

## Licking County Health Department

675 Price Road • Newark, Ohio 43055  
Business: (740) 349-6535 • Fax: (740) 349-6510  
[www.LickingCoHealth.org](http://www.LickingCoHealth.org)

### Board of Health

### Minutes

July 21, 2020

**Call to Order** – The July 21, 2020, board meeting was held with in-person attendance as well as the option to attend virtually. President Neisha Grubaugh called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Members in attendance were: Dr. Scarpitti, Mrs. Mary Billy, Mr. John Wetmore, Mrs. Neisha Grubaugh, Mr. Larry Friesel, Mrs. Carole Wachtel, Dr. Chicky Dyer, and Mr. Gary Wood via virtual attendance.

**Adoption of the Agenda** – Dr. Scarpitti made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Second by Mr. Larry Friesel, motion approved.

**Approval of Minutes** – Dr. Scarpitti made a motion to approve the June 16, 2020, meeting minutes. Second by, Mrs. Carole Wachtel, motion approved.

#### **Public Comment:**

Patricia Perry of Newark, Ohio addressed the board.  
Barb Lechner of Granville, Ohio addressed the board.

**Hearings and Variances** – A variance request was presented to the Board for the address of 217 Sims Road, Pataskala 43062. The request is to allow for an alternative septic system to be installed due to a lack of 6' situ soil required. The Sanitarian recommends the variance request conditionally upon the system being serviced annually by a qualified service provider that is registered with LCHD for the life of the system

A motion to approve the variance request at 217 Sims Road was made by Dr. Scarpitti. Second by Mr. Gary Wood, motion approved.

**Featured Program** – Adam Masters, Epidemiologist of Licking County Health Department provided an update on LCHD's Epidemiology Report for Covid-19. The report is published on the LCHD website and social media platforms each Friday. This presentation provided Adam with the opportunity to explain the data contained in the report to the board, outlined zip code and village level data, including but not limited to active and probable cases.

**Community and Personal Health Report** – Kari Kennedy provided a written report to the Board. Kari provided an update to the Licking County Jail's protocol for isolating new inmates prior to integrating them with the existing jail population and have followed something similar with the employees amid the pandemic. Kari spoke about some concerns ongoing in the religious community with positive Covid-19 cases, as some of these populations have been resistant to share information with tracers as well as some individuals stating that they have already contacted their close contacts individually paired with reluctance to provide information to us. Dr. Scarpitti inquired about changes





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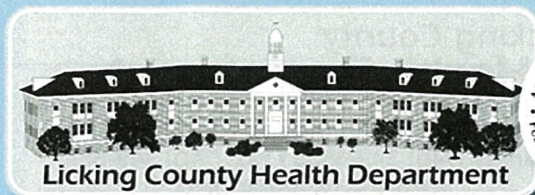
and attendance with the immunization clinics and we internally believe that some of those normal, seasonal increases may not be seen until the back to school guidance is solidified. Dr. Scarpitti asked about conducting some type of drive-thru clinic to provide immunizations, which could work, so long as we have a good grasp on what immunizations patients need. TB testing has ramped back up with students starting to consider the start back to college. Kari spoke about the cases of Legionella in the county but advised that we could not tie the results to any specific trend of incident. LCHD is currently partnering with Knox County Health department to provide Covid testing via a drive-up clinic here at LCHD. The number of kits available to Knox is decreasing, and we will ultimately see a decrease in the testing that we are able to provide. If Knox is unable to obtain additional kits, our testing operations may cease. Mr. Gary Wood asked Kari about some of the local churches in St. Louisville and advised her that a local minister had passed away, if she had been experiencing any difficulty with that location.

**Environmental Report and Health and Preparedness Report** – A written report was provided to the board. Chad advised that Food and Pool facility inspections are ongoing. Most of the EH staff has jumped in to help with Covid related activities as well and are working to find the balance of each. Chad did make the board aware that the Food fund may have some budget shortages due to a lack of temporary permits due to festivals and events being cancelled, and the routine renewals have already been received. In addition, Pools and Campgrounds will see a large dip as well, which is largely in part to a lack of events at Legend Valley, while the state did not require pools that did not open to pay their licensing fee. Mr. Jon Wetmore asked Chad for the school checklist and information for reopening, which is posted on the LCHD website.

**Maternal and Child Health Report** - Todd Kirkpatrick provided a written report to the Board. Todd explained that he has been fortunate as most of the activities his division conducts are still taking place, while some are still able to be productive with clients on a virtual basis. Dr. Scarpitti asked about the farmers markets, and the consensus is that we have heard nothing but positive feedback for the local markets and their ability to carry out business on a somewhat normal operating schedule.

**Health Promotion Report** - Ashley See provided a written report to the Board. Ashley advised that Health Educator, Casey Pitcock had recently visited Trinity Church for Naloxone distribution and disbursed 20 kits, and the events seem to be more successful on the weekends versus disbursement through the week. Dr. Dyer advised that she was interested in helping with these events. Dr. Scarpitti asked for an update on the Overdose Mapping. Ashley advised that Chad Brown and health educators, Ashleigh Thornton and Casey Pitcock were able to get this rolling with Monroe Township, West Licking Fire, and the Licking County Sheriff's office. The mapping program, nationally provided, will provide real-time data and was developed by first responders for first responders. There is hope that additional townships and fire districts will come on board as we continue to work with this initial group.





