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**JEFFERSON COUNTY**

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**GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
August 17, 2021  
8:15 a.m.**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 8:15 a.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor community room of the Towers Building located at 500 Market Street, Steubenville, Ohio.

**Board Members Present:**

Terry Bell  
Chief Clark J. Crago, Vice-President  
Patrick Macedonia, M.D, President  
Anthony Mougianis  
Jean-Philippe Rigaud

**Staff:**

Andrew Henry, Health Commissioner  
Kelly Wilson, Director of Finance/Administration  
Michele Henry, Administrative Assistant  
Marc Maragos, Director of Environmental  
Stephanie Chester, RN, WIC Director  
Hannah Piko, RN, Director of Nursing  
Carla Gampolo, Registered Sanitarian  
Linda Agresta, Environmental Clerk  
Rick Stead, PHEP Coordinator  
Dr. Mark Kissinger, Medical Director

**Absent:**

**Prosecutor:**

**Guests:**

See sign-in sheet

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Dr. Macedonia, President. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. All board members were in attendance.

Dr. Macedonia asked that those present that are not vaccinated to please put on a mask.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to accept the July 20, 2021 Minutes of Regular Meeting.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
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Motion-2021-81	Mr. Rigaud moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to accept the July 20, 2021 Minutes of the Regular Meeting.  Motion passed unanimously.	1 <sup>st</sup> - Rigaud 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Aye
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**July 2021 Revenue Report**

<i>Action</i>	<i>Approval of July’s Revenue Report</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-82	Mr. Bell moved and Mr. Mougianis seconded a motion to accept July 2021 revenue report.  Motion passed unanimously.	1 <sup>st</sup> - Bell 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Mougianis Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye

**July 2021 Expense Report**

<i>Action</i>	<i>Approval of July’s Expense Report</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-83	Mr. Mougianis moved and Chief Crago seconded a motion to accept July 2021 expense report.  Motion passed unanimously.	1 <sup>st</sup> - Mougianis 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Crago Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye

Dr. Macedonia thanked Kelly Wilson and everyone working on the expenses for their hard work. We are getting closer, but according to the first seven months of reporting, the Health Department is running on a deficit. Kelly Wilson is working in the 2020 expenses to fix items not charged to the correct grants.

Kelly Wilson spoke of expenses identified that we have been paying for and have not used for some time. There are eight phone lines some of which were on the seventh floor that we’ve been charged over \$400.00 a month. The cable bill was charged for over two years for four hook ups when we are only utilizing two. This will result in additional savings once these services are



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terminated. All utilities have been investigated now and all unused phones and cable boxes will be eliminated and will result in a cost savings to the department.

**Consent Agenda**

<i>Action</i>	<i>Approval of July 2021 Health Commissioner's Consent Agenda</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-84	Chief Crago moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to approve July 2021 Consent Agenda.  Motion passed unanimously.	1 <sup>st</sup> - Crago 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye

**Health Commissioner's Report**

A copy of the report is attached hereto and made part of the official minutes.

**Medical Director's Report**

Dr. Kissinger stated we have been able to perform school and sports physicals. Getting back to some normal activities. Unfortunately, Covid is still around, 51% of Ohioans are vaccinated. The Delta Variant is in Ohio but the variant testing is not done here locally. If you are vaccinated, you are 40-50% less likely to contract the virus and if you do it is usually asymptomatic to mild. The minority of hospitalizations are vaccinated persons.

There was a recent study that showed that vaccinated and unvaccinated people were shedding the same amount of virus, but three days into it those that were vaccinated were shedding significantly less virus. There are some antibodies shown in individuals who had the virus both in vaccinated and unvaccinated persons. Vaccinations are still the better option at this point. The Delta variant is 2 1/2 times more contagious in those under the age of 50 according to studies from the UK. Symptoms are starting sooner within 5 days of coming in contact with a positive person.

We've had a year and a half to make better health choices. Hopefully people have begun to make healthier live choices.

**Nursing Report**

A copy of the report is attached hereto and made part of the official minutes.

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Dr. Macedonia asked how we are getting the information out to the general public about the third vaccine for immunocompromised individuals. Nurse Piko answered we posted on our Facebook page and on our website and had 15 calls already. Dr. Macedonia read an article last evening that the third dose doesn't have to be the same as the first two doses received. Dr. Kissinger confirmed that information.

