

LUCAS COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
Board of Health Meeting
Zoom Virtual Meeting
December 17, 2020 – 8:30 AM.

I. Amr Elaskary was sworn in as a Board of Health member from the City of Toledo.

II. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Dr. Johnathon Ross, President, called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

A roll call was taken of Board Members for attendance:

Present: Fritz Byers, Amr Elaskary, Richard Fernandez, DPT, Matthew Heyrman, Ted Kaczorowski, Richard Munk, MD, Donald Murray, Susan Postal, Johnathon Ross, MD, Barbara Sarantou, Michelle Schultz, Donna Woodson, MD

III. **Introduction of Guests**

Union Representatives: Nancy Benedetto (ONA), Nate Fries (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

IV. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

No changes to the agenda

V. **Approval of Board Minutes from November 19, 2020, November 25, 2020, December 3, 2020, and December 8, 2020**

(Resolution 2020.12.199) A motion was made by Dr. Munk and seconded by Dr. Woodson to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2020, Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried, 12 yeas, 0 nays.

(Resolution 2020.12.200) A motion was made by Dr. Munk and seconded by Sue Postal to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2020, Special Board meeting minutes. Motion carried, 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 2020.12.201) A motion was made by Dr. Munk and seconded by Dr. Fernandez to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020, Special Board meeting minutes. Motion carried, 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 2020.12.202) A motion was made by Dr. Munk and seconded by Dr. Fernandez to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2020, Special Board meeting minutes. Motion carried, 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

VI. **Legal Update**

Kevin Pituch stated that his report would be given during the Executive Session regarding pending litigation.

VII. Executive Session

(Resolution 2020.12.203) A motion was made by Dr. Munk and seconded by Susan Postal to enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of pending litigation at 8:48 AM. Motion carries. 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 2020.12.204) A motion was made by Dr. Munk and seconded by Susan Postal to return to the regular session at 9:38. Motion carries. 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Dr. Ross stated that there were no decisions made during the Executive Session that will require a vote.

VIII. Medical Director Report – Dr. Daniel Cadigan

Dr. Cadigan reported COVID has been the main focus.

- Dr. Cadigan has been working with a group of physicians to promote the vaccinations now that the COVID vaccine is here in the community and has been encouraging vaccines for the public.
- Dr. Cadigan is continuing to work on clinic flow and efficiency within the reproductive health clinic.
- With cold weather starting and increased risk for medical issues for those that are homeless, Dr. Cadigan strongly encourages those able to help to assist where they can. This will undoubtedly increase the number of people crowding the emergency rooms and hospitals with COVID-19 numbers.

Dr. Ross added as the board is aware that the eviction moratorium will expire at the end of the month. We should communicate with levels of the government that might be able to do something about evictions and our concern of the increase in homelessness at the absolute worst time. Dr. Ross entertained the idea for a motion or resolution from the BOH to communicate our concerns about evictions leading to increased homelessness in Lucas County and therefore increasing our risks of COVID and further deterioration in the health of the community.

Dr. Fernandez offered a prepared resolution to bring forward for a vote and present to our Health Commissioner. "Lucas County Regional Health District (LCRHD) has concerns for the health of Lucas County residents due to the tremendous risk of homelessness at this time and during this pandemic. The LCRHD directs the Health Commissioner to communicate with the city, state, and federal agencies urging them to extend the moratorium on evictions. We urge all agencies to take all appropriate and legal remedies."

(Resolution 2020.12.205) A motion was made by Dr. Fernandez and seconded by Dr. Munk to approve the above resolution to extend the moratorium on evictions as written above. Roll call vote was taken. Motion carried. 12 yeas, 0 nays.

IX. Committee Reports

A) Audit/Finance Report

The Audit/Finance Committee met virtually on Monday, December 15, 2020. Ted Kaczorowski stated that there was nothing out of the ordinary to report in regards to the November 2020 vouchers.

Discussion:

Dr. Woodson asked if Items 33 & 34, totaling \$22,600.00 for the Healthy Start Program from the University of Toledo, are one-time expenses for training modules. Eric stated that this is a grant purchase for partners from Pathways, Hospital Council, and TLCHD staff in the Healthy Start Program at \$425 per person. This training is conducted every 2 years to meet the Healthy Start grant's terms and is used within the State of Ohio. The training is from the Florida State University training program.

