



Board of Health

Minutes

March 16, 2021

Call to Order – The March 16, 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 5:30 PM.

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

Members absent were: Mrs. Shelly Ellis.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Adoption of the Agenda: Dr. Scarpitti made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Second by Carole Wachtel, motion approved.

Approval of Minutes: Carole Wachtel made a motion to approve the February 23, 2021 meeting minutes. Second by Chicky Dyer, motion approved.

Public Comment:

Ms. Barb Lechner of Granville, Ohio addressed the board.

Ms. Patricia Perry of Newark, Ohio addressed the board.

Board Reorganization:

Board Members Mary Billy and Larry Arnold were recently reappointed to their positions by the City of Newark and District Advisory Council, respectively.

The Board of Health elects a President and President ProTempore annually in March. Health Commissioner Chad Brown asked for nominations for the Board of Health President.

A nomination was made by Chicky Dyer for Neisha Grubaugh for the office of President of the Board of Health. A second for the nomination of Neisha Grubaugh for President was made by Mary Billy.

No additional nominations were heard.

A motion to close nominations was made by Dr. Scarpitti, second by Carole Wachtel, all in favor, motion approved.

A voice vote was conducted, all members voted in favor of Neisha Grubaugh to be President of the Board of Health, no opposed votes, nomination approved.



President Neisha Grubaugh asked for nominations for the Board of Health President ProTempore.

A nomination was made by Gary Wood for Larry Friesel for the office of President ProTempore of the Board of Health. A second for the nomination of Larry Friesel for President ProTempore was made by Mary Billy.

A nomination was made by Chicky Dyer for John Wetmore for the office of President ProTempore of the Board of Health. A second for the nomination of John Wetmore for President ProTempore was made by Carole Wachtel.

A motion to close nominations was made by Dr. Scarpitti, second by Kathy Wyatt, all in favor, motion approved.

A roll call vote was conducted for each nomination.

Voting for Larry Friesel for the office of President ProTempore:

Dr. Scarpitti:	No
Mrs. Mary Billy:	Yes
Mr. John Wetmore:	Abstain
Mr. Larry Friesel:	Abstain
Mr. Larry Arnold:	Abstain
Mrs. Carole Wachtel:	No
Mrs. Kathy Wyatt:	No
Mrs. Chicky Dyer:	No
Mr. Gary Wood:	Yes

Voting for John Wetmore for the office of President ProTempore:

Dr. Scarpitti:	Yes
Mrs. Mary Billy:	No
Mr. John Wetmore:	Abstain
Mr. Larry Friesel:	Abstain
Mr. Larry Arnold:	Abstain
Mrs. Carole Wachtel:	Yes
Mrs. Kathy Wyatt:	Yes
Mrs. Chicky Dyer:	Yes
Mr. Gary Wood:	No

With a total of four votes in favor, John Wetmore was voted into the office of President ProTempore.

Hearings and Variances:

11031 Reussner Road, Pataskala, OH 43062



Health Commissioner Chad Brown provided an explanation regarding the proposed request to use a septic tank as a holding tank until weather permits a Household Sewage Treatment System installation. Brown explained that the sanitarian will re-inspect at six months and one year to ensure the HSTS is installed. The sanitarian and Brown recommend approval of the variance.

Dr. Scarpitti made a motion to approve the variance request, second by Carole Wachtel, nine members voting yea, Larry Arnold abstained, motion approved.

Community and Personal Health Report – Director of Community and Personal Health Mrs. Kari Kennedy shared that she was very proud of the continued work of her staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Kennedy discussed an unusual communicable disease, brucellosis, in a young woman from Johnstown. However, the nursing staff has not been able to contact the positive case to determine how the infection occurred. There has also been a positive TB test of a Nepali immigrant who tested positive in Nepal and was treated there but has since tested positive again locally. Dr. Scarpitti asked about flu cases but Kennedy advised that there have not been many cases this season.

Kennedy shared that LCHD's medical biller has been able to recoup \$39,000 in billing for the COVID vaccine as of today. LCHD bills for the administration of the shot; if insurance does not cover the expense, it is not billed to the patient.

Environmental Report and Health and Preparedness Report – Health Commissioner Brown advised that Food Service license deadlines have been extended by the state through June 30, 2021. As such, license renewals have been slow and late fees will not be assigned until July 1, 2021. Staff are gearing up for school inspections beginning in April 2021. Brown shared that the WPCLF contract has been approved for \$150,000 to continue the program. Last week, he received audit results for the well water program which was conducted in August 2019 by the Ohio Department of Health. The program received a score of 96%; several of the issues identified had been resolved prior to receiving these results. In the Solid Waste program, the annual EPA survey results came back with a finding of 100% compliance. The Board thanked Mohammad Khan for his work in this program.

