



Board of Health

Minutes

January 19, 2020

Call to Order – The January 19, 2021 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 5:30PM.

Members in attendance were: Dr. Scarpitti, Mr. John Wetmore, Mr. Larry Arnold, Mrs. Neisha Grubaugh, Mrs. Carole Wachtel, Mrs. Kathy Wyatt, and Mrs. Chicky Dyer. Mr. Gary Wood, Mrs. Shelly Ellis, and Mrs. Mary Billy attended the meeting virtually.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Adoption of the Agenda: Dr. Scarpitti made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Second by Mrs. Chicky Dyer, motion approved.

Approval of Minutes: Dr. Scarpitti made a motion to approve the December 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Second by Mrs. Kathy Wyatt, motion approved. Mr. Gary Wood abstained from the approval of the minutes.

Joe Ebel Public Health Guardian Award: The Public Health Guardian Award presentation was postponed to another month when the award winner will be able to attend the meeting.

Public Comment:

Barb Lechner of Granville, Ohio addressed the Board.

Patricia Perry of Newark, Ohio addressed the Board.

Health Commissioner Chad Brown advised Patricia Perry that LCHD received approval from the prosecutor that the Board of Health members could receive the book that Ms. Perry presented at the previous board meeting, which would be distributed this evening.

Hearings and Variances:

- a. *14250 Havens Corners Road, Pataskala OHIO 43062*

Health Commissioner Chad Brown provided an explanation regarding the proposed spray irrigation household sewage treatment system that is being requested to be installed at the location. The variance is being presented because the discharge point of the system is not within twenty-five feet of the property line. The neighboring property owners agreed with the presented solution, which does not affect those properties. Brown explained that this property does not have suitable soil to accommodate a traditional leaching system or a mound system due to a high seasonal water table. The sanitarian and the Health Commissioner recommend the variance.



Mr. Larry Arnold inquired about requirements to post these types of approvals with the County Recorder's Office. Brown advised that they are not required by law to file anything with the office, but all sewage permits and work are public record and accessible at the LCHD office, or online.

Mrs Carole Wachtel made a motion to approve the variance request. Mr. John Wetmore seconded. Mr. Larry Arnold voted nay, all other members voting yea, motion approved.

b. 2964 Headleys Mill Road, Pataskala OHIO 43062

Variance request was proposed to use a septic tank and lift station as holding tanks until the weather conditions are suitable for the soil absorption component of the system to be installed. Recommendation to require a pumping contract with a registered sewage hauler and a high water alarm be installed was made by Brown.

Dr. Scarpitti made a motion to approve the variance request with the recommended conditions. Second by Mr. John Wetmore, motion approved.

Feature Program: No featured program report.

Written reports were not presented this month due to the pace of the pandemic response.

Community and Personal Health Report – Director of Community and Personal Health Kari Kennedy advised that vaccine distribution has been her team's largest focus and most of the nurses seem to enjoy a break from contact tracing. Fortunately, we have not had any adverse reactions in those vaccines administered. Our building has transformed for staging those who are filling out forms or want to be observed following the administration of the vaccine. Mr. John Wetmore asked about influenza numbers being reported. Brown explained that COVID is much more contagious than influenza, and the general public is doing influenza prevention at its highest. LCHD can confirm that you can have both COVID-19 and influenza, and influenza testing is still taking place. Most swabs are being run for both viruses or a full respiratory panel.

Environmental Report and Health and Preparedness Report – Health Commissioner Brown advised that he offered the EH Director position today, but it was turned down. He has two other candidates that he will be pursuing. There were no other updates to provide at this time.

Maternal and Child Health Report: Maternal and Child Health Director Todd Kirkpatrick was unable to attend the meeting but has recently taken over a lot of planning related to our COVID-19 clinics and has been a tremendous help.

Health Promotion Report: Health Promotion Director Ashley See provided a verbal report to the Board. She and Todd have been working together to schedule clinics.



Ashley has been working closely with the COVID call center, which started Friday, as well as with the volunteers. Some of that process has involved weeding out poor volunteers. At that time, we were on the phone for an average of 5-6 minutes to schedule COVID-19 vaccine appointments but improved in scheduling today to 2-3 minutes per call. There will be three health department staff at the call center, with some volunteers in the coming days. While our appointment slots are full, we will continue to take calls pertaining to vaccine questions. We have been pushed to send a majority of the calls coming into the LCHD office to voicemail so that we can pursue the calls pertaining to contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine, versus vaccines due to the availability of the call center. If individuals are in qualifying age ranges, they should continue trying to call our COVID-19 hotline to get scheduled. It is unknown on a weekly basis what quantity of vaccine we will be receiving.

Outside of the pandemic, See presented the overdose report to the Board. Dr. Scarpitti advised that he is pleased with the data that is being presented to the Board and noticed a string of events that seem to be taking place along Interstate 70, which See will take back to her team to try and elaborate on. Mrs. Shelly Ellis asked if we could keep an eye on overdose data to see if there is a correlation to the most recent stimulus package. The prescription drug team with the help of Deputy Coroner, Dr. Lee, have noticed a correlation to people who overdosed and were found alone, but were reported to have been at a party with other people, so it is unclear as to whether people are scared and fleeing the scene.

