



Board of Health

Minutes

November 17, 2020

Call to Order – The November 17, 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.

Health Commissioner Chad Brown introduced Mr. Larry Arnold, recently appointed board of health member.

Members in attendance were: Mrs Mary Billy, Mr. John Wetmore, Mr. Larry Friesel, Mr. Larry Arnold, Mrs. Neisha Grubaugh, Mrs. Carole Wachtel, Mrs. Kathy Wyatt, Mrs. Chicky Dyer, and Mrs. Shelly Ellis.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Adoption of the Agenda: Mrs. Carole Wachtel made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Second by, Larry Friesel motion approved.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Chicky Dyer made a motion to approve the October 20, 2020 meeting minutes. Second by Mrs. Kathy Wyatt. Mrs. Mary Billy abstained from the vote, motion approved.

Hearings and Variances – Two Variance requests were presented to the board.

46 South Street, Homer, Ohio was presented. The request is to allow a water well to infringe on the required distance to a septic tank. The tank was evaluated and deemed watertight. The variance request provides minimal risk and the sanitarian recommended approval.

A motion to approve the variance request at 46 South Street, Homer, was made by Mr. Gary Wood, second by Mr. Larry Friesel, motion approved.

4610 Fallsburg Road was presented. The request is to allow a sewage treatment system to infringe on the distance requirement to an easement. Approval was granted by the easement holder and the request provides minimal risk. The sanitarian recommended approval.

A motion to approve the variance request for 4610 Fallsburg road was by Mr. Gary Wood, second by Mr. Larry Friesel, motion approved.

Public Comment: Richelle Volen-Smith of Newark, Ohio addressed the board.



Health Promotion Report- Ashley See provided a written report to the board but was unable to attend. Health Commissioner, Chad Brown provided an update to the board pertaining to staffing for the department. As outlined on the agenda, he reviewed the resignation of two staff members, one belonging to Ms. Casey Pitcock, who was responsible for the distribution of all Naloxone kits, and recently held an event at the Trinity Episcopal Church. He advised that we are working to extend these services into the Eastern end of Newark. LCHD is currently accepting applications for the vacant position. Mr. Brown spoke of program difficulties with the Tobacco Grant as little leniency has been granted amid flexibility in other ODH administered programs due to the pandemic.

Community and Personal Health Report – Mrs. Kari Kennedy provided a verbal report to the board. Kari praised her team and the time and effort that they have been putting in amidst the pandemic. Additional staff has been added to help support their efforts. Kari advised that the LC Jail has had four positive officers, but no positive cases among inmates. We continue to have sporadic cases among our Long-Term Care Facilities. We continue to see cases in the schools, with a large number of kids quarantined, but we have not seen positive cases that stemmed from being in contact with a positive case in a classroom. Kari provided an explanation between a confirmed and suspected or probable case. She also explained that some facilities are naming their cases presumed positive, or perhaps under a different name, which differs from our official name and explained that LMH is using an antigen test, but if they receive a positive antigen test, they do conduct a confirmatory test.

Mrs. Carole Wachtel inquired about group settings and positive cases, while Kari explained that a majority are linked to family groups, but there have been some workplaces and some churches. Mrs. Chicky Dyer inquired about the average age of those hospitalized, as well as the average hospital stay. This is a data subset that we are not currently collecting, but Chad indicated that along of information he has read indicated that the average length of hospital stay has decreased. Mrs. Shelly Ellis inquired about the local hospital capacity, Chad advised that they are at 34 hospitalization and have room for nearly 300. Mrs. Kathy Wyatt requested further explanation pertaining to spread among multi-cultural families. Chad elaborated that we are seeing more cases among Nepali families in the Southwest corner of the county, where multi-generational households are common. This close proximity among higher numbers of familial groups, causes quick spread among household. Mrs. Shelly Ellis inquired about individuals cooperating with the contact tracing, Kari indicated that it has been about the same, and on occasion, someone calls back to add additional contacts as they learn that their friends and family members do need quarantine letters for work and school purposes. .

