

LUCAS COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
Board of Health Meeting
Toledo Lucas County Main Library
February 22, 2024
Meeting Minutes

I. [Call to Order and Roll Call](#)

Dr. Johnathon Ross, President, called the meeting to order at 8:50 AM. A Roll Call was taken of Board Members for attendance:

Present: Cheryl Crowder, Amr Elaskary, Sonia Flunder-McNair, Ted Kaczorowski, David Karmol, Paul Komisarek, Susan Postal, Dr. Johnathon Ross, Barbara Sarantou, Dr. Donna Woodson

Exused: Dr. Richard Munk, Matthew Sapara

II. [Introduction of Guests](#)

Staff and Others: Shannon M. Jones, David Welch, Angie Bauman, Kendra Kec, Brandon Palinski, Tina Stokes, Wendy Davis, Scott Francis, Jennifer Gottschalk, Heather Burnette, Ashley DuShane, Mahjida Berryman, Natalie Haase, Kevin A. Pituch (LC Prosecutor), Cathy Nearhood (ONA), Gillian Wilke (AFSCME), Mahogany Oldham (Medical Student), Alex Hasselbach (UTCOMLS)

III. [Additions/Deletions to Agenda](#)

Dr. Johnathon Ross proposed adopting a “consent agenda” as a condensed way to vote for motions. Kevin Pituch advised there is nothing to prevent the board from enacting a consent agenda. If implemented, board members may ask detailed questions for clarification on any item on the agenda. Dr. Ross believes this will save time, dedicate more time to public health, and help the board members to be better ambassadors. Paul Komisarek will send Dr. Ross examples of consent agendas.

IV. [Special Personnel Committee Report – Barbara Sarantou](#)

The Special Personnel Committee met on Friday, February 2, 2024. The following items require Board of Health action:

(Resolution 044-24) A motion was made by Ted Kaczorowski and seconded by Susan Postal to Approve the Special Personnel Committee Report from Friday, February 2, 2024 as presented. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

The Special Personnel Committee met on Saturday, February 3, 2024. The following items require Board of Health action:

(Resolution 045-24) A motion was made by Susan Postal and seconded by Amr Elaskary to Approve the Special Personnel Committee Report from Saturday, February 3, 2024 as presented. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

V. Approval of Board of Health Meeting Minutes

(Resolution 046-24) A motion was made by David Karmol and seconded by Sonia Flunder-McNair to Approve the minutes of the Thursday, January 25, 2024 Regular Board of Health Meeting as presented. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 047-24) A motion was made by Ted Kaczorowski and seconded by Barbara Sarantou to Approve the minutes of the Wednesday, February 7, 2024 Special Board of Health Meeting as presented. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 048-24) A motion was made by Dr. Woodson and seconded by Susan Postal to Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, February 13, 2024 Special Board of Health Meeting as presented. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

VI. Legal Update – Kevin Pituch

Four years ago during the pandemic, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) issued certain Public Health orders (in March and May of 2020) ordering nonessential businesses to be closed for a time (about two months) and then to be re-opened only if they complied with certain operational restrictions. In March 2021, a number of nonessential businesses (dance studios) sued a number of governmental entities, including the then TLCHD Health Commissioner Eric Zgodzinski, alleging that these entities and officials violated their constitutional rights with the ODH orders. Because the ODH orders were not unconstitutional, TLCHD counsel Kevin Pituch filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit; that motion was granted in 2021 and affirmed on appeal in 2022. Because the lawsuit was a frivolous lawsuit (it had no arguable merit), TLCHD counsel Kevin Pituch filed a motion for sanctions seeking to punish the attorneys who filed it. In January 2024, the judge issued an order which granted the motion for sanctions--the penalty to be paid by the attorneys is left to future litigation in the case--which will take place over the rest of this year.

VII. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

VIII. Medical Director’s Report – Megan Lutz, MD

On behalf of Dr. Lutz, Angie Bauman reported academic public health projects are organized and operationally where they need to be. Last week, more time was devoted to general housekeeping – ensuring Standards of Procedures are in compliance along with addressing issues that may arise during the day.