**WIC Report**

A copy of the report is attached hereto and made part of the official minutes.

Nurse Chester answered Dr. Macedonia's question from last month concerning recertification and new certifications. Any new pregnancy, newborn or new child is considered a new certification. Anyone a year or more out of the program and restarts is considered new as well.

We continue education distribution through the Urban Mission Ministry. Staff attended the Bike Rodeo's set up by nursing to give out information about WIC and WIC services.

Nurse Chester and breast feeding peer helper Crystal Wickham participated in a State breast feeding update call. The WIC department met with Help Me Grow for an in service to educate staff on services available to Jefferson County residents. The entire staff attended a webinar on breast feeding and how to work with providers and various organizations to increase breast feeding numbers. August is breast feeding awareness month. Gifts are being given to breast feeding moms and pregnant moms.

Nurse Chester stated we are getting a list of families from Job and Family Services. Those enrolled in Medicaid or SNAP are eligible for WIC; we grew an additional 13 cases out of the 52 cases referred.

**Environmental**

A copy of the report is attached hereto and made part of the official minutes.

Shout out to John McGuire from the department who performed all the trailer park inspections. There is a MOU we have on file and the Ohio Department of Commerce reimburses us for performing those inspections.

Ohio EPA was in to conduct a survey of the Solid Waste Program and they were happy with what they saw. There will be a report available once the survey results are complete.

The environmental department has purchased a drone to help with inspections in areas we previously were unable to get to. The drone will be used to take digital pictures and videos of



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open dump sites, tire dumps and other areas needing investigated that we would otherwise not be able to get close to. Mr. Rigaud questioned about certifications and licenses needed to be able to fly the drone. Mr. Maragos stated it has to be registered with the FAA and the department is checking to make sure that we are not violating any laws or regulations. Mr. Rigaud stated organizations he’s dealt with have required extensive training almost like flight training and Mr. Maragos stated the department will be doing the same.

**Accreditation**

Health Commissioner Henry stated we will be submitting the letter to archive for one year this week. The health department will have a full year to compile the documentation for uploading.

**PHEP**

A copy of the report is attached hereto and made part of the official minutes.

**Correspondence**

No correspondence for this month.

**Old Business**

<i><b>Action</b></i>	<i><b>Motion to approve July 20, 2021 Consent Agenda.</b></i>	<i><b>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</b></i>
Motion – 2021-85	Mr. Rigaud moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to approve July 20, 2021 Consent Agenda.  Motion passed unanimously.	1 <sup>st</sup> - Rigaud 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye

There was no official motion to accept the Consent Agenda from July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Kelly Wilson spoke about the audit exit conference and the fact that the auditors do not like the consent agenda. Kelly Wilson believes the consent agenda was created around July 2019. Board will need to make it in the form of the motion to eliminate the consent agenda.

<i><b>Action</b></i>	<i><b>Motion to Eliminate the Consent Agenda.</b></i>	<i><b>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</b></i>
Motion – 2021-86	Mr. Rigaud moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to eliminate the consent agenda.	1 <sup>st</sup> - Rigaud 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Bell Bell - Aye



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	Motion passed unanimously.	Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye
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All items included in the Consent Agenda will be listed separately on the agenda moving forward. All items will be approved as a separate line item not as a whole as was being done previously. The By-laws will be updated during next review to eliminate the consent agenda wording.

2015 Ford Escape Sale

Health Commissioner Henry stated that we received a competitive bid and will be selling the Ford Escape for a price of \$13,100.00. The bidder has been contacted, we are awaiting a return call to complete the sale.

Wellness on Wheels (WOW)

Health Commissioner Henry said there will be a ribbon cutting immediately following the meeting for the new Wellness on Wheels.