Environmental Report and Health and Preparedness Report – A written report was not provided to the board. Health Commissioner Chad Brown advised that he has a promising individual for the EH Director position and the individual is from Baltimore,

Maryland. He received a cover letter, resume, and references today and plans to schedule an interview soon. The posting for the position closes on Friday. Chad indicated that earlier this year we had conducted a survey about the Environmental needs in the community. Public Information Officer, Olivia Biggs is working to compile the report now, and Chad will present it to the board, as well as the group who contributed to completing the information. This data will enable us to make more informed Environmental Health decisions. Mr. Brown indicated that housing, specifically affordable housing, and transportation continue to be a common problem. Looking from a programmatic standpoint, Chad advised that some EH staff is going to be transitioned- Scott Morris will be assisting in the food program, to create capacity among the staff members who are already trained on Covid. Chad did not feel that we have a current need to hire more people, and some complaints will be transitioning to ODH.

Maternal and Child Health Report – Mr. Todd Kirkpatrick provided a written report to the board. Todd advised that WIC is now providing yogurt, and is federally regulated, and each family is given an allotment every other month. Some additional programmatic changes are coming in December, but their system continues to work out some glitches with Yogurt. Todd indicated that some of his staff are helping with Contact Tracing and aid in the pandemic response and indicated that Rachel Woods transitioned from EH to help with The Healthy Mom and Baby program. Todd reported that she is a motivated self-starter who has taken the program by the horns and has been a great addition to his team.

Health Commissioner Report – Mr. Chad Brown provided a written report to the board. Chad explained that we currently have our contact tracing broken into three teams, with nursing handling the initial disease investigation. Cases then transition to the quarantine team, and on to the end of isolation team. We continue to track metrics for each team daily and understand who we are contacting. Chad indicated that we are currently seeing 130-140 cases today with a few days over 200. Some of his colleagues in counties with higher populations have 400-800 cases a day, but with a much larger staffing capacity. We are seeing cases transferred from other counties that are 15 days behind, and we have capitalized on the ability to hit the process early, and still maintain timely contact. Chad did indicate that there is a breaking point, and we are working to build capacity to allow time off among staff. Chad did indicate a need to talk about the schools and new quarantine guidance suggested by the American Academy of Pediatrics. This would allow students who are three feet apart, with two layers of protection to not have to be quarantined. This could be two masks, or a mask and a plexi-glass shield. Many schools have indicated that kids have gotten used to the masks and the mask compliance is very high. While Chad explained that the board does not require action to make this change, he wanted to be sure to advise them of this change prior to implementing it. There is evidence of spread among staff or outside of the school, but the kids do not seem to be contributing to these numbers. If the change

Mr. John Wetmore	Yes
Mr. Larry Freisel	Yes
Mr. Larry Arnold	Yes
Mrs. Neisha Grubaugh	Yes
Mrs. Carole Wachtel	Yes
Mrs. Kathy Wyatt	Yes
Mrs. Shelly Ellis	Yes
Mrs. Chicky Dyer	Yes
Mr. Gary Wood	

The board entered Executive Session at 7:27 PM

The board returned from Executive Session at 8:03 PM

A motion was made by Mrs. Carole Wachtel to approve the Covid Compensation plan. Seconded by Mr. John Wetmore, motion approved.

A request was made to amend the Personnel Manual, Overtime Section 2.15, Page 15, paragraph six. The language would be updated to include Sick Leave in overtime calculations due to it's limited use. All other uses of time would be removed in determining the Overtime calculation.

A motion to amend the Personnel Manual was made by Mrs. Mary Billy, seconded by Mrs. Shelly Ellis. Motion approved.

Board member comments:

The board would like to change their start time beginning with the December meeting to 5:30PM, and all members agreed to the time change.

The board would also like to include a letter of thanks to the LCHD staff to accompany the Covid Compensation plan.

The next scheduled meeting of the Licking County Board of Health will be held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

The Licking County Board of Health was adjourned at 8:08 PM on a motion by Mrs. Carole Wachtel, second by Mr. John Wetmore, motion approved.

Meeting adjourned.

LICKING COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Approved:



Neisha Grubaugh, Board President



Chad Brown, Health Commissioner



Anna Wollenburg, Administrative Director