

Geauga Public Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
December 23, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
470 Center Street, Bldg. 8, Chardon, OH 44024

1. Call to Order

Mr. Richard Piraino, Pro-Tem, called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 5:05 p.m.

A roll call found the following Board members present: Mr. David Gragg (via WebEx), Mr. Richard Piraino, Pro-Tem, Mrs. Catherine Whitright (via WebEx), and Ms. Lynn Roman. Dr. Patricia Levan was not present

Staff members present: Thomas Quade, Health Commissioner, David Sage, Director of Environmental Health, Alta Wendell, Director of Administration (via WebEx), Carol Straniero, Director of Population Health, Karolyn Johnson, Fiscal Coordinator, and Dr. Jennifer Williams-Reid, Medical Director (via WebEx)

Others present: Adam Litke, Fiscal & HR Consultant

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Approval of Board Minutes

Mr. Piraino pointed out that the response to the public comments were not attached to the minutes. Mrs. Wendell stated she had forgotten to attach it and would forward the complete set of minutes to the Board the following day. The response to the public comments were in regards to enforcement of Covid mandates. After discussion, the Board and Mr. Quade felt that the following statement should be added to the minutes in the Health Commissioner Update section: "The health department's primary response is to issue recommendations and guidance." **Mrs. Whitright moved to approve the minutes from the November 25, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Health as amended. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Public Comment Session

Public comment session is to last 20 minutes unless the Board moves to extend. Each speaker is allotted 2 minutes to make comments and ask questions. Questions will be answered by the Board after having an opportunity to investigate responses following the meeting. Board responses will be recorded and publically filed with meeting minutes.

There were no public present at the meeting.

4. Environmental Health Update

Mr. Sage reported that Administrative Hearings were held recently. There were 12 scheduled with seven agreeing to timelines to get the work done. One of the owners would not compromise and agree to timelines and the four who did not attend will be sent directly to the prosecutor's office for action.

The Ohio Department of Health has signed an agreement with a web-based software company for State-mandated programs. Mr. Sage has reached out to the company to discuss other programs that could be included. The web-based software will allow online payments and will provide a workflow for the different permits. They may also be able to provide some programs for Population Health. He is waiting for a quote from the company.

5. Population Health Update

Mrs. Straniero reported that a health educator has been hired and will begin her employment on January 13, 2021. Her position will be hybrid with some in-office and some remote work.

Theresa Matteo, PHEP Coordinator, has been working to verify all extended care facilities have registered with a pharmacy to receive and administer vaccine. Any who are not registered will be contacted to add them to the health department's list to administer vaccine. University Hospital will administer vaccine to providers in their system.

Only those who are eligible based on the Phase 1A criteria are being given vaccine at this time.

a deep-freeze freezer has been ordered and is scheduled to be delivered mid-January. This will allow us to obtain Pfizer vaccine in addition to Maderna.

Mrs. Straniero reported that 200 doses have been received and a small clinic was held today.

6. Administration Update

Mrs. Wendell reported that the entire Administrative team has returned after a two week quarantine due to being in contact with someone who tested positive for Covid. Some of the staff were able to work remotely, but the exposure caused the office to be mostly shut down for 2 weeks. She expressed her appreciation to Mr. Sage and his team for stepping up and covering the phones during that time. Mr. Quade stated that safety protocols were reviewed with staff.

We are working to spend down the funds received for the Covid grant. This has allowed us the opportunity to purchase technology that allowed us to have staff work remotely. This wouldn't have been possible without the funds from this grant. It also has allowed us to purchase consumable supplies that we will use as Covid continues on through the year.

One of the purchases was a larger copier which will suit the needs of EH and will allow us to grow into when we move to the new building. The copier that was previously in EH was moved to Population Health and their copier turned into the network printer for the field staff which will eliminate all the desktop printers.

a. Finance Report

Mrs. Johnson provided a brief update on the grants and explained variations in the revenue and expense items shown on the finance report.

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the December 2020 financial report as recommended by the health commissioner. Mrs. Whitright seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. Health Commissioner Update

Mr. Quade provided graphs to the Board showing different data sets in regards to COVID. Geauga County is in the red level. The demographics are trending toward younger people, which results in less deaths.

It is anticipated that after the holidays, a spike in cases will be seen.

Mr. Quade stated that the proposal for the vaccine campaign is to use three separate schools as locations for vaccine administration. His contacts at the schools have been more than accommodating. The current plan is to have clinics several days a week at those various locations. Once the weather is warmer, the clinics will be moved to the fairgrounds where it will be easier to move a large number of clients through.

Several former public health nurse employees have reached out to help and we have two contact tracers that are nurses also. We may be able to use Kent State student nurses beginning in March.

Mr. Quade was contacted about a product that other health departments are using. It is an app that the public can download for free. This will allow the resident to schedule their vaccine. This would allow the patient's information to be exported to the Impact/SYS program that the state health department uses to determine how much vaccine we will get. This tool will save a tremendous amount of time. Currently this information is entered by hand by staff and must be entered within 24 hours of administering. As soon as we administer the vaccine, the cost to the health department is \$.50 per dose.

Mr. Quade reached out to one of the county commissioners to see if they would be interested in covering the expense if the State or Federal government doesn't. The commissioner is going to send it through his channels to see if it will be approved. If the commissioners do not, Mr. Quade will bring it back to the Board for approval.

Mr. Piraino inquired about Accreditation. Mr. Quade has received guidance which says if there is a need to upload documentation, we can use documents related to our Covid response. This is helpful since the majority of the staff are new.

8. Old Business

There was no old business.

9. New Business

a. Lake County General Health District

Mr. Gragg moved 12.23.20-a to approve the contract with Lake County General Health District for financial management and HR resources effective January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

b. Supplemental De Appropriation

Mrs. Whitright moved 12.23.20-b to approve the Supplemental De-Appropriation in the amount of \$76,639.51 in 6036-053-901 Environmental Health Assistance, Other Expense. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

10. Other Business

Mr. Gragg stated that Executive Session was not needed. The Board still needs to put together the evaluation before discussion. He asked Mr. Quade to do a self-evaluation and send it to the Board. The Board will send their comments to Mrs. Wendell to compile into the complete evaluation and send back out to the Board for review. The Board will then discuss during Executive Session in January. Mr. Piraino asked for Sr. Leadership to provide an evaluation of Mr. Quade as well.

11. Meetings

Regular Board of Health Meeting, **Wednesday, January 27, 2021** at 5:00 p.m. at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

12. Adjourn

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Quade
Secretary, Geauga County Board of Health

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