christopher Sah to the full-time position of Epidemiologist as outlined above. Motion carried, 9 Yeas, 0 Nays.

4. The Personnel Committee recommends the hire of Joseph Wood to the full-time, temporary position of Project Coordinator in Emergency Response, expected to last through December 31, 2020, in the non-bargaining unit at the rate of pay of \$26.35 per hour.

(Resolution 2020.10.164) A motion was made by Don Murray and seconded by Dr. Munk, MD, to approve the hiring of Joseph Wood to the full-time, temporary position of Project Coordinator as outlined above. Motion carried, 9 Yeas, 0 Nays.

5. The Personnel Committee recommends the appointment status change for Kailee Sigsworth from the unclassified temporary intermittent position of Contact Tracer (max of 20 hours per week), paid at \$18.00 per hour to the unclassified temporary full-time position of Clerk II (scheduled 40 hours), and paid at \$16.69 per hour.

(Resolution 2020.10.165) A motion was made by Dr. Munk, MD and seconded by Don Murray to approve the hiring of Kailee Sigsworth from the unclassified temporary intermittent position of Contact Tracer to the temporary full-time position of Clerk II as outlined above. Motion carried, 9 Yeas, 0 Nays.

6. The Personnel Committee recommends a change to the compensation package for the unclassified temporary intermittent Contact Tracers for Thanksgiving, the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day only. In lieu of the \$25 and \$50 dollar additional payments for 4 hours and 8 hours worked respectively, the Personnel Committee recommends that the Contact Tracers receive time and a half compensation.

(Resolution 2020.10.166) A motion was made by Don Murray and seconded by Susan Postal to approve the holiday pay for Contact Tracers as outlined above. Motion carried. 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

7. The Personnel Committee recommends approval of the revised Grants Coordinator job description.

(Resolution 2020.10.167) A motion was made by Fritz Byers and seconded by Don Murray to approve the updated Grant's Coordinator Job Description. Motion carried. 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

Dr. Woodson asked if we can have an update from the new Coordinator on the status of the MRC in the next few weeks. Sue Postal stated that she did receive an email as an MRC volunteer this week.

(Resolution 2020.10.168) A motion was made by Dr. Fernandez and seconded by Fritz Byers to approve the Personnel Committee Report. Motion carried, 9 Yeas, 0 Nays.

C. Environmental Health Committee Report – Don Murray

The Environmental Health Committee did not meeting this month.

1. *Second Reading of the Environmental Health fees for the 2021 the Food, Campgrounds, Swimming Pools and Body Art Programs.* This is the second of three required readings. The fees are formulated by the methodology put out by Ohio Department of Health. The food and pool fees will be increased due to the number of inspections completed in 2019 which is

reflected in these fees. The third meeting will be a public meeting at the November 19, 2020 BOH meeting.

2. Dave Welch reported the City of Toledo passed the Lead-Safe Ordinance. The City will be accepting applications from landlords with properties of 1 to 4 units build prior to 1978. The Phase 1 deadline is June 2022. The City added funds for promotion and lead awareness and have included resources for landlords to help with finances to update their properties. The City of Toledo will supplement our program in the amount of about \$400,000. We are working on an MOU with the City to hire clerical support and a lead inspector. Vaughn Jackson is working with the State of Ohio to renew our license to train Lead Inspectors. We plan to provide one class per week beginning in the next month or so.

(Resolution 2020.10.169) A motion was made by Fritz Byers and seconded by Richard Fernandez, DTP to approve the Environmental Health Report in its entirety. Motion carried. 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

X. New Business/Points for Consideration
No New Business/Points for Consideration.

XI. Prior Business

A. Racism as a Public Health Crisis

Eric reported that Shannon Lands has had discussions with the Director of Minority Health for the State of Ohio regarding our Racism as a Public Health Crisis Declaration. The Director has suggested additional detail to our proposed declaration which we would like to review with her. Eric will be meeting with the Director of Minority Health to further discuss the details. Eric proposed to wait another month to approve the declaration so that we have the best information possible for our community. Dr. Ross stated that we need to select some actionable items to put in place for our employees to work on once we have completed the document. This will be part of our Strategic Plan too. Many of the board members agreed that this would be best to wait until we had the additional conversations.

