

Geauga Public Health  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2021, 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 5:04p.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), Ms. Lynn Roman (via WebEx).and Dr. Patricia Levan

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, and Dr. Jennifer Williams-Reid, Medical Director (via WebEx)

Others present: Adam Litke, Fiscal & HR Consultant, Jim Dvorak, Michael Pitziello, and Carey Brockman

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Approval of Board Minutes

Ms. Roman had sent some changes to Mrs. Wendell via email which were grammatical in nature and didn't change the content of the minutes. **Mr. Gragg moved to approve the minutes from the December 23, 2020 regular meeting as amended and January 21, 2021 special meeting of the Board of Health as amended. Ms. Roman 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 publicly filed with meeting minutes.*

Carey Brockman asked why the director vaccinated prisoners instead of nursing homes. Against the guidelines of the state based on a story she saw on Fox 8 news. Mr. Quade explained that the residents at long term care facilities are vaccinated under a different program through the state that uses pharmacies to provide and administer the vaccine, so the health department was not in the role of vaccinating those residents. Elderly residents not in a long-term care facility were not eligible at that time. At the time, the list of congregate settings did not specifically exclude correctional facilities. He believed it was consistent with the guidelines of the state. After the interview, Fox 8 contacted the state who said that correctional facilities were not fall under the guidelines. This was the first Mr. Quade heard that decision and as such, the health department didn't go back to the jail for additional 1<sup>st</sup> dose clinics.

Mike Pitziello said he was a member of the Mental Health board. He was told that there were 600 cases of Covid in the county and wanted to know if those people were sick. Mr. Quade stated that the 600 cases were for the last 2 weeks, but he wouldn't know how sick those people actually are. He and Dr. Levan referred Mr. Pitziello to the charts and data that were presented to the Board at the beginning of the meeting that shows the trends.

He also wanted to know how many flu cases there were. Dr. Levan stated that they are not testing for flu in her office.

Mr. Pitziello stated that there was an increase in suicide because of the hysteria about Covid. He wants to see the survival rates on the website.

He also wanted to know why open enrollment was being allowed. This is a topic to address with the school systems.

Mr. Pitziello also said that there is no law to wear a mask and that the lockdowns are killing business. Mr. Quade stated that GPH has not closed any businesses since the beginning of the pandemic and has no intention to do so.

Mr. Quade thanked Mr. Pitziello for his comments.

4. Environmental Health Update

Mr. Sage reported that Administrative Hearings were held recently. There were 17 scheduled with three attending and agreeing to timelines to get the work done. Those who did not attend will be sent directly to the prosecutor's office for action.

The Ohio EPA is offering the Water Pollution Control Loan Grant again. This grant allows residents at certain income levels to apply for funding to repair or replace their failing septic systems. This is a pass-through grant. Mr. Sage asked the Board to approve the resolution in new business authorizing the health commissioner to apply for the funding of \$150,000.00

Ms. Roman asked if the prosecutor was moving forward on any of the health department cases. Mr. Sage explained the timeline and process.

5. Population Health Update

Mrs. Straniero reported on the process of the clinics. She explained it's based on the number of vaccinators and the amount of vaccine we have. She explained that the information for each person vaccinated must be entered into the IMPACT/SIIS system within 24 hours. The state bases our vaccine shipment on this data. This has created quite a problem because of the amount of time it takes to enter the information.

The state is also using this information to verify that doses are being given within the eligibility criteria that is in place at the time the vaccine is given. Mrs. Straniero stated that we have been complying.

Mrs. Straniero stated that there are several nurses that have volunteered including some former GPH employees. All volunteer nurses are vetted, their credentials verified and are skills tested prior to being scheduled.

6. Administration Update

a. Finance Report

Mr. Litke provided a brief update on the grants and explained variations in the revenue and expense items shown on the finance report. He also reported that two of the Covid grants were extended to December 2021.

**Ms. Roman moved to approve the January 2021 financial report as recommended by the health commissioner. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

7. Health Commissioner Update

Mr. Quade provided graphs to the Board showing different data sets and trends in regards to COVID. Geauga County is still in the red level.

