

Geauga County General Health District  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
April 16, 2018, 5:00 p.m.  
Geauga County Health District Office  
470 Center Street, Bldg. 8, Chardon, OH 44024

I. Call to Order

Mr. David Gragg, called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 5:08 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. David Gragg, Interim Pro-Tem, Mrs. Catherine Whitright, Dr. Jonathan Wynbrandt and Mr. Richard Piraino. Mrs. Christina Livers was not present.

Staff members present: Robert Weisdack, Health Commissioner, David Sage, Director of Environmental Health, Alta Wendell, Administrative Assistant, Darla Andrews, Director of Health and Wellness and Christie Gigliotti, Accreditation Coordinator.

Others present: Adam Litke, Financial Consultant, Tammy Spencer, Karen DeWeese, Mary Ann Marsh, Helen Reighard, and Nancy Tvergyak.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Gragg asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Welcome Richard Piraino

The Board and Mr. Weisdack welcomed Mr. Piraino to the Geauga County Health District Board of Health.

IV. Election of President and Pro-Tem

**Dr. Wynbrandt nominated David Gragg as President. Mrs. Whitright seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Gragg, abstain; Dr. Wynbrandt, yes; Mrs. Whitright, yes; and Mr. Piraino, yes.**

**Mrs. Whitright nominated Dr. Jonathan Wynbrandt as Pro-Tem. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Wynbrandt, abstain; Mrs. Whitright, yes; and Mr. Piraino, yes.**

V. Committee Appointments

- a. Strategic Planning- Mr. Piraino and Mr. Gragg
- b. Finance- Dr. Wynbrandt and Mr. Piraino
- c. Personnel- Mr. Gragg and Mrs. Whitright
- d. Sewage- Dr. Wynbrandt and Mr. Piraino

VI. Approval of Board Minutes

**Dr. Wynbrandt moved to approve the minutes for the February 20, 2018 and March 19, 2018 regular Board of Health meetings. Mrs. Whitright seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Wynbrandt, yes; Mrs. Whitright, yes; and Mr. Piraino, abstain.**

VII. Approval of Current Expense and Financial Reports

**Mrs. Whitright moved to approve the Current Expense and Financial Reports March 17, 2018 to April 12, 2018. Dr. Wynbrandt seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Wynbrandt, yes; Mrs. Whitright, yes; and Mr. Piraino, yes.**

VIII. Variances

a. John Boyk/William Patti

John Boyk was present and sworn in by Mr. Gragg. Mr. Sage was sworn in and stated his experience.

Mr. Sage stated that this is a variance request by John Boyk on behalf of William Patti for the property located at 9582 Fairmount Rd., Russell Twp. The request involves the sections 3701-28-06 (G) (3) (c) of the Sewage Treatment System Rules, which states:

“All components of a STS shall be at least fifty feet from any water supply source and vertical open and closed loop geothermal heating and/or cooling system.” Discussion followed.

**Mrs. Whitright moved to approve the variance as requested. Mr. Piraino seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Wynbrandt, yes; Mrs. Whitright, yes; and Mr. Piraino, yes.**

b. G. Kaufman's Septic Tank Service/Gary Kaufman

Gary Kaufman was present and sworn in by Mr. Gragg. Mr. Sage was sworn in again and stated his experience.

Mr. Sage stated that this is a request by G. Kaufman's Septic Tank Service/Gary Kaufman, for the property located at 04-150788 Butternut Rd., Burton Twp. This request is to expand a previous variance approval by the Geauga County Board of Health regarding expanding the land application site.

The previously approved land application site is 1.5 acres. Mr. Kaufman is requesting to add another 1.5 acres to the approved area. Discussion followed.

**Mr. Piraino moved to approve the variance as requested. Mrs. Whitright seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Wynbrandt, yes; Mrs. Whitright, yes; and Mr. Piraino, yes.**

IX. Environmental Health Program Update

Mr. Weisdack reported that the Wolcott case is now complete. All penalty fees have been paid and he is reviewing Mr. Wolcott's corrective action plan.

X. Health and Wellness

Mrs. Andrews reported that over \$31,000.00 was billed for March deliverables for the PHEP grant. The communication and expectations of ODH continue to be a problem. Nearly \$80,000.00 has been billed since August 2017

The new Disease Surveillance Specialist, Svetlana Zelenskiy is adjusting well to her new position and fits in with the team. There were 55 reportable infectious disease cases in March with 25% being STDs and 38% being hospitalized flu.

The nurses completed HIPAA Training and TB updates. During March, they completed 457 vision screenings at 17 Amish schools. Thirty-one children were referred for further evaluation.

The Immunization Action Plan grant has brought in over \$33,000.00 since May.