Item 38 – Temeaka Gram - Contract services for Medicaid Infant Mortality of \$24,010. This is the annual amount she was paid quarterly, but she had a name change and had to reregister in the system to correct her information. That is why there was a delay in paying her quarterly, so this is the full year's contract.

(Resolution 2020.12.206) A motion was made by Dr. Munk and seconded by Matt Heyrman to approve the November 2020 vouchers for payment. Motion carried, 12 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 November 2020 in the ordinary course of business. The total transfer is \$24,530.00 consisting of changes in various expense categories.

(Resolution 2020.12.207) A motion was made by Dr. Woodson and seconded by Dr. Fernandez to approve the Transfer of Appropriations for November 2020 in the amount of \$24,530.00. Motion carried, 12 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 November 2020 in the amount of \$1,414,604.59 for Revenue Estimates and Expense Appropriations.

(Resolution 2020.12.208) A motion was made by Dr. Woodson and seconded by Dr. Munk to approve the Revenue Estimates and Expense Appropriations of \$1,414,604.59 for the month of November, 2020. Motion carried, 12 Yeas, 0 nays.

Ted Kaczorowski reported that the Auditors completed the Audit of 2019. There were no major issues that needed to be addressed. There were only a few minor points needing attention. One significant concern arose with an organization we were using for data that let us down and provided the state some incorrect information. We went back and corrected the data. This is the last year we are using the services of this particular organization. Overall, we came through the audit in good shape and can move forward now. All board members received the audit report.

Eric Zgodzinski reported that there was a discussion regarding COVID and how things are moving fast now. We are looking at a software package that we may have to buy and has a large price tag. We will be getting more information on that software and discuss it with Audit/Finance shortly. This system will interface our immunization processes with the State of Ohio database.

(Resolution 2020.12.209) A motion was made by Dr. Munk and seconded by Dr. Woodson to approve the Audit/Finance Committee report as presented. Motion carried, 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

B) Personnel Report – Michelle Schultz

The Personnel Committee met on Monday, November 16, 2020, and provided a report to the Board of Health. The following require Board action:

1. The Personnel Commitment recommends a change in appointment status for the emergency hire of Christopher Etzinger to the unclassified intermittent temporary position of Contact Tracer in the non-bargaining unit service at the rate of pay of \$18.00 per hour through December 30, 2020.

(Resolution 2020.12.210) A motion was made by Dr. Munk and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to approve the change in appointment status for the emergency hire of Christopher Etzinger to the full-time, temporary position of Contact Tracers. Motion carried, 12 Yeas, 0 nays.

2. The Personnel Committee recommends the appointment of Chantal Jindani to the classified full-time, permanent position of Community Health Worker in the non-bargaining unit service, at the rate of pay of \$13.83 per hour.

(Resolution 2020.12.211) A motion was made by Dr. Munk and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to hire Chantal Jindani to the position of Community Health Worker as outlined above. Motion carried, 12 Yeas, 0 nays.

3. The Personnel Committee recommends Lisa Gilbert's appointment to the classified full-time permanent position of Public Health Nurse in Reproductive Health in the ONA (Ohio Nurses Association) bargaining unit, at the rate of pay of \$23.78 per hour.

(Resolution 2020.12.212) A motion was made by Dr. Munk and seconded by Dr. Fernandez to approve the hiring of Lisa Gilbert for the full-time position of Public Health Nurse in the Reproductive Health Clinic. Motion carried, 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

4. The Personnel Committee discussed and recommended the approval of a new position and position description for Community Health Worker in the Harms Reduction program. The Community Health Worker is a classified, non-bargaining unit position, compensated at salary grade EE11 on the non-bargaining unit pay scale.

(Resolution 2020.123.213) A motion was made by Dr. Munk and seconded by Barbara Sarantou to approve the position description of the Community Health Worker for the Harm Reduction Program. Motion carried, 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 2020.12.214) A motion was made by Dr. Fernandez and seconded by Dr. Munk to approve the Personnel Committee Report. Motion carried, 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.

C) Environmental Health Committee – Donald Murray

The Committee met on Wednesday, December 9, 2020

1. The property owners requested a request for a variance at 14160 Harrison Road in Providence Township to waive the requirement to abandon the point well. The point well went dry, and a new deep well was drilled. The dry point well is buried and unable to be located.

(Resolution 2020.12.215) A motion was made by Matt Heyrman and seconded by Dr. Woodson to approve the variance for the abandonment of the old point well. Motion carried. 12 Yeas, 0 Nays

2. BP/Huskey Lead Abatement Funding update. A Memorandum of Understanding is being developed with the City of Toledo for the administration of the lead abatement program with BP/Huskey settlement funds.

