


Board of Health

Minutes

December 19, 2023

Call to Order – The December 19, 2023, board meeting was held with in-person attendance. President Neisha Grubaugh called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Members in attendance were Dr. Patrick Scarpitti, John Wetmore, Larry Friesel, Carole Wachtel, Neisha Grubaugh, , ~~Kathy Wyatt~~, Mary Billy, Ed Smith, and Rich Kozlowski.

Those not in attendance were Chicky Dyer, ~~Shelly Ellis~~

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Adoption of the Agenda: Dr. Scarpitti made a motion to approve the amended meeting agenda, Kathy Wyatt seconded. All members voted yea.

Approval of Minutes: The November 14, 2023, minutes were presented and discussed. A motion to approve was presented by Dr. Scarpitti, seconded by Carole Wachtel. Motion passed.

Introduction of New Staff: Chad introduced Taunja Dudgeon as the Director of Fiscal Services.

Public Comment: None.

Hearings and Variances: A hearing to approve the Food Service Operation and Retail Food Establishment Fees was held to establish a new fee. No comments from the public were provided during the hearing. A motion to approve the fee changes was made by Dr. Scarpitti, second by Larry Friesel. Motion passed.

A variance was presented for 400 North Vernon Avenue, Newark for a HSTS Depth issue. The soil evaluator said part of the leach field was deeper than 20 inches. Scott did not see any concerns with the field. Dr. Scarpitti motioned to approve, second by John Wetmore. Motion approved.

A variance was presented for 2229 River Road, Granville due to public sewer accessibility. There is a home that is being remodeled that has a very old septic system that is not usable. The new homeowners do not want to install a new system, with the public sewage being available within the next year. Chad and Scott recommended the following conditions for approval: a minimum 1,500-gallon tank, high water alarm, contract with a registered septage hauler, and quarterly inspections. Dr. Scarpitti motioned to approve, second by Carole Wachtel. Discussion about if there was a fee associated with the quarterly inspection, which there is not. Motion approved.



A variance was presented for 6527 Sunnyside Road, Granville for a temporary holding tank due to seasonal installation. The current system is no longer usable due to improper installation. Dr. Scarpitti motioned to approve, second by John Wetmore. Motion approved.

Community and Personal Health Report: Director of Community and Personal Health Kari Kennedy provided a written report to the board and advised flu season is starting to wind down, as well as Covid. She stated the CPO colonization screening was at Altercare, and the facility wanted the entire place screened after a positive case. One additional person did test positive, but they do not have any symptoms. A second screening round will be happening soon, and if there are no additional positives, they do not have to test anymore.

There was a positive case of Yersiniosis at Middleton Senior Living Residence. This individual attended Thanksgiving at a family member's house last month, and this was the only meal that was consumed outside of the facility. ODH said Yersiniosis cases have been on the rise this year.

Mary questioned the number of Covid vaccinations, which Kari stated have been down over the past month.

John questioned the uptick in pneumonia; Kari stated there has been an increase in pneumonia within Licking County.

Environmental Health Report: Outdoor Environmental Health Director Scott Morris presented a written report to the board. Scott passed around a tick removal kit which included tweezers, band aids, alcohol wipes, etc. We would like to have a card included in the bag with a QR code for reporting ticks to LCHD.

There is a development on Putman Road and Worthington Road, the first warehouse they are building is only approved for onsite sewage. They are where the onsite septic was designed to be installed was compromised during site development. The owners must now request access for an easement to allow the SFOSTS to be installed.

Indoor Environmental Health and Quality Director, Greg Chumney provided a written report to the board.

Maternal and Child Health Report: Maternal and Child Health Director Todd Kirkpatrick provided a written report to the board and advised them they did their socialization last week with the kids, and it went wonderfully. One of the kids in the group did press the emergency button in the elevator, which was a good test, as we were able to fix a communication issue with the fire department we did not know existed.

John Wetmore asked if we expect to see the WIC caseload increase into 2024. Todd stated the numbers always drop off around Christmas due to the holidays, and historically, it increases at the start of the new year.

Health Promotion Report: Health Promotion Director Brianna Perkins provided a written report. Bri stated Ashley See finalized the 2023 car seat report today. LCHD has distributed 258 car seats, which is the most we have ever distributed.

Dr. Scarpitti commented on the overdose spikes we had in 2023. He also stated how fentanyl continues to be the most common drug related to these overdoses. He questioned the number of Narcan that was provided to Licking County residents compared to the years past, as LCHD Narcan numbers have dropped in 2023 compared to years past, however LCHD received additional funding in 2022 to increase the number of kits distributed that was not received in 2023.

Administrative Services Report: None.

Health Commissioner Report: Health Commissioner Chad Brown provided a written report to the board. Chad advised he and the Operations Manager have been meeting with new IT contractors over the past week about a 2024 contract. John Wetmore questioned if there was a consultant we could hire to help advise us in the IT process. Chad is hoping to discuss with OSUN and COTC about their knowledge in this field and if they can assist us with this process. Ed Smith questioned if we have ever debated getting away from the servers. Chad explained the problem is we have very old software that is still on a server. We are trying to move everything else in the cloud.

Dush will be here tomorrow to install the new Mission and Vision signs in the 3rd floor conference room. Claggett started on the gutters today, we are not sure when they will be finished. We were notified yesterday of a new funding opportunity for Covid vaccines, and we plan to look at the details tomorrow.