B. COVID-19 Update

Eric provided a graph of the Lucas County Confirmed COVID-19 Case Count Trend. There is always a lag time in the reporting from ODH. In late September we were in the teens. By now we are increased to the 50s. All counties are having concerns with increasing cases. We are currently in the RED Risk category. The criteria to go to purple would be based on hospital admits, ER use, and bed occupancy, etc. In Lucas County we do not have as many admitted to the hospitals. We have had a large number of emergency room visits. When our county went to red we were at 99 per 100,000. Our numbers today are at 117 per 100,000. The back-yard gatherings are causing some concern. We are 80% better outside wearing masks but when people are with friends and families they are not as careful. Bars and restaurants are not very good as we are finding people are visiting bars and not practicing social distancing or requiring masks.

The significant thing we need to discuss today is schools. We have our weekly meeting with the schools today. We have not seen much spread from student to student inside schools. The number isolated currently is 28 students and 13 staff. The concern is from yesterday until this morning we have 51 more cases of students to be followed-up on. That is truly a concern and is a much higher number than we have seen on a daily basis. We see the community issues now affecting our schools. We are not at the point of recommending going virtual yet. Eric will suggest if this gets

worse and we continue going down this path of increase within the community. We definitely may need a recommendation but possibly a directive as we approach November with the potential of flu numbers increasing. Will talk to the superintendents today about more direction from the Board and the possibility of a recommendation/directive. The governor was asked what we are going to do in regards to directives for the schools. We are constantly looking at the schools to ensure their quarantine and isolation issues are taken care of effectively and efficiently. The concern we keep coming back to is that it is not really the schools but is truly recreational sports that we are having concerns with and what is influencing and affecting how the schools are quarantining and isolating. We still have parents who send the children to school when they are ill. We still have the issue, because it is sports and sports are so important to them, they went out and played their sports and were positive. We are dealing with parents not fully realizing the gravity of the situation when you send your child to school you could be affecting an entire class.

Dave stated one of the bigger issues we are seeing are the travel leagues. You have children from multiple schools on a team and they go back to their schools and we have those schools quarantined. There is one hockey team that has students from 5 or 6 schools and trying to figure out who they came in contact with on the teams. It is a lot of work. All of the sanitarians are working on COVID issues, tracing, and schools.

Dr. Ross asked about the multi-school teams that are independent of the schools but that have an impact on the schools. This would need a Commissioners directive to shut these sports leagues down. Do we have the power to do that? These are not inner-scholastic but inter-team competition within a different framework. Are we aware if other health commissioners are having issues with these type of things? Eric stated that other counties are experiencing the same things with travel teams and the schools, it is common throughout the state.

Dr. Ross asked if this should go back to the Governor or if we have the ability to shut these down in another way? Kevin stated that the Board does have the ability to shut down schools but these are outside the school system.

Richard Fernandez, DPR asked if we are considering how we control community spread as we look at up-ticks in the schools. As example, if restaurants are places of increased spread because of unmasking and large amounts of people indoors, would toggling the amount of restaurant activity decrease the amount of community spread and allow our students to do what we know is important to them with social interaction face to face? Verses we see student uptick and we have to shut down schools and sports. This is what our community doesn't want to hear even when it is necessary.

Eric stated when we look at what's influencing spread inside the community, it is the mass gatherings causing concern. It is the personal responsibility of everyone adhere to good, sound judgement when you go to a backyard barbeque, wedding or party. When you look at the priority of bars and restaurants with sporting events. There was a wrestling event that wanted to come into the county that would include people from 11 states. We didn't shut them down but talked to them and discussed issues. They decided to cancel the event.