Maternal and Child Health Report: Maternal and Child Health Director Mr. Todd Kirkpatrick advised that Early Head Start has hired a new home visitor who starts Monday, March 22. The other three home visitors picked up the caseload when Sam Freeze retired at the end of February but have since reached full caseloads themselves. Kirkpatrick and the EHS staff feel like new hire Kathy Postle will be a great addition to the team.

At the monthly WIC staff meeting, Kirkpatrick asked for feedback on what has worked well and what has not over the past year. They currently provide three attempts for



phone conferences and then send a text reminder as well as three attempts to load the benefits card in person and then text a reminder. This has been reduced to two attempts each before texting, which has allowed staff to stay on top of their calls without a caseload piling up. To mirror satellite clinic schedules, staff will be asking clients to come to our main office from 2-4pm in a walk-in style to load their benefit cards. Kirkpatrick also advised that a Central Region directors meeting will be held on March 29. Additionally, within the new federal stimulus bill, the fruit and vegetable benefit amount will increase in value starting April 1. However, this is not retroactive for anyone whose benefits were loaded prior to April 1.

Health Promotion Report: Health Promotion Director Mrs. Ashley See advised that she and her staff further investigated the I-70 corridor overdoses with CODE and Dr. Lee, the Deputy Coroner. There are several fatalities in motels and hotels around the I-70 corridor as people pass through the county. The overdose prevention staff plan to reach out to these locations and gauge interest in receiving naloxone kits and training. Other hotspots include Reynoldsburg and Newark; staff also plan to conduct additional outreach in these areas.

The call center has been closed since March 5 to allow staff to focus on their regular duties and other COVID duties. It was hard for staff to sustain without the help of CERT volunteers. We have instead transitioned to a voicemail system to respond to requests. The message advises callers to check our website for an FAQ document and to leave a message if their question is not answered. Callers may also leave a message if they do not have access to the internet and staff will call back to assist them.

Chicky Dyer asked about the availability of fentanyl testing strips in the county after the question was posed to her by a member of the public. Brown explained the naloxone request process and how it could be adjusted to include these strips in the free kits, with Board approval. There are grant funds available to support the purchase of strips and partners have indicated they are willing to provide them at no cost.

Chicky Dyer made a motion to investigate funding for fentanyl strips and distribute if they can be obtained for free or paid for through grant funds, second by Dr. Scarpitti, nine members voting yea, Larry Arnold abstained, motion approved.

Health Commissioner Report: Health Commissioner Brown discussed the Lower Lights FQHC lease. They have proposed \$750 per month for the first year to establish themselves and then \$2,000 per month after the first year. Brown reached out to other health departments who collaborate with Lower Lights, all of which said they have been a benefit to their communities. They provide mental health as well as addiction treatment services and would use our clinic space. Larry Arnold asked about the legality of leasing surplus property; the Board of Health can lease the property as the owner of the building. Neisha Grubaugh asked about the rent charged to Building Code in comparison, but Building Code is charged per square footage and is therefore not



comparable. Dr. Scarpitti asked about security for the building; Lower Lights plans to hire their own security guard for after-hour clinics when the health department is closed. The board was supportive of the proposed lease amount; Brown will move forward by discussing the partnership with the Prosecutor's Office, coordinating a presentation for the Board, and negotiating a contract.

Brown updated the Board on security changes to the building. He has requested a quote for security upgrades to limit access to the building by creating a wall in the lobby and handicap entrance with cameras to monitor visitors. The largest change will be locking the Building Code door on the east wing of the building; their public access will switch to the handicap entrance.

Carole Wachtel asked about the availability of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. We received 300 doses but gave them to Columbus Public Health due to a shortage for one of their clinics. We expect to receive at least one replacement shipment from the state but expect our allocation of this vaccine to remain small for now.

LCHD's clinic schedule has transitioned to Monday and Wednesday from 12-7pm, with 2,400 shots given per week for 3 weeks. After 3 weeks, we expect to give 4,800 shots per week. The biggest foreseeable issues will be vaccine allocations from the state and maintaining public interest. However, the state is quickly lowering age requirements, so we expect interest to remain high. Staffing for each clinic started with 26 staff members but is now down to 11 as the process has been improved. This has freed staff up to return to their normal job duties or other COVID activities.

Brown shared updated data on LCHD's vaccine administration. The health department has administered 16,556 COVID doses as of March 15, 2021. A total of 7,287 individuals in the county have received 2 doses of COVID vaccine and are fully immunized. Positive cases have dropped off locally and across the state, which could be attributed to the vaccine and/or reduced testing. Brown is anticipating a potential spike in positive cases following spring breaks at the end of the month. However, there have been minimal positive cases in schools, with the positives often being due to household contacts. Brown advised that he has been planning with school administrators for graduation ceremonies and proms. Per the state, school dances are allowed as long as social distancing requirements are followed. Additionally, graduation is anticipated to be allowed outdoors as long as the venue follows the required 30% capacity guidelines from the state.