Dr. Marty and Kari have been working on two new policies. One is a consent form for individuals from group homes who cannot vouch for themselves. Another policy is in place for minors without their parents.

We now have Gen-Trackers installed on the two generators that will let us know when the generators turn on/off to hopefully catch any issues.

Chad commented how Covid numbers have been increasing over the past few weeks. This new variant is more contagious but does not seem to be as severe as the previous strains. We expected to see a spike after Thanksgiving, and we expect to see another spike after Christmas. We anticipate this increase will taper off in the new year, as it has done historically. John Wetmore questioned the non-RNA Covid vaccination and if we knew anything about it. Kari and Chad stated they do not know much about this specific vaccination at this time.

Financial Reports and Bills:

The financial reports were presented to the board and discussed. The November 2023 LCHD Financial Reports were approved on a motion by Carole Wachtel, Kathy Wyatt seconded. Dr. Scarpitti questioned the miscellaneous income from November 2023. Chad said he was going to investigate and report to the board. All members voted yea; motion passed.

The November 2023 LCHD Bills were presented and discussed. Carole Wachtel presented a motion to approve, Mary Billy seconded. Dr. Scarpitti questioned the payment under contracts and special networks; these were for the back-up Vertical phones. Dr. Scarpitti also questioned the payment to Licking County Transit, which was a one-time payment from grant funds. All members voted yea; motion passed.

Resolution 2023-109 was presented to the board for the appropriation of funds in the General Fund for Grant Contract Services. A motion to approve was presented by Dr. Scarpitti, Carole Wachtel seconded. Motion passed.

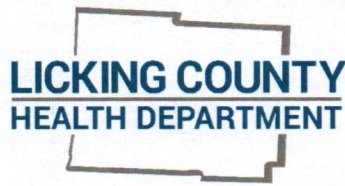
Resolution 2023-110 was presented to the board for the appropriation of funds in the Sewage Fund. A motion to approve was presented by Mary Billy, Kathy Wyatt seconded. Motion passed.

Resolution 2023-111 was presented to the board for the appropriation of funds in the Private Water Fund. A motion to approve was presented by Dr. Scarpitti, Carole Wachtel seconded. Motion passed.

Resolution 2023-112 was presented to the board for the appropriation of funds in the Food Safety Fund. A motion to approve was presented by Dr. Scarpitti, John Wetmore seconded. Motion passed.

Contract Agreements:

Resolution 2023-113 was presented to the board to enter into a contract with Licking County Landscape for 2024/2025 mowing. A motion to approve was presented by Carole Wachtel, Kathy Wyatt seconded. Motion passed.



Resolution 2023-114 was presented to the board to enter into a contract with the Ohio Department of Health to participate in the Medicaid Administrative Claiming program. A motion to approve was presented by Carole Wachtel, John Wetmore seconded. Motion passed.

Resolution 2023-115 was presented to the board to enter into a contract with Claggett and Sons for new flooring, on the 1st floor and the replacement of the ADA handicap door. A motion to approve was presented by Mary Billy, John Wetmore seconded. Motion passed.

Resolution 2023-116 was presented to the board to enter into a contract with Siemens for a swipe card reader for the vaccination room. A motion to approve was presented by Larry Friesel, John Wetmore seconded. Motion passed.

Resolution 2023-117 was presented to the board to enter into a contract with KN Excavation to install an STS as part of the WPCLF program. A motion to approve was presented by Dr. Scarpitti, Kathy Wyatt seconded. Motion passed.

Resolution 2023-118 was presented to the board to enter into a contract with Licking County Job and Family Services for home safety assessments to allow us to provide supplies using our Falls Among Older Adults Grant. A motion to approve was presented by Carole Wachtel, Dr. Scarpitti seconded. Motion passed.

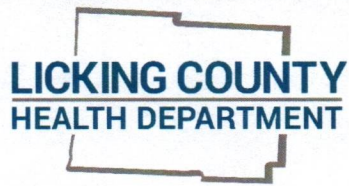
Resolution 2023-119 was presented to the board to enter into a contract with Local Matters for the Licking County Veggie Van. A motion to approve was presented by Kathy Wyatt, Dr. Scarpitti seconded. Motion passed.

Executive Session: None.

Personnel:

Chad presented the Covid leave policy to the board and the change.

Rich Kozlowski questioned the 80 hours and how it is monitored over the year. He also questioned staff abusing the Covid policy. Chad and Rich discussed the policy and expanding the 3rd bullet point, stating changing the language to say if the staff member tests negative at the doctors, they must use sick time. The board agreed to reduce the 80 hours of Covid leave to 40 hours of Covid leave, with the intention of sunseting the policy in 2025. A motion to approve was presented by Carole Wachtel, Dr. Scarpitti, seconded. Ed Smith abstained. Motion approved.



Board Member Comments: None

The December 19, 2023, Licking County Board of Health was adjourned at 7:07pm on a motion by Dr. Scarpitti, seconded by John Wetmore. Meeting adjourned.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neisha Grubaugh", written over a horizontal line.

Neisha Grubaugh, Board of Health President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Brown", written over a horizontal line.

Chad Brown, Health Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Beaver", written over a horizontal line.

Katie Beaver, Operations Manager