Dr. Ross stated PathLabs are excellent and reliable but wants to make sure the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department is a good steward of the money spent on outside lab work. Angie stated rates incurred align with Medicare prices and pointed out a benefit of renewing our contract with them as they’re locally based. This helps to ensure quality assurance with technical assistance, making sure we are up-to-date and compliant with licensure. Dr. Ross indicated we might have community partners who may provide these services as charity to the health department and requested this to be evaluated by staff.

IX. Board of Health Continuing Education

Natalie Haase, TLCHD Traffic Safety Health Educator, presented how she educates and facilitates increased traffic safety awareness to the community.

Natalie Haase was awarded the 2023 Leadership Award for "Partners for Safety" from the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

X. Committee Reports

A. Succession Planning – Dr. Richard Munk
Committee did not meet in February.

B. Personnel Committee – Barbara Sarantou
Committee did not meet in February.

C. Audit and Finance Committee – Amr Elaskary

The Audit/Finance Committee met on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. The following items require Board of Health action:

(Resolution 049-24) A motion was made by Barbara Sarantou and seconded by Dr. Woodson to Approve the payment of the January 2024 Vouchers. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 050-24) A motion was made by Barbara Sarantou and seconded by Susan Postal to Approve the Changes in Revenue Estimates of \$368,169.00 and Expense Appropriations of \$647,820.72 for January 2024. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Barbara Sarantou asked why the expenses are higher than the revenues. Tina Stokes explained that Lucas County's accounting system, Oracle, is an administration holding account. For example, an employee may be paid through different accounts. When insurance is initially charged, it goes on the administration account. Once the budget opens, she has to adjust at the beginning of the year which department an employee's insurance should be charged to, and it all balances out in the end.

o Grants

(Resolution 051-24) A motion was made by David Karmol and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to Apply for and Accept, if awarded \$52,500, continuation grant for Local Office of Minority Health. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 052-24) A motion was made by Dr. Woodson and seconded by Sonia Flunder-McNair to Apply for and Accept, if awarded up to \$30,000, new grant for Lead Program Support Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

(Resolution 053-24) A motion was made Ted Kaczorowski and seconded by Susan Postal to Apply for and Accept, if awarded \$132,731, continuation grant for Get Vaccinated Ohio-Public Health Initiative. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

o Contracts

- (Resolution 054-24)** A motion was made by Dr. Woodson and seconded by Susan Postal to Enter into renewal Agreement with PathLabs for \$16,000 to provide outpatient laboratory services for clinics. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.
- (Resolution 055-24)** A motion was made by David Karmol and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to Enter into renewal Agreement with PathLabs for \$5,000 to provide consultation and technical assistance to LCRHD lab personnel. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.
- (Resolution 056-24)** A motion was made by Dr. Woodson and seconded by Susan Postal to Enter into renewal Agreement with Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County for \$200,000 to support 1.5 FTE and supplies and maintenance to expand the NOSS mobile unit. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.
- (Resolution 057-24)** A motion was made by Barbara Sarantou and seconded by Sonia Flunder-McNair to Enter into Agreement with the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio to share deidentified data for Public Health Resources Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.
- (Resolution 058-24)** A motion was made by Sonia Susan Postal and seconded by David Karmol to Approve the 2025 Proposed Budget and Estimated Resources. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.
- (Resolution 059-24)** A motion was made by Ted Kaczorowski and seconded by Barbara Sarantou to Approve the Minority Health Agreement through the Ohio Commission of Minority Health. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.
- (Resolution 060-24)** A motion was made by David Karmol and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to Approve the Health Commissioner to apply for, accept, and enter into an agreement for CDBG funding through the City of Toledo Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.
- (Resolution 061-24)** A motion was made by Barbara Sarantou and seconded by Susan Postal to Approve the Health Commissioner to apply for, accept, and enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Agreement for the repair and replacement of HSTS. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.
- (Resolution 062-24)** A motion was made by Ted Kaczorowski and seconded by Dr. Woodson to Approve the Health Commissioner to approve all contracts and expenditures for 2024 HSTS. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.
- (Resolution 063-24)** A motion was made by Barbara Sarantou and seconded by Susan Postal to Approve the Write-Off of Uncollectable Amounts that are for dates of services at least 180 days or older. Total amount is \$2,051.32 for the month of January. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.
- (Resolution 064-24)** A motion was made by Dr. Munk and seconded by Dr. Woodson to Approve the Audit/Finance Committee Report. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