Dr. Scarpitti inquired about the status of the landfill. Brown advised that Justin Ward is out there once a week to inspect any erosion. LCHD has three more years of responsibility. At that point, we will continue to monitor it but will lack funds from the settlement to maintain the property.



Financial Reports and Bills -The financial reports were presented to the board and discussed. Large variances this month include PERS payouts for early retirements and equipment purchased using COVID funds. The February LCHD Financial Reports were approved on a motion by Carole Wachtel, second by Mary Billy, all members voted yea, motion approved.

The February LCHD Bills were presented and discussed. The bills were approved on a motion by Mary Billy, second by Carole Wachtel, all members voted yea, motion approved.

A revised fee scale was presented and discussed. This revision would approve an updated COVID vaccination administration charge to match the amount payable by the Centers for Medicare effective 3-15-2021. The fee scale revision was approved on a motion by Dr. Scarpitti, second by Kathy Wyatt, all members voted yea, motion approved.

The 2022 fiscal year budget was presented and discussed. Brown also presented on staffing changes that have occurred in 2021 which will affect the 2022 budget. The 2022 budget was approved on a motion by Dr. Scarpitti, second by John Wetmore, all members voted yea, motion approved.

Resolution 2021-06 was presented to the board for the contract between LCHD and the City of Heath Police Department. This is a new contract funded through the Ohio Department of Health ODMAP grant to support overdose mapping efforts by Licking County emergency services. Dr. Scarpitti made a motion to approve, second by Carole Wachtel, all members voting yea, motion approved.

Resolution 2021-07 was presented to the board for the contract between LCHD and the Monroe Township Fire Department. This is a new contract funded through the Ohio Department of Health ODMAP grant to support overdose mapping efforts by Licking County emergency services. Dr. Scarpitti made a motion to approve, second by Kathy Wyatt, all members voting yea, motion approved.

Resolution 2021-08 was presented to the board for the contract between LCHD and the West Licking Joint Fire District. This is a new contract funded through the Ohio Department of Health ODMAP grant to support overdose mapping efforts by Licking County emergency services. Carole Wachtel made a motion to approve, second by John Wetmore, all members voting yea, motion approved.

Resolution 2021-09 was presented to the board for the contract between LCHD and the Licking County Sheriff's Office. This is a new contract funded through the Ohio Department of Health ODMAP grant to support overdose mapping efforts by Licking County emergency services. Mary Billy made a motion to approve, second by Larry Friesel, all members voting yea, motion approved.



Resolution 2021-10 was presented to the board for the contract between LCHD and the Central Ohio Drug Enforcement Taskforce. This is a new contract funded through the Ohio Department of Health ODMAP grant to support overdose mapping efforts by Licking County emergency services. Carole Wachtel made a motion to approve, second by Chicky Dyer, all members voting yea, motion approved.

Personnel:

Resolution 2021-11 was presented to the board for the contract between LCHD and Benjamin Jump, DDS. This is a renewal of a contract to serve as LCHD's Dental Director as required by the Dental Sealant Program. Carole Wachtel made a motion to approve, second by Larry Friesel, all members voting yea, motion approved.

Resolution 2021-12 was presented to the board for the contract between LCHD and Charles Marty, MD. This is a renewal of a contract to serve as LCHD's Medical Director. The contract has increased by 2% to reflect Dr. Marty's increased involvement during the COVID-19 pandemic. Gary Wood made a motion to approve, second by Mary Billy, all members voting yea, motion approved.

An authorization to hire a BCCP Clerk was made on a motion by Larry Friesel, by second by Carole Wachtel, motion approved. This is a new position that will be grant funded.

Board member comments:

Neisha Grubaugh provided comment on the District Advisory Committee meeting held on March 11, 2021. She felt it went well and is grateful to the board members who agreed to continue serving in their positions.

Dr. Scarpitti asked the Board's thoughts on responding to criticism from members of the public regarding the makeup of the Board and the selection of board members. Board members agreed that questions should be referred to the District Advisory Council or the city mayors regarding appointments to the Board. These groups are responsible for nominations and appointments of board members.

The next scheduled meeting of the Licking County Board of Health will be held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

The Licking County Board of Health was adjourned at 7:40pm on a motion by Dr. Scarpitti, second by Mary Billy, motion approved.

Meeting adjourned.



Approved:

Neisha Grubaugh, Board President

Chad Brown, Health Commissioner

Kate Waldrop, Grant Coordinator, in lieu of
Anna Wollenburg, Administrative Director, due to maternity leave.