

Geauga Public Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
September 23, 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, Dr. Jennifer Williams-Reid, Medical Director, and Karolyn Johnson, Fiscal Coordinator.

Others present: Adam Litke, Fiscal Consultant; Skip Claypool; James MacNeal; Kathy Johnson; and Ken Radtke, Jr.

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 August 26, 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.

Presentation by Geauga County ADAMHS Board

Mr. Claypool stated he was not there on behalf of the ADAMHS Board. Mr. Gragg stated that this understanding that this presentation was about COVID related mental health issues. Mr. Claypool stated that that was part of his presentation in relation to the work by the State and local health departments. Mr. Claypool went on to explain that the residents don't believe what is being reported by the health departments. He also stated that the numbers of cases and deaths do not warrant the requirement to wear masks. He stated that this is all because of political reasons.

After Mr. Claypool's presentation which lasted approximately 20 minutes, Mr. Gragg thanked him for his comments. Mr. Gragg expressed that it was the Board's understanding that Mr. Claypool was going to present the mental health aspect of issues related to COVID.

4. Environmental Health Update

Mr. Sage reported that ODH had been working to get a new data management system. They have awarded the bid to a company called Acella. This will system will be used mostly for state mandated programs. This should allow the sharing of data with the ODH and other local health departments.

Mr. Sage has reached out Acella to see if they can provide a system that could be used by Population Health for their data management of vaccine and immunizations.

The Perry Nuclear Plant Drill was held recently. Mr. Sage and Theresa Matteo, Emergency Response Coordinator were players at the drill. FEMA attended remotely. FEMA gave very good feedback on how the drill was executed. Mr. Quade reported that the director of Department of Emergency Services commented on how well the drill went and how he appreciated the assistance of Mr. Sage and Ms. Matteo.

5. Population Health Update

Mr. Quade introduced Carol Straniero, Population Health Director to the Board. Mr. Gragg welcomed Mrs. Straniero and offered any support the board can supply to make her job easier.

Stephanie Carlson is now the Nursing Supervisor which was previously held by Mrs. Straniero. Mr. Quade acknowledged that Ms. Carlson had only been with Geauga Public Health a few weeks but has taken on her new role with eagerness.

Mrs. Straniero stated that she is working on restructuring some of the workload. Staff have been working to get caught up on completing grant deliverables and reporting. A new public health nurse has been hired and will begin her employment soon. Mrs. Straniero has been interviewing contact tracers to help assist with the workload as well as an epidemiologist to fill the position that was recently vacated.

Mrs. Straniero has revised the contact tracing database to gather more of the data that is needed. Mr. Quade added that the revising of the database was a large undertaking.

She has been working closely with the schools who each has their own COVID representative. Staff have been fielding many calls from parents with questions and looking for reassurance that their child will be safe.

6. Administration Update

a. Finance Report

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

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the September 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. He provided information that is easily to access of the ODH website. Mr. Quade provided information from a 10 year span to get an average. He provided the leading causes of death during that time frame. The data provided is readily accessible by anyone. The trend of positive cases are still with the younger age group. Mr. Quade also provided data on self-inflicted deaths.

Dr. Levan stated that she has experienced that hospitals want COVID listed as cause of death and had heard that there is a reimbursement to the hospital for COVID deaths.

On the AOHC weekly call, one of the health commissioners began discussion of the required cost methodology for the food program. Because of the disruption to the economy, it was proposed that the fees be frozen for 3 years. This recommendation will be suggested to ODH.

Mr. Quade was asked to serve on the Family First Council. He attended the first meeting last week. This meeting is held monthly.

There will be a drive-through flu clinic held in November in conjunction with other partners. This will be a practice model in the case of mass COVID vaccine distribution. Mr. Quade reached out to Paul Harris to use the fairgrounds. Mr. Harris indicated that he would be willing to help. Everyone is hopeful that the weather will cooperate.

The Ohio Department of Health hired a health director, but after other consideration, she decided not to take the position. They will continue to search for a new director.

The state has put out guidance for Halloween activities and events. There is has been no order attached to it. Mr. Quade has written a response to inquiries about those events as well as similar gatherings.

8. Old Business

There was no old business.

9. New Business

a. 2021 Health Insurance Rates

Mr. Quade reported that the rates for 2021 rates went down slightly. He proposed that the employee contribution remain the same as 2020. **Mr. Gragg moved 9.23.20-a to approve the 2021 health insurance employee contribution rates as presented. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

b. UH Geauga Maternity Licensure Application

Mr. Quade stated that UH needs approval of the application. The application consists of listing the number of beds. ODH requires that the local health department approve the application. **Mr. Gragg moved 9.23.20-b to approve the Ohio Department of Health Maternity Licensure Application for UH Geauga Medical Center. 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. 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. Mr. Gragg stated that the issue will be tabled and another meeting of the Board will be scheduled for further discussion.

12. Meetings

Regular Board of Health Meeting, **Wednesday, October 28, 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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