(Resolution 2020.12.216) A motion was made by Dr. Munk and seconded by Barbara Sarantou to approve the Environmental Health Report. Motion carried. 12 Yeas, 0 Nays

X. New Business/Points for Consideration

Don Murray stated that the Annual Election of Officers would be held at the January 28, 2020 Board of Health Meeting. Please submit any names for the positions of President and Vice President for the ballot to Don Murray, Michelle Schultz, Ted Kaczorowski, Dr. Ross, or Eric Zgodzinski prior to that meeting. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at that meeting.

Don Murray left the meeting.

XI. Prior Business

A. COVID Update

Eric stated he would give a COVID update but first wants to talk about our health. COVID has spiraled us out of control in so many different ways. In our business, in our family lives, with our health. We have seen commercials developed by ODH and other agencies about seeing your doctor. It is so important. I know we are scared to go into a doctor's office because of COVID. Early on with COVID, we had a concern because doctors' offices were locked down. Most of them are back in operation and are taking protocols and procedures to get in to see them, so please see your doctor.

My wife was diagnosed with breast cancer last Friday. At the start of the year, she was supposed to get her mammogram. We had to hold off. She was going to hold off again, but we said, "Let's get it done." If she had held off any longer, we could have had some real concerns with her diagnosis. Again, I urge everyone to go out and get their screens done. If you are having heart pain, the other issue is not to sit on your couch because you don't want to go to the ER because of COVID. Get help, seek help, and get medical attention. Get your medical taken care of-do, do not wait. It is not worth it in the long run. I know first-hand, and again, when you come up with a diagnosis you could have had months ago, you continue to compound that concern and cause stress in your life. Get it done and seek medical help when you need it – do not wait! Pay attention to the commercials and pay attention to your body.

We might have some good news with numbers, though. At the beginning of the week, we were about 945 per 100,000. Today we are at 812. Our daily numbers are seeing a downtick. We are still too high, but it is something to consider where our numbers are going. We will be able to tell more over the weekend about how our numbers are trending. We are holding steady at about 280 cases per day over the last 2 or 3 days. Let's hope we see a downward trend. On the issue of going red or purple: We will probably stay red today when the Governor announces later this afternoon. How are we faring in the state overall? There is good news from the hospitals in the sense of the issue with nurses and doctors getting COVID and having to be at home- we are stabilizing there. We still see the utilization of our hospital system.

The other thing to talk about is testing. We still need testing in our community. The big-box stores are still testing. We are holding another pop up testing next week. With the holidays coming, we are offering testing. This gives people an idea of how they will be over the Christmas holiday. This will be on Monday at the Lucas County Fair Grounds from 10 AM – 2 PM. MAKO (the testing lab) had been getting the test results back within 4 to 5 days. This last time they were getting results back to us in 24+ hours. We should not be going outside of our immediate bubble at Christmas time.

B. Motion to extend the Stay at Home Advisory to January 3, 2021

Eric asked if the board would approve a motion to extend the current Stay at Home Advisory to January 3, 2021. This will help to keep people safe through the holiday season.

Matthew Heyrman asked Eric to explain why he selected the January 3, 2021. Eric stated that it is after the holiday, and the Governor is looking at his curfew to be extended until January 3. Other health departments have decided on the same date for their advisories. This lines us up with the state's dates.

(Resolution 2020.12.217) A motion was made by Amr Elaskary and seconded by Dr. Munk to extend the Stay at Home Advisory to January 3, 2021. Motion carried. 1 Yeas, 0 Nays

C. COVID Mass Vaccination Update

Eric reported this is a moving target on a consistent basis. We are looking to get more vaccines in. We did get the vaccine at Mercy Hospital. We can't say enough about Matt Sapara and Mercy with their commitment to the community in taking on the first delivery of vaccine from Pfizer. That vaccine is harder to handle because of the storage at very low temperatures. They have already started vaccinating their priority groups in the hospital. As we get more vaccines in, they will continue to vaccinate as directed by the Ohio Department of Health.

