

**NEWARK**

(740)-349-6535
675 Price Rd.
Newark, OH 43055

PATASKALA

(740) 755-4520
621 W. Broad St.
Pataskala, OH 43062

www.lickingcohealth.org

Board of Health**Minutes****September 16, 2025**

Call to Order – The September 16, 2025, board meeting was held with in-person attendance. President Neisha Grubaugh called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Members in attendance were Ed Smith, Mary Billy, John Wetmore, Larry Friesel, Neisha Grubaugh, Carole Wachtel, Shelly Ellis, Kathy Wyatt, and Kim Wilhelm.

Members absent: Dr. Scarpitti and Rich Kozlowski.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Adoption of the Agenda: Larry Friesel made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, Mary Billy seconded. All members voted yea.

Approval of Minutes: The August 19, 2025, minutes were presented and discussed. A motion to approve was presented by Carole Wachtel, seconded by Shelly Ellis. Motion passed.

Introduction of New Staff: Health Commissioner, Chad Brown, introduced Clay Meyer, Plumbing Inspector.

Featured Presentation: Audri Walker, Epidemiologist, presented information regarding data related to suicides in Licking County.

Hearings and Variances:

- **111 Brent View Dr., Newark, HSTS Distance** – Staff recommended approval. Kathy Wyatt made a motion to approve, Carole Wachtel seconded. Motion approved.
- **11921 Woodhaven Rd., Johnstown, HSTS Distance** – Staff recommended approval. Mary Billy made a motion to approve, John Wetmore seconded. Motion approved.
- **36 S Utah Ave., Newark, HSTS Distance** – Staff recommended approval. Carole Wachtel made a motion to approve, Larry Friesel seconded. Motion approved.

Community and Personal Health Report: Director of Community and Personal Health, Kari Jones, was absent but provided a written report to the board. Chad reported a second case of La Crosse Encephalitis has been identified in the county.

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It has been confirmed that the two cases are unrelated. To reduce the risk of further transmission, mosquito control measures, including spraying, will be conducted in the affected area. The mobile unit conducted vaccination clinics at several schools in the county, helping parents access immunizations for their children without needing to travel far. Due to limited demand, the department is not currently offering COVID-19 vaccinations. However, members of the public can still access the vaccine through local pharmacies. We continue to monitor community needs and will adjust availability as necessary. On September 10, LCHD partnered with Licking Memorial Hospital to offer free Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) screenings to men aged 50 and older. Screenings were conducted at five different locations, with a total of 26 individuals participating. Of those screened, six results were abnormal. Licking Memorial Hospital will follow up with those individuals to ensure appropriate care and next steps.

Outdoor Environmental Health Report: Outdoor Environmental Health Director, Scott Morris, provided a written report to the board. Scott reported that the Lost Lands Music Festival is taking place this week. When asked whether LCHD would be distributing Narcan at the event, Chad noted that another organization is already on-site providing Narcan. In previous years, the department received complaints regarding unpermitted campgrounds operating during the festival. In response, a social media campaign was launched this year to educate the public on the proper procedures for hosting campers on private property. The campaign aimed to promote compliance and ensure safe, legal accommodations for festival attendees.

Indoor Environmental Health Report: Indoor Environmental Health Director, Traven Wood, provided a written report to the board. Traven added that Clay Meyer, the new Plumbing Inspector, has been a great addition to the team, and he is happy to have him on staff. The Food Safety team conducted 138 standard inspections during the month of August. This figure does not include additional inspections performed at various festivals throughout the month.

Maternal and Child Health Report: Maternal and Child Health Director, Todd Kirkpatrick, provided a written report to the board.

Health Promotion Report: Health Promotion Director, Brianna Perkins, provided a written report to the board. Bri shared that Kierstin Jay, Health Education Manager, will be presenting on the Uber Health Program at the upcoming Health Educator Institute (HEI) in October. Additionally, both Kierstin and Sorriah Wilson have been selected to serve on the Ohio Society of Public Health Educators (OSOPHE) Board beginning in 2026. This appointment will offer valuable opportunities for professional growth and leadership development.

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Administrative Services Report: Director of Fiscal Services, Taunja Dudgeon, provided a written report to the board. Taunja was commended for a job well done on the audit. We are currently awaiting the official report from the state. The staff at Perry and Associates were impressed by the quality of the documentation and the speed at which it was submitted. Taunja and her team have worked diligently to streamline departmental processes. Taunja acknowledged her team, as well as the department directors and their teams, for their collaboration in providing all necessary documentation. Taunja, Bri, and their teams have also been working closely to implement new processes effectively.

Health Commissioner Report: Health Commissioner, Chad Brown, provided a written report to the board. Chad presented a proposal to the Licking County Commissioners to add a third Community Navigator to the team. The Commissioners expressed strong support for the initiative. Meanwhile, the second Community Navigator is scheduled to begin on September 29th. She will complete initial training at the Newark office before transitioning to a full-time assignment at the Pataskala office, where she will be based five days a week. We have received information that the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant will be fully funded this year. The inaugural Volley for SASS Tournament was held on September 13th and was a great success. Madi Dice led the planning and coordination efforts, demonstrating excellent leadership and organizational skills. Looking ahead, our 18th Annual Pink Strides Walk for Breast Cancer will take place on October 4th, continuing our commitment to raising awareness and supporting those affected by breast cancer. Chad noted that, due to increasing business activity in Pataskala, he is considering extending office operations to five days a week and asked if the board had any objections. The board expressed unanimous support for the proposal. Kane Learning has put together a plan to promote the office.

Financial Reports and Bills:

The financial reports were presented to the board and discussed. The August 2025 LCHD Financial Reports were approved on a motion by Carole Wachtel, Kathy Wyatt seconded. All members voted yea; motion passed.

The August 2025 LCHD Bills were presented and discussed. Carole Wachtel presented a motion to approve, Mary Billy seconded. All members voted yea; motion passed.

Contract Agreements:

Resolution 2025-60 was presented to the board to enter into an agreement with Legend Valley. A motion to approve was presented by Carole Wachtel, Shelly Ellis seconded. Motion passed.

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Resolution 2025-61 was presented to the board to enter into an agreement with the LEADS Community Action Agency. A motion to approve was presented by Shelly Ellis, John Wetmore seconded. Motion passed.

Resolution 2025-62 was presented to the board to enter into an agreement with Oscar Buckeye State Insurance Corporation. A motion to approve was presented by Carole Wachtel, Kathy Wyatt seconded. Motion passed.

Resolution 2025-63 was presented to the board to enter into an agreement with the Pataskala Police Department. A motion to approve was presented by Mary Billy, John Wetmore seconded. Motion passed.

Executive Session: A motion was made by Larry Friesel and seconded by Mary Billy to enter an Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, or compensation of a public employee. A vote was conducted to enter the session, with all members voting yea.

The board entered into the Executive Session at 6:50 PM.

The board returned from Executive Session at 7:29 PM on a motion by Mary Billy, Kathy Wyatt seconded. A vote was conducted to return from the session, with all members voting yea.

No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Personnel:

- a. An authorization to hire an EH Program Manager was received. A motion to approve was presented by Larry Friesel, Kathy Wyatt seconded. Motion passed.
- b. An authorization to hire a clerk was received. A motion to approve was presented by Larry Friesel, Kathy Wyatt seconded. Motion passed.

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The September 16, 2025, Licking County Board of Health was adjourned at 7:30 PM on a motion by Carole Wachtel, seconded by Mary Billy. Meeting adjourned.

Approved:

Neisha Grubaugh, Board of Health President

Chad Brown, Health Commissioner

Tiffany Murphy, Executive Assistant