Relative to the bars and restaurants, we have a mechanism in place where we contact Columbus when we know that we have an issue. There are three or four bars right now that are going to be discussed at the state level and hopefully some action will be taken this weekend. They are not adhering to good practices with COVID-19.

We have a complaint reporting line for anyone to call and report issues including social distancing and proper mask use, etc. We also have the availability of the State Liquor control for looking into complaints about bars and restaurants. We are looking at how to use these to our advantage, not to shame anyone but to help educate and get the facilities to understand the importance of following the guidelines. In talking with community member, they would like to see a list of those not adhering to good practices. We are working on developing a process to provide this information.

With the upcoming holidays, family and social gatherings, Shannon Lands is working on a video to provide information to the public. As we see cases rising here in NW Ohio and across the country community education can resonate far and wide. Working with Thread Marketing to create a holiday video specifically letting people know not to be acting foolishly over the holidays. If you want to celebrate with your elderly loved ones next year and beyond you need to be cognitive of your actions. The importance of getting tested if you are symptomatic, staying away and not out going in public. This is the same message we have been talking about since March by letting people know there are consequences to their actions. People may think it is fun now to be out in the bars and party and not wearing masks, but they need to make responsible decisions. This will be an emotional video and want to make sure it hits home and want people to know that their decisions now will affect the future of your family and other people. This will be started after the election so it won't get lost in all the other messages out there. Dr. Ross asked if the CDC has published any holiday guidance. Shannon stated that there is some guidance available and ODH will be working on Holidays Guidance as they did for Halloween.

There will be a pop-up testing at the University of Toledo on November 19 & 20 prior to the holiday. The first three hours will be for UT staff, students and families. There will be other options for testing throughout the county from pharmacies, etc. We are trying to set up another pop-up before that time

We review plans for sporting events, craft shows and other events. There is a base minimum for them to reach to be able to have them.

In regards to testing, Eric is completing a survey for the Association of Health Commissioners which is trying for a buying power group for different types of testing devices such as the Abbot ID, PCR Antigen, and antibody. We need to have the ability to be mobile and get immediate testing in areas of the community that have hotspots.

Don Murry brought up the issue of travel leagues going into the local schools for their competitions. This gives us the possibility of a conversation about the use of school facilities for events such as volleyball, basketball and football. We may have the ability to address this because of using a facility that is school related. The venue might be the way to regulate this if necessary. The buses being used to transport the students to these venues are transporting many people. This is a not social distancing which is critical in how to possibly prevent the spread of the virus.

Dr. Fernandez had a question on limitations we may have when calling a special meeting and the in regards to our bylaws. He will forward the section of the bylaws where this is addressed for further discussion.

Public Health in the News – Dr. Ross

- Dr. Ross will be sending various articles and information he has concerning vaccines and antivirals in an email to board members.
- There was discussion about publishing a listing of those facilities not taking mask and social distancing seriously. This can be put on our website where they media can access the information much like we do with the restaurant reports.
- Eric reported that Lucas County is still at Level Red. We are at 117 per 100,000 citizens in the county
- District Advisory Council will meet on November 18, 2020. The original meeting was scheduled on March 11th but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Items to be discussed:
 - The resolution for the Health Commissioner to have the ability to curtail events as needed. Whenever this is done the Executive Committee will be notified.
 - We will be asking for an additional percentage of 3 or 4.

(Resolution 2020.10.170) A motion was made by Donald Murray and seconded by Dr. Woodson, to adjourn. Motion carried, 9 Yeas, 0 Nays at 10:21 AM.

Signed By:



Johnathon Ross, MD, President 11/30/2020
Lucas County Regional Health District Board **Date**

Attested By:



Eric J. Zgodzinski, DrPH, MPH, RS, CPH 11/30/2020
Secretary to the Board of Health **Date**