We have received over \$13,000.00 for the Maternal Child Health Grant since November 2017. We have had 14 requests/deliverables of cribs and the nutrition program will begin May 2 at the YMCA.

Mrs. Andrews stated that the search continues for more grant opportunities. For financial reasons, one of the Health and Wellness secretaries has been reassigned to the Environmental Health Division effective April 4, 2018.

Seven months ago, the immunization and well child clinics were decreased by half due to financial reasons. If a service cannot financially support itself or if it is not supported by a grant, we can no longer provide the service at this time.

Other changes are being made due to the financial difficulties of the Health and Wellness Division. Effective July 1, 2018 we will no longer utilize the contract RNs; Newborn home visits will be eliminated; and we will no longer provide vaccine for those individuals with insurance. We will be cancelling our contract with VaxCare and will no longer receive their vaccines, including flu vaccine.

The Vaccines for Adults program will continue twice a month. We are proposing an administration fee to help preserve some of our services; however, no one will be turned away if they cannot afford the administration fee of \$15.00.

The Vaccines for Children program will remain two to 3 times per month, offsite, by appointment only. There will no longer be walk-in clinics for children. The clinics will be supported by two RNs, with no clerical support. In addition, there will no longer be onsite clinics for children. Mrs. Andrews stated that there would not be an administration fee for children.

Mrs. Andrews reported that Amish represent 70% of the clientele with families averaging 8-12 children. She stated that they do not want to create a barrier after making headway in increasing Amish vaccination rates. Vision screenings for the Amish schools is in jeopardy. All licensed schools in Ohio are required by law to provide vision screenings. Amish schools are not licensed, so the service is not required by law. This service will discontinue unless an alternative resource is found.

In 2016, the Board of Health agreed to fund the Amish Well Child Clinic from October 1, 2016 to December 2017 at an estimated cost of \$33,550.00. The Amish Well Child clinic will end May 16, 2018 after providing many years of service to families with children up to 2 years of age. This service was offered each month and included growth and development assessment; nutrition and oral care evaluation; age, home and season specific safety education; lead and hemoglobin levels, vision and hearing screenings; and an exam by a licensed physician. Referrals were not unusual for cardiovascular concerns, bone development, eye deviations; failure to thrive, and nutritional deficits. Nurses would also administer vaccines and provide counseling. In 2017, 234 children were provided services. In 2018 from January through March, 59 children were provided services including 165 vaccines.

Mrs. Andrews stated she is seeking other ways to support as many of the Health and Wellness services as possible. She plans to approach the Amish Schools Superintendent to see if they would entertain a fee to continue vision screenings. She also would like to approach the Amish Safety Committee for monetary support for the clinics and possibly use the MRC members to provide services.

The 2019 Maternal Child Health grant RFP is out. The deliverables have been decreased to four and we qualify for none of them. Mr. Litke stated that this would be a loss of about \$50,000.00.

a. Letter from Geauga Physicians

Dr. Williams-Reid and Dr. Ann Fallinger explained their concerns to the Board. Over the past 20 years, a lot of progress has been made gaining the trust of the Amish population. Vaccinating this group of children is very important. Without it, unvaccinated children could spread illnesses to others within the county. It will affect everyone in the community eventually.

Dr. Wynbrandt asked why the Amish do not use Medicare or Medicaid. Dr. Reid explained that is because of distrust of the government. In addition, the churches decide what care the congregation can receive. Most do not believe in preventative medicine.

Mr. Weisdack stated that because ODH is moving from individual care to education of population health is the main problem with the funding.

Dr. Wynbrandt stated that he would be interested in doing more research on this subject. His residents could help obtain grants. He asked Mrs. Andrews to get in touch with him to work it out. Dr. Reid stated that she would volunteer one day per month and her colleagues have indicated that they would do so also because they believe this clinic should continue.

Discussion ensued regarding speaking to the Bishops and discussing this important topic to see if they would be willing to provide some support. Mrs. Andrews was asked to coordinate a meeting.

XI. Accreditation

Ms. Gigliotti informed the Board that the application for Accreditation was submitted the last week of March. She has received notice that the application was approved.

She outlined what the next steps will be. After she attends training, the Geauga County Health District has one year to complete and submit all documents. She reported that we are at 80% completion with identifying the documents we need.

The new strategic plan is still being worked on. She stated she is looking forward to working with Mr. Piraino and Mr. Gragg on this important step of Accreditation.

Domain 12 will require the Board of Health to be involved. Mr. Weisdack and Ms. Gigliotti have been working on it also.

Many of the committees are meeting on a regular basis. There was a work session in Columbus recently that was provided by Ohio State's Center for Public Health Practice. She stated that it was a great experience and the committee made a lot of progress.

The CHIP is complete and has been reviewed. The first introductory meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2018.