Health Commissioner Report: Health Commissioner Chad Brown advised of an update to the Board pertaining to the Lower Lights Community Health Clinic. The organization, functioning as an FQHC, likes our clinic space but ultimately is curious about the lease amount associated with the space, which would be used when we are not utilizing it for our own clinics. This would be a new clinic in Licking County but has other locations in Union and Franklin Counties. The lease has not yet been presented, but there was discussion about the lease charge being \$3,000 or \$2,500. There were questions pertaining to the contract and being named as an additional insured. These details would be hashed out as part of the contract presentation. The clinic would be providing services that LCHD cannot provide and presents a tremendous benefit to the county. The CEO has been asked to come to a board meeting to present further information.

Brown provided an update on the COVID scheduling hotline and advised that he has called Windstream repetitively to get the lines in the call center expanded. This is a resource we need to expand as much as possible but have been provided with a 45-day timeframe. We are seeking more bids from other vendors who can do it quicker and expand capacity by six times. Our current set-up is sustainable for our staff. Eventually, we will be able to utilize online scheduling, but it is not right for the current demographic that the vaccine is being offered to. Brown reviewed our current plans to administer the vaccine to individuals 80 years of age and over via a drive-thru clinic. We have received



offers from Dr. Wigand's practice to assist with administering vaccines and to help the senior population fill out forms before our clinics. Our biggest hurdle continues to be whether or not we will receive enough vaccine along with when and how to schedule eligible age groups.

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

The December LCHD Financial Reports were approved on a motion by Mrs. Carole Wachtel, second by Mrs. Mary Billy all members voted yea, motion approved.

The December LCHD Bills were presented and discussed. Dr. Scarpitti asked about large amounts spent with Kessler Sign Company, Patagonia Health, VWR Funding, and RobinTek. Most of these vendors provided a service or good approved through CARES Act Funding, including an Ultra-Low Cold Freezer for vaccine distribution. The Bills were approved on a motion by Mrs. Carole Wachtel, second by Mrs. Shelly Ellis, all members voted yea, motion approved.

Resolution 2021-02, which was tabled from the December 2020 meeting, was presented to the Board and provided along with some clarification that the Health Commissioner obtained from the Prosecutor's Office. The resolution gives authorization to the Health Commissioner to enter into contracts, transfer monies, certify additional funds, and increase appropriations to fit the needs of LCHD throughout the calendar year 2021, but the statutory authority ultimately lies with the Board. The Prosecutor advised that the resolution could be amended to advise that the Health Commissioner could fill those stated responsibilities, but with board approval at the following meeting via a resolution presentation. The resolution was updated to reflect the appropriate language.

A motion to approve Resolution 2021-02 was made by Mrs. Carole Wachtel, second by Dr Scarpitti, all members voting yea, motion approved.

An Emergency Fee Schedule adoption was presented to the Board. The adoption considers the adaptation of the COVID-19 vaccine fees to include maximum reimbursement rates provided by two insurance companies. No fees will be charged to the public. A motion to approve was made by Dr Scarpitti; Mrs. Carole Wachtel seconded. Motion approved.

Personnel:

FFCRA extension. An explanation of the act was provided to the Board and explained that it provides some grace and an additional bank of time to employees to use in the event that they become ill, must quarantine, or have a lack of childcare due to a pandemic-related issue. While there is not CARES Act reimbursement for said leave, this would allow staff to not have to use their own time, and additional reimbursement



may be coming. A motion was made by Dr. Scarpitti to approve, second by Mr. John Wetmore. Motion approved covering related absences for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

A notice of retirement was presented to the Board and accepted with regret and congratulatory measures for long time employee Mrs. Gale Neville. A motion to accept was made by Dr Scarpitti, second by Mrs. Carole Wachtel. Motion approved.

An authorization to hire a Public Health nurse was made on a motion by Mrs. Carole Wachtel, seconded by Mrs. Kathy Wyatt, motion approved.

An authorization to hire a Clerk in a full-time capacity was presented. This position would help fill vacancy left by several current clerks retiring at the end of this month. A motion was made by Dr. Scarpitti, Mrs. Carole Wachtel second, motion approved.

Board member comments:

Dr. Scarpitti asked what the BOH can do to relieve stress and help our efforts. Health Commissioner Brown advised that we are maintaining operations right now, but we may need help in the future. Dr. Scarpitti advised that he wanted to express his gratitude for our hard work during this time and authorize a letter of thanks on behalf of the Board to Dr. Weigand for his help.

Kathy Wyatt advised that she is giving a report to City of Pataskala in the coming weeks and plans to talk about COVID related items.

Dr. Scarpitti asked about the discussion we had last month about the OSU study. At this time, the study backed our suggestion that children, in a classroom setting, placed 3 feet apart, with two levels of protection, was consistent with OSU's findings and has been adopted across the state.

Mr. Larry Arnold asked that the Board of Health roster circulate to obtain updated member information.

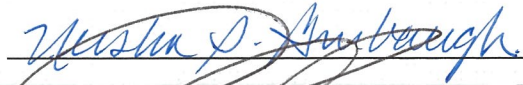
The next scheduled meeting of the Licking County Board of Health will be held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

The Licking County Board of Health was adjourned at 7:41 PM on a motion by Dr. Scarpitti, second by Mrs. Chicky Dyer, motion approved.

Meeting adjourned.

LICKING COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

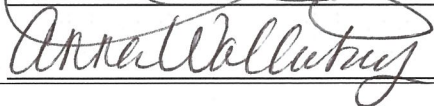
Approved:



Neisha Grubaugh, Board President



Chad Brown, Health Commissioner



Anna Wollenburg, Administrative Director