D. [Environmental Health Committee – David Karmol](#)
Committee did not meet in February.

E. [Strategic Planning Committee – Dr. Donna Woodson](#)
The Strategic Planning Committee met on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. The following items require Board of Health action:

(Resolution 065-24) A motion was made by Barbara Sarantou and seconded by Ted Kaczorowski to Approve the Strategic Planning Committee Report. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

F. [Bylaws and Governance Committee – Ted Kaczorowski](#)
Committee did not meet in February.

G. [Health Services Committee – Dr. Johnathon Ross](#)
Committee did not meet in February.

H. [Facilities and Fleet Committee – David Karmol](#)
Committee did not meet in February.

XI. [Prior Business](#)

The City of Toledo did conduct a feasibility study through Veritas, and we are waiting for the final report. Shannon M. Jones will share the findings with the board as soon as she receives the results.

Governmental relations is a high priority for board members. They would like to accompany TLCHD staff when in jurisdictions to discuss what TLCHD can do to improve community health.

XII. [New Business/Points for Consideration](#)

The 2023 Staff Satisfaction Survey is being wrapped up with a 67.8 percent completion rate. This is required for PHAB accreditation and continuous quality improvement in order to gauge where we are with staff satisfaction. Results will be shared with the board and staff in a report form.

XIII. [Interim Health Commissioner Comments – Shannon M. Jones](#)

The Annual Report will be unveiled at the Annual District Advisory Council Meeting. It will be data dense but aesthetically pleasing. This will be a useful tool for us to tell our story when out in the community.

News interviews:

- Safe Sleep - infant mortality rates are not trending well.
- Solar Eclipse - requirements from the health department's standpoint.

There will be upcoming all-staff trainings for compliance such as ethics, code of conduct, etc.

XIV. [Public Health in the News – Dr. Johnathon Ross](#)

Measles: There have been several measles cases reported. Measles is one of the most infectious viruses. It has a very high transmission rate; for every case of measles, it will be spread to 22-28 individuals. Communication strategies for advertising need to be addressed, because vaccinating is a major barrier in the community.

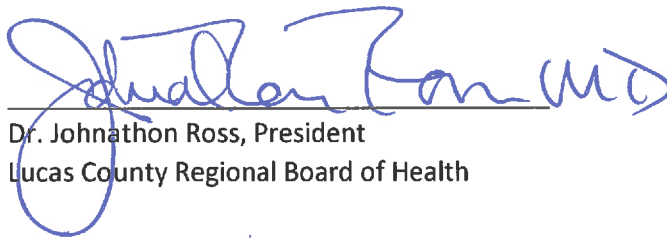
Influenza: We are experiencing elevated flu cases in the area. A press release went out yesterday, and a new interview will occur after this meeting. Please wash your hands, wear a mask if you are vulnerable, get your flu vaccine, and stay home if you are sick.

COVID: The latest variant is the most infectious yet, and the current vaccination is active against the new variant.

If you are interested in public news, Dan Rutt, a prior TLCHD Dietitian, has a weekly radio show on WAKT 106.1 FM Toledo, "Just for the Health of It" to update and explore public health social factors, local issues, community resources, etc.

(Resolution 066-24) A motion was made by Dr. Woodson and seconded by Amr Elaskary to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 AM. Motion carried; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Signed By:



Dr. Johnathon Ross, President
Lucas County Regional Board of Health



Shannon M. Jones, MBA, MPH
Secretary to the Board of Health

Date: 3/28/2024

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