X. Financial Report/Administration

Mr. Litke reported that because of the loss of the Maternal Child Health Grant, the budget would be impacted by approximately \$49,000.00. The Board will need to discuss what to do with the loss of this funding. Opioid and Tobacco grants are the larger grants being pushed.

Cost analysis are being done for both divisions. Revenue is flat. The Board will need to decide what to do with the loss of funding and the increase in expenses. Mr. Litke stated that the health district needs to look at grants and/or partnerships. The levy collects the same amount as it did 20 years ago. This is something that needs to be considered also. Mr. Litke stated that the health district would be in a very serious financial situation if something were not done now.

Dr. Wynbrandt, the other Board members and Mr. Weisdack agreed that Mr. Litke was instrumental in getting the Geauga County Health District back on track financially.

Mr. Litke stated that there are still things that need resolved. The State Auditor has given citations the past three audits.

Mr. Litke commended the Geauga County Health District staff. He stated that they have done an excellent job doing more with much less.

XI. Old Business

a. 2018 HDAC Meeting

Mr. Litke stated that the staff did an excellent job on their presentations. Mrs. Whitright stated she felt the presentation was impressive and she learned a lot about the services provided.

Mr. Weisdack felt that the committee really listened to the content of the presentation and were truly interested. This year's meeting was the most interactive as opposed to previous years.

The HDAC was informed about losing grant funding. They still want \$0 inside assessments, and would like more insight on grants that we apply for.

The levy was discussed. The committee wants the health district levy on the November 2018 ballot. The President, Ken Radtke, will be developing a levy committee. The current levy collects through 2019.

b. Resolution 2018-12- 2019 Appropriation Resolution

**Dr. Wynbrandt moved 4.16.18-a to adopt Resolution 2018-12 for approval of the 2019 Geauga County Health District budget. Mrs. Whitright seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Wynbrandt, yes; Mrs. Whitright, yes; and Mr. Piraino, yes.**

c. Revised Geauga County Health District Organizational Chart

Mr. Weisdack stated that the current organizational chart did not list the Fiscal Coordinator. The one being presented now includes that position. It also adds a Grants Management Coordinator that the Board had discussed and wanted developed previously.

**Mrs. Whitright moved 4.16.18-b to adopt the revised Geauga County Health District Organizational chart as presented. Dr. Wynbrandt seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Wynbrandt, yes; Mrs. Whitright, yes; and Mr. Piraino, yes.**

XII. New Business

Mrs. Whitright expressed her concerns regarding the Auditor's recent ruling that the reimbursement for Board meetings are taxable and considered income by the IRS. She stated that she is not eligible for OPERS even though the Auditor requires a form be completed for OPERS.

Mr. Gragg and Dr. Wynbrandt stated that they do not want to have to claim this income. They asked if it is possible to opt-out.

These concerns will be forwarded to the Auditor and the Assistant Prosecutor for clarification.

**Dr. Wynbrandt moved 4.16.18-c to adopt the Geauga County Health District hiring process flow-chart as presented. Mrs. Whitright seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Wynbrandt, yes; Mrs. Whitright, yes; and Mr. Piraino, yes.**

**Mrs. Whitright moved 4.16.18-d to adopt Resolution 2018-10 to allow payment of a Then & Now Purchase Order for the Treasurer, State of Ohio, not to exceed \$80.00. Dr. Wynbrandt seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Wynbrandt, yes; Mrs. Whitright, yes; and Mr. Piraino, yes.**

**Mrs. Whitright moved 4.16.18-e to adopt Resolution 2018-11 to allow payment of a Then & Now Purchase Order for the Clerk of Courts not to exceed \$145.00. Dr. Wynbrandt seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Wynbrandt, yes; Mrs. Whitright, yes; and Mr. Piraino, yes.**

**Dr. Wynbrandt moved 4.16.18-f to approve the increase of the contract with Adam Litke not to exceed \$10,000.00. Mr. Piraino seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Wynbrandt, yes; Mrs. Whitright, yes; and Mr. Piraino, yes.**

**Dr. Wynbrandt moved 4.16.18-g to adopt the first reading of the proposed Adult Vaccine Administration Fee at \$15.00 each. Mr. Piraino seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Wynbrandt, yes; Mrs. Whitright, yes; and Mr. Piraino, yes.**

XIII. Other Business

There was no other business.

XIV. Meetings

**Regular Board of Health Meeting, Monday, May 21, 2018** at 5:00 p.m. in the meeting room of 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

XV. Adjourn

As there was no further business to come before the Board, **Dr. Wynbrandt moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Mr. Piraino seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Wynbrandt, yes; Mrs. Whitright, yes; and Mr. Piraino, yes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert K. Weisdack, R.S., M.A., M.P.H.  
Secretary of the Board

a