

Geauga Public Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
470 Center Street, Bldg. 8, Chardon, OH 44024

1. Call to Order

Mr. David Gragg, President, called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 5:02 p.m.

A roll call found the following Board members present: Mr. David Gragg, Mr. Richard Piraino, Pro-Tem, Mrs. Catherine Whitright (via WebEx), Ms. Lynn Roman and Dr. Patricia Levan.

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

Others present: Adam Litke, Fiscal Consultant

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Approval of Board Minutes

Dr. Levan moved to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Health. Mr. Piraino 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 was no one present from the public.

4. Environmental Health Update

The Ohio EPA has requested assistance with well sampling in Parkman Township for possible well contamination on Tavern Rd. from road salt. Mr. Sage and the Environmental Health staff will be providing that service for OEPA. The samples will be run through the OEPA lab.

The Swimming Pool rules are due for the five year review. ODH asked for volunteers to be on the committee for rule review. Mark Citriglia volunteered and was chosen to be on the committee. This is a first for the Geauga Public Health Environmental Health staff. Mr. Sage expressed his pleasure that the staff want to participate in activities at the State level.

5. Population Health Update

Mrs. Straniero reported that several part-time contact tracers have been hired to assist with the increasing numbers of Covid cases in Geauga County. We have hired an Epidemiologist who recently was working for State of Wyoming handling their Covid cases. Mrs. Straniero also announced that a new public health nurse was hired and is getting oriented to her new position.

A mass flu vaccine clinic will be held November 7, 2020, in partnership with UH and the Geauga County Fair board. The clinic will be held at the Geauga County Fairgrounds. The vaccine is free to the public. There is only 250 doses available at this time.

A flu clinic will also be held November 6, 2020 in partnership with UH and the Red Cross at the Nauvoo Market. The Red Cross is having an Amish blood drive and the intent is to encourage the Amish adults to get the flu vaccine while they are there.

Children's immunization clinics are being scheduled again. Currently there is one scheduled for November and December.

Mrs. Straniero reported that she is working to get Geauga Public Health a COVID-19 vaccine provider. This will allow us to administer the vaccine once it becomes available.

6. Administration Update

a. Finance Report

Mrs. Johnson explained variations in the revenue and expense items shown on the finance report.

Mr. Piraino moved to approve the October 2020 financial report as recommended by the health commissioner. Ms. Roman 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 now in the red level. In the past 2 to 3 weeks, Geauga County has had an average of more cases every day than since COVID started. The transmission is happening in the 15 to 45 year olds and in the informal settings.

Mr. Quade stated that more concerning is an influx of cases in long term care facilities. This will likely increase the number of hospitalizations and fatalities. There have been cases reported in schools as well.

Mr. Quade reached out to the schools prior to the announcement that Geauga was going to red. The schools did an excellent job planning for this situation. Most will not need to change based on the level increasing to red.

The message will be the same regardless of level. That message is wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, don't attend large gatherings.

Dr. Levan expressed concern about the mental health issues related to COVID. Mr. Quade agreed that the pandemic has had an impact on those issues. Recently, he was asked to serve on the advisory board for United Way and has been serving on the Lifeline Board. He felt that serving on those Boards provides a strong partnership to be able to work on the mental health problems within the county. It is the purpose of those agencies as well as the Mental Health Board to spread information to help residents cope.

Mrs. Straniero reported that the staff in Population Health put together a resource guide for the school nurses with contact information that the nurses could direct students to.

Mr. Quade participated in the ground-breaking ceremony for the new building. The funds for the building were already encumbered and is not using new money to build.

8. Old Business

There was no old business.

9. New Business

a. Then & Now

Mrs. Johnson explained that the need for the Then & Now is because the court case began in 2019 and those purchase orders are closed. **Mr. Piraino moved 10.28.20-a to approve the Then & Now for the Geauga County Clerk of Courts not to exceed \$76.54. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Executive Session

Mrs. Whitright moved to adjourn to executive session to discuss compensation of personnel and pending litigation at 6:10 p.m. Mr. Piraino seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Gragg, yes; Mr.

Piraino, yes; Mrs. Whitright, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; and Dr. Levan, yes. Meeting reconvened. Another meeting will be scheduled to discuss pending litigation.

12. Meetings

Regular Board of Health Meeting, **Wednesday, November 25, 2020** at 5:00 p.m. at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

13. Adjourn

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Quade
Secretary, Geauga County Board of Health

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