



Board of Health

Minutes

August 18, 2020

Call to Order – The August 18, 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. Pat Scarpitti, Mrs. Mary Billy, Mr. John Wetmore, Mrs. Neisha Grubaugh, Mr. Larry Friesel, Mrs. Carole Wachtel, Mrs. Shelly Ellis, with Mr. Gary Wood via virtual attendance.

Adoption of the Agenda – Dr. Scarpitti made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Second by Mrs. Mary Billy, motion approved.

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

Public Comment:

Barb Lechner from Granville, Ohio addressed the Board.

Ms. Lechner asked several questions pertaining to the pandemic to which Mr. Chad Brown provided answers.

Hearings and Variances – A variance request was presented to the Board for the address of 8836 York Road, Pataskala, 43062. The request is to install a septic system at the address rather than connecting to public sewer due to the cost associated with connecting to the public system. The sanitarian recommends tabling the request until the landowner is able to coordinate with Southwest Licking Soil and Water to provide additional details pertaining to the project.

A motion to approve the variance request at 8836 York Road was made by Dr. Scarpitti, second by Mr. Gary Wood, motion approved.

Featured Program – Covid-19 Pandemic updates were provided via staff reports as many business activities currently pertain to the pandemic.

Community and Personal Health Report – Kari Kennedy provided a written report to the Board. Kari spoke briefly about the monthly nursing statistics report, the lack of numbers on what was reported for the BCCP Program, and that the numbers will be available in coming months. Chad added that we conducted a customer satisfaction survey for BCCP showing astounding results, which were received from those who participate in the program. Kari proceeded with a verbal report that we have recently seen a decrease in Covid-19 cases in the past few days, and also spoke of a decline in the number of cases reported in Long-Term Care Facilities as well. We are working with all facilities to document a daily report of cases or lack thereof and ensure that we have



a handle on any changes should they develop. Dr. Scarpitti asked about other hot spot areas of cases outside of Long Term Care Facilities, which Chad indicated had been seen in religious settings, including Christian Life Center in Heath, as well as Spring Hills Baptist in Granville. Dr. Scarpitti asked about specific behavior patterns and what may be associated with those outbreaks, which Chad indicated that it may have been a lack of mask wearing and social distancing, as well as participation in youth camps and other extra-curricular activities and events taking place. Dr. Scarpitti also asked about the Lyme Disease numbers suspected; Kari indicated that most are still pending confirmatory results. She also indicated that most of the residents reside within city limits and residential areas versus rural areas, and symptoms do not present with anything specific. She spoke of struggles faced with obtaining official notes on doctor's reports before reaching out to the individuals who have tested positive. Kari also indicated that an anomaly presented with a mother and son presenting with symptoms as well.

Environmental Report and Health and Preparedness Report – A written report was provided to the board. Chad provided a quick update and indicated that he has three leads on an EH Director and is hopeful to present a candidate next month. Chad indicated that we are behind on food inspections, and the state has offered some leniency, but Greg and the team continue to make inspections. Scott Morris from the Water and Sewer areas will begin assisting with Food inspections going into the fall. Dr. Scarpitti inquired if we have seen an increase in restaurants closings and Chad indicated that about 5-6% had closed, and he estimates that 10% may by the end of the pandemic. The 10 PM alcohol rule has hurt some businesses, but others have applied for funding through the federal government, which should help them sustain. Chad spoke briefly on the Hartford Fair and its completion and cited the fair board's cooperation in the matter, though we will likely see some cases arise from the event. Additionally, Chad advised that we should see some refunds generating from food vendors who were unable to set up due to only 11 vendors being allowed on the fair premises. Chad indicated EH Clerk Hanna Kibler has done an excellent job taking over the EH office with Krista's promotion and we are lucky to have her, especially as we proceed with interviewing clerical candidates. John Wetmore asked about the upcoming event, Swapper's Day, which Chad indicated had been cancelled.

Maternal and Child Health Report - Todd Kirkpatrick provided a written report to the Board. WIC continues to provide remote services in place and is unclear what will happen after September, but he assumes WIC will still provide a waiver for the in-person clinic requirement. Early Head Start's home visit year restarts in September. The staff in that program are completing new training. Jessica Peterson is currently off and searching for a childcare solution but still assisting with other efforts on the weekend.

Health Promotion Report - Ashley See provided a written report to the Board but was unable to attend the meeting.