Mr. Quade explained the initial state distribution plan which was a three-part plan. Pharmacies were responsible for the long-term care facilities. The hospital system is responsible for vaccinating their staff. The health department is responsible for everyone else. The pharmacies will now to be giving vaccine to the general public, but are experiencing problems getting the vaccine.

The state is adding eligible residents to the list, but the vaccine isn't being distributed at a comparable rate which is causing a lot of confusion and frustration. Vaccine eligibility changes frequently.

The first remote clinics are completed and the second-dose clinics are scheduled. Larger clinics have also been held and more are scheduled. The clinics that are being held in February are specifically for approximately 2,000 school personnel to receive their first dose.

Mr. Quade stated that the capacity exists to do two clinics one week and three clinics the following week at approximately 350 and 400 vaccinations at each clinic, if we have the vaccine. All appointments through February 24 are complete.

Mr. Quade explained that Job and Family Services run a program called Guidestone. This is a program that helps people to obtain skills to get a job. There will be several people from this program that will be assisting with different tasks at the clinics. This is a benefit to our partnership with another county agency.

Mr. Quade is working with Paul Harris of the Geauga County Fair board to do the larger mass-clinics that may begin in April.

At the last meeting, Mr. Quade spoke about a company that could develop an on-line scheduling. He explained that he now has all the information and after discussion with the DoIT directors, feels that it should go forward. This would be launched within 4 weeks. This product will allow scheduling of other services as well. There are many other tools within this system that makes it ideal such as mass-emailing, etc. The contract that was approved with AmorVax at last month's meeting will no longer be needed.

The director of the Department on Aging has offered to send some of her staff to the health department to take calls from residents who cannot navigate the website. These people would enter the resident's information into the system.

8. Old Business

There was no old business.

9. New Business

a. Funds Transfer

**Ms. Roman moved 1.27.21-a to adopt Resolution 2021-1 to transfer \$6,250.00 from 6026 WIC and \$10,443.00 from 6027 Child & Family Health Services to 60002 Board of Health as approved by the health commissioner. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion.** Mr. Litke explained that the WIC and Child & Family Health Services grants are no longer used so funds are being moved to the general fund. **Motion carried.**

b. Then and Now

**Ms. Roman moved 1.27.21-b to adopt Resolution 2021-2 approve the Then & Now payment to Treasurer, State of Ohio not to exceed \$3,956.00. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion.** Mr. Litke explained that there was an increase in the amount of permits issued at the end of the year, beyond what we had budgeted. **Motion carried.**

c. WPCLF Authorizing Resolution

**Mrs. Whitright moved 1.27.21-c to adopt Resolution 2021-3 to authorize the health commissioner to enter into an agreement for the Water Pollution Control Loan fund with the Ohio EPA. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

d. Revenue Certification and Supplemental Appropriation

**Mr. Gragg moved 1.27.21-d to approve the Revenue Certification and Supplemental Appropriation for 6021- Public Health Infrastructure fund as presented. Ms. Roman seconded the motion.** Mr. Litke explained that this is being done because of the extension of the Covid grants to December 31, 2021. **Motion carried.**

e. Company 119 Agreement

**Dr. Levan moved 1.27.21-e to authorize the health commissioner to enter into an agreement with Company 119 for a website appointment scheduling solution, not to exceed \$23,350.00. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

10. Other Business

Dr. Reid expressed her concern about the lack of children's immunization clinics. Mr. Quade that he and Mrs. Straniero have talked about ways to get this done. Mrs. Straniero stated that childhood immunization clinics at the health department are being held one or two days per month. Her goal is to have one large clinic per month, but the staff is working all the Covid clinics. There is a large amount of preparation for each clinic.

Immunization clinics are a grant deliverable, so it is still in process. Dr. Levan asked Dr. Reid if there are any of her colleagues that would be willing to donate time to run the clinics. Dr. Reid indicated she would ask. Ms. Roman asked about hiring more nurses to run the clinics. Mr. Quade stated that the funding must be available to hire those people.

11. Meetings

Regular Board of Health Meeting, **Wednesday, February 24, 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 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Quade  
Secretary, Geauga County Board of Health

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