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**Health Commissioner Report** – Chad Brown provided a written report to the Board. Chad also spoke about availability of funds that have come from the State for Contact Tracing and Coronavirus Response. Most of the funds awarded thus far are to be spent by December 31. In addition, we are working with the county commissioners to obtain some Cares Act funding. We had initially hoped to purchase a mobile clinic that could be used for vaccine delivery but will in turn be able to off-set some salary dollars that would not otherwise be billable through ODH level funding. Chad spoke about the state's color-coded system that was recently rolled out and has expressed his frustration with the system. Much of the data that is being used is not accessible to local health departments making it difficult to provide an accurate depiction of the system. Additional frustrations also stem from the manner and timeliness in which we are advised of our rating. Dr. Scarpitti asked about data credibility and what we can do to push the correct messaging. LCHD feels confident about the information that we are putting out and that our data is accurate, but we are not sure what more we can distribute that could positively influence a very divided population. In addition, Chad spoke about frustrations and difficulty in enforcing any type of mandates and orders for masks and the difference between the local level and state. Outside of mask mandates, Chad has been working diligently with the local school districts, providing them with a practical, common sense approach to returning to school. The schools advised early in the process that what they need most is help with bussing and physical class room sizes, but through the guidance we were able to push for assigned seats for bussing and classrooms which would enable possible positive cases to be easily identified, along with close contacts. Our guidance was developed based on guidance provided by The American Academy of Pediatrics. This guidance also provided guidance and checklists for the parents, as well as a maintenance log for school sanitation workers, while a tremendous amount of responsibility will fall on parents and janitors. There was a brief discussion about historical chicken pox parties taking place, and while that is good in theory, practicing this now would only cause additional, unnecessary spread of the virus, while we still need to be concerned about the at-risk populations. Beyond school readiness, The Hartford Fair is quickly approaching and Chad has worked with the fair board closely to allow the fair to take place, and that the governor had recently rumored that fairs would be forced to only offer junior fair events. Dr. Dyer asked if Dr. Scarpitti could help LCHD with a message or video to apply common sense to mask wearing, which is something that the LCHD and Dr. Scarpitti are both receptive to.

**Financial Reports and Bills** -The financial reports were presented to the Board and discussed.

The June LCHD Financial Reports were motioned for approval by Mrs. Carole Wachtel, second by Dr. Dyer, all members voted yea, motion approved.

The June LCHD Bills were discussed and approved on a motion by Dr. Dyer, second by Mr. Gary Wood, all members voted yea, motion approved.





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Resolution 2012-13 were presented to the board to approve WPCLF application for sewage system replacement at 2400 Loper Road, Newark OHIO 43055.

A motion was made by Mrs. Carole Wachtel to approve all resolutions, second by Mr. Larry Friesel, all members voted yea, motion approved.

### **Personnel/Executive Session**

A motion was made by Mrs. Carole Wachtel to enter Executive Session to consider the compensation of public employees. Second Dr. Scarpitti A roll call vote was conducted:

Dr. Scarpitti	yes
Carole Wachtel	yes
Gary Wood	yes
Larry Friesel	yes
Chicky Dyer	yes
John Wetmore	yes
Mary Billy	yes
Neisha Grubaugh	yes

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:15 PM

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:30 PM

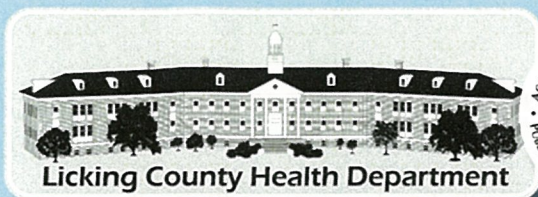
A motion was made by Dr. Scarpitti to re-post the EH Director position. Mrs. Mary Billy second, motion carried.

A motion was made by Dr. Scarpitti to externally post the Public Health Nurse position, Plumbing Inspector, Contract Tracer and EH Clerk. Second by Mrs. Mary Billy, motion carried.

### **Board member comments:**

Dr. Scarpitti expressed his gratitude on working on the monument for Chief Glover and asked about the status. Neisha is going to reach out to Nancy Glover to get a gauge on what the family would like on the monument so that we can internally move forward with obtaining quotes and solidifying plans.

Mary Billy asked if the time was appropriate to put the Syringe Exchange back to a vote and on the agenda again. General discussion regarding the board members' interest in treating the root cause of the addiction problem was held. There was also discussion regarding the possible investment of local dollars in treatment facilities. A discussion regarding how a survey could be conducted to gauge the community interest was held. Chad advised that other LCHD programs had used a survey-like mechanism to gauge the community in the past, but there were concerns with the accuracy of the data. Administering a survey that does not utilize a scientific methodology could skew the



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results of the survey in either direction. The board also discussed the importance of the Overdose Mapping tool and are hopeful that tool can be utilized by additional jurisdictions, which will provide more accurate, real-time data of overdoses and hot spot areas, which could further help the county allocate resources.

The next scheduled meeting of the Licking County Board of Health will be held Tuesday, August 18, 2020.

The Licking County Board of Health was adjourned at 8:55 on a motion by Dr. Scarpitti second Mrs. Mary Billy, motion approved.

Approved:

Neisha Grubaugh, Board President

Chad Brown, Health Commissioner

Anna Wollenburg, Administrative Director