Health Commissioner Report – Chad Brown provided a written report to the Board. Chad announced that we had won the Non-Profit of the Year award from the Chamber of Commerce. Chad asked the board if they would like to start Board of Health meetings with the pledge of allegiance, which the board was in favor of. Chad also indicated that we plan to revise the website and we will be obtaining estimates locally, with hopes to be able to begin offering online payment services. Chad transitioned into Covid-19 activities and indicated that he believes our status will be changing to Orange in the state's rating system on Thursday. A lot of issues arise from the rating system, from school sports games being scheduled to how our rating compares to other counties. Dr. Scarpitti asked if there is a prediction for the reopening of schools and sports, but there is no clear indication on case impact, and we continue to wait on state guidance and on official orders to be released. Chad indicated that our data thus far has reported very low numbers of cases in school-aged children. Of the school districts in the county, some will be entirely remote, while others have taken a hybrid approach. We are asking teachers to limit their close exposure and take short breaks away from students so that they are limiting their potential exposure to an ill child. The American Association of Pediatrics advises that children wearing masks and sitting three feet apart have the same risk exposure as children being 6 feet apart without masks, which stresses the importance of a fixed seating chart for contact tracing purposes. Chad feels that the school year will be a challenge but can be worked through with the appropriate measures. Schools will also be providing attendance data to us, so that we can report school district level data to the superintendents, which Chad shared with the board. This data will show trends so that we can work with the schools to determine if a building or classroom level closure is needed. Dr. Scarpitti asked at what threshold would schools be closed, and Chad indicated that he had done a lot of research pertaining to a model like this and found something similar in the state of Minnesota and the thresholds they had used, but found that they lacked scientific approach. He indicated that we will rely heavily on our Epidemiologist, Adam Masters, and Medical Director, Dr. Marty. Chad stated that we normally use a 15-20% threshold for normal flu season, but we also have to be cognizant of the larger picture of teacher and student absences combined with building level data for all schools, public and private. Dr. Scarpitti also asked about OSU-Newark and Denison and Chad indicated that we have worked with both every step of the way, and receive a daily report. This is also heavily reliant on the appropriate questions being asked during the contact tracing process and OSU has asked for an informal agreement to work with us on the Newark level contact tracing and data sharing. Denison is also performing surveillance data collection and actively monitoring their students. Chad also provided clarification that teachers may also use face shields during instructional periods to ensure that students are able to see them. Chad provided commendation to Kari Kennedy and the nursing staff and their efforts on running our contact tracing efforts, which is currently averaging zero days to make initial contact to our positive cases. Adam Masters has also provided excellent support for data production collection and production. Kristen Frissora is a Health Educator and back-up PIO, and she has led the complaint group. Krista Frenton has also provided wonderful support throughout the process for database understanding and processing. Lastly,



Justin Ward has provided tremendous support to all processes and staff. Chad indicated that we will be changing the manner in which report the daily data on Facebook to be more relative to our actual cases, which will have an explanatory press release and statement.

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

The July LCHD Financial Reports were motioned for approval by Mrs. Carole Wachtel second by Mrs. Mary Billy, all members voted yea, motion approved.

The July LCHD Bills were discussed and approved on a motion by Carole Wachtel, second by Mrs. Shelly Ellis all members voted yea, motion approved.

Resolutions were presented to the board to approve the following WPCLF applications for sewage system replacement:

2020-14, 18721 Johnson Road, Newark 43055
2020-15, 291 Sycamore Road, Hebron 43025
2020-16, 246 Woodside Drive SW, Pataskala, 43062

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

Personnel

A notice of retirement letter was presented to the Board from Barb Spangler, effective August 27, 2020.

A motion was made with regret by Dr. Scarpitti to accept the letter from Barb Spangler. Second Carole Wachtel, motion approved.

A request was made to hire a School Nurse.

Dr. Scarpitti made a motion to authorize the hiring of a school nurse. Mrs. Mary Billy seconded, with all members voting yea, motion approved.

Board member comments:

John Wetmore expressed concerns of the lack of public knowledge and the amount on confusion that the public has pertaining to public health authority at the local level and the state but believes that the change in data reporting is necessary.

Dr. Scarpitti also provided commendation on our approach to work with the schools on a district by district basis.



Shelly Ellis provided comments on Governor DeWine's positive test results and the fact that it lost buy-in among constituents and asked what board members should say when they are approached by members of the public. Chad indicated that the first test he took was a rapid test, which have been shown to have issues with accuracy, and the second test was a nasal swab which provide more reliable results. The tests being provided are as accurate as they can be and we are acting as quickly as possible and that we need cooperation from the public during the contact tracing process. They should also understand that we, at the local level, are reporting data as accurately as possible. As we approach cold and flu season, Chad advised that we developed a log that parents may use to check symptoms before sending children to school, while some responsibility falls on the teachers to use their best judgement to determine if children are sick as well.

Gary Wood asked about the current mask mandate and its enforcements. Chad indicated that our employees are not trained to conduct enforcement on a person by person basis, and that we are focusing on working with businesses and how they can comply with the order. Local law enforcement agencies have said that they do not have the capacity to enforce the order.

Neisha advised that she spoke to Nancy Glover and received feedback about the plaque planned for dedication to Chief Jim Glover, which the LCHD staff will begin working to complete.

The next scheduled meeting of the Licking County Board of Health will be held Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

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

Meeting adjourned, 8:17 PM.

Approved:

Neisha Grubaugh, Board President

Chad Brown, Health Commissioner

Anna Wollenburg, Administrative Director