At TLCHD, we should be receiving the vaccine next week, possibly on the 22nd. We are thinking over 2000 doses by January 1 in our possession. There are priority groups set for by the Federal Government and the Ohio Department of Health, which give us a good framework and development for our priority groups. These groups may change from the original list. We will be able to hammer out the priority groups over the weekend. The limiting factor is doses next week. The problem right now is that supply is a trickle. The firehose will probably start in January/February, and the dam will break after that to get more vaccine into the community. We will be doing mass vaccination clinics as we did with H1N1.

There are a lot of partners here. A large group of community partners have been meeting over the last two weeks; about 150 were present on the zoom call. This is really getting down in the weeds with different organizations. Shawn Savage has helped spearhead and move this group to do better things in the community for mass vaccination. Getting information down into the community, making sure it is good and factual to get as much as possible. This group is going to be able to do that. This will be a logistics nightmare. We did this during H1N1, and I am proud of what the department did. We want to be effective, efficient and get the vaccine into people as fast and safely as possible with the least amount of stress to the system. There is one individual from this group who will be helping with logistics. This is a great public/private type of partnership and will include marketing. More information about this group will be forthcoming. We are excited about this.

The one thing we are not excited about is not having the vaccine. That is the limiting factor. Hopefully, we will develop a game plan for the first couple of weeks that do get vaccines into people's arms. The other aspect of dealing with are the stories out there about how bad the vaccine is. The vaccine has gone through a rigorous process to be studied. We have reached the aspect of scientific and research rigor that makes me very comfortable getting it. Like any vaccine, there will be certain aspects that happen, but they are minimal, minute. Everything we do relative to drugs, there are things that happen that are out of the ordinary. We need to make sure it is very factual when we give the information.

This group we have that has been doing contact tracing for months has done a marvelous job. They are burnt out. We have done thousands of calls to those who are infected with COVID and those who are contacts. Be assured that they are up for this task of mass vaccination. They are eager to do something that is different from contact tracing. As we shift contact tracing to mass vaccination and have a plan in place for our contact tracers. We are working with ODH and other entities to be sure the contact tracing we need to do will be taken care of.

X. Public Health in the News – Dr. Ross

Dr. Ross stated the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has independent reviewers, not just people who are connected to the drug companies, who have looked at the data. That is why we saw the Pfizer vaccine initially approved. Probably the Moderna Vaccine will be approved next week. There are several other vaccines by other companies which will come aboard in the next one to two months. The availability of the vaccine will increase. So far, the safety and effectiveness in the studies that have been done seem to be pretty good. Some people are having symptoms much like with the flu shot of feeling crummy following the shot. The vast majority of the people feel ok. We don't know under the age of 17 whether this vaccine will be effective or well tolerated. We will not be immediately safe once the vaccine is given. It takes 2 shots for some of these vaccines, which means you are at least 5 weeks from the first shot where you might be considered relatively safe. There have been some who have received the vaccine then went on to get COVID but their symptoms were remarkably reduced. We see that also with the flu vaccine. There have been a couple of severe reactions that seem to be in people who have already have severe reactions. In our planning, we will have the appropriate personnel and emergency response available if some were to have an emergency with regards to the vaccine. There are a lot of logistics going into this. Making sure we document a person has received the vaccine and having a way to contact them for the second vaccine. It is going to be several months that we will be engaged with this at the least. In the meantime, we have to do the things that are going to protect the health of each of us. Washing your hands, wearing a mask, staying out of crowded areas, reducing the size of gatherings, plan off to the future for events and social distance as best you can. The more we do, the easier it will be for us to relax any restrictions put on our community. We will be seeing COVID in the future. Some will not get vaccinated, so the chance of them getting COVID will be there.


Both the flu and COVID start the same way. Body aches, headaches, fever, feeling crummy and a cough. If you don't get your flu shot, it is going to be really confusing to the doctors. Please get your influenza vaccine. It will make it easier for the medical personnel to sort through when you get sick. The flu vaccine is very safe and effective.

Dr. Woodson invited members to a Town Hall Meeting tonight that is put on by the University of Toledo announced by the Dean of the Medical School. This is about COVID facts and myths. They will have clinicians. Dr. Joan Duggan will be a main speaker whom we have worked with for many years with public health issues. There will be virus specialists from the main campus. It begins at 5:30

PM. There is no fee, but you need to register online. This will be emailed to the board members if they are interested in attending.

(Resolution 2020.12.218) A motion was made by Dr. Woodson and seconded by Amr Elaskary, to adjourn. Motion carried, 12 Yeas, 0 Nays

Signed By:



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

2/18/2021
Date

Attested By:



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

2/18/2021
Date