Legal Fees

Health Commissioner Henry asked Dr. Macedonia if he had spoken with Attorney Blake concerning the attorney fees. Dr. Macedonia answered he has reached out and Attorney Blake is still investigating the fees. The \$4,095.00 bill is late and more expenses have been adding up and they want the \$4,095.00 balance ASAP. Dr. Macedonia questioned if the bill had been paid. The board was reminded that they wanted to wait to pay the bill until we got notification from Attorney Blake. The total of the bills to date are \$8,971.70. In the legal matter this board is currently in, the Ohio Revised Code says the county prosecutor represents this board. The county prosecutors have asked to be excused due to possible participation in the court proceedings. They recommended we hire an outside firm. The question is raised, who then is responsible for the attorney fees to pay for this? The bill is coming to us and we are trying to seek clarification if that's how it should be. Dr. Macedonia stated he thinks the board should pay at least the first bill of \$4,095.00.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to Pay the First Attorney Fee Bill in the Amount of \$4,095.00.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-87	Mr. Rigaud moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to pay the first attorney fee bill in the amount of \$4,095.00.	1 <sup>st</sup> - Rigaud 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Bell Bell - Aye



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	Motion passed unanimously.	Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye
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Job and Family Services Nurse on call

Health Commissioner Henry reached out to Job and Family Services and has not yet received a call back to complete the paperwork.

**New Business**

Juneteenth Holiday

Health Commissioner Henry stated that Juneteenth is not currently in our policy manual as an approved holiday. The county announced this holiday without adopting the policy given the quick announcement. Health Commissioner Henry asked for the board’s approval of that holiday addition starting next year.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion for Addition of Juneteenth as an Approved Holiday for the Health Department.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-88	Mr. Rigaud moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion for addition of Juneteenth as an approved holiday for the Health Department.  Motion passed unanimously.	1 <sup>st</sup> - Rigaud 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye

CHA/CHIP

Health Commissioner Henry stated for the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan we are partnering with our local health system Trinity. We have agreed on a vendor, it will cost approx. \$40,000.00 and the cost will be split. This is a cost savings to us as we incurred the entire cost previously without the partnership. 25% of the cost must be paid up front and it is slated to start in September. The vendor has an estimated completion date of March 2022.

**Public Participation**

For the record, Dr. Macedonia stated in order to remain consistent with our public participation the name, the address, the group affiliation if any and the topic to be discussed must be given prior to speaking.



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Mr. Royal Mayo addressed the board concerning community health.

Mr. Mayo had some questions about Covid 19, I heard them say 19 people who have been vaccinated have tested positive. Do we know which vaccine is more effective? The school age children not eligible for the vaccine; is it possible that their vaccinated teacher or parents could give it to them? How is it spreading? What are we going to do? Mr. Mayo spoke of the mandates last year when things started opening up with the limitations on events. Who gave the order to close the school? Do you have the ability to tell people to mask or not mask? The hospital is requiring all employees to be vaccinated. Do the schools have the authority to require all staff to be vaccinated? If so, if you are vaccinated, are you going to be able to spread it? Will we have more access to testing if that is the case? Mr. Mayo expressed his concern about those who are vaccinated who may be positive without knowing and are out and spreading the virus to others.

Mr. Mayo asked about the variant, are there going to be additional variants coming. He wants more answers and more information from the Health Commissioner. What is the power and authority of this body? Does a student have the right to stay home, does the teacher have the right to refuse to get vaccinated? Mr. Mayo wants to know what we are going to do to keep everyone safe. He's worried he doesn't know what to do, what the law is going to require, and he doesn't know what the Health Department has authority to do.

Mr. Mayo stated everyone has their own rules, what are we doing to better the health of those living in Jefferson County?

Mr. Mayo hasn't heard much talk and wanted to know if we still provide condoms to the community. He has not seen anything publicly. He also asked about the gun safes, not a lot of people turned out for that. Are you going to do something online?

Mr. Mayo thanked the Radx Community workers and the nursing department for their hard work in the community and in the downtown area.

Dr. Macedonia clarified that all the questions and concerns that are brought up will be responded to at the next meeting. There are notes being taken and we will respond to your concerns. Dr. Macedonia stated he doesn't want anyone to feel their words are being ignored.

There was a motion for adjournment, however, Dr. Cutone spoke up and Dr. Macedonia, President entertained her request to speak.

Ms. Cutone stated she called and left a voice message on Friday. No one in the administration office had received the voicemail.

Dr. Macedonia asked the board for their approval to make an exception so Dr. Cutone can speak. The board all approved.

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Tina Cutone, 4171 County Road 26, Winterville, Ohio 43952, universal masking in schools

Dr. Cutone is here today as a physician in the community and as a parent to express her support and recommendation for universal masking in our local K-12 schools. Vaccination is the leading public health strategy to end the covid 19 pandemic. Many studies support the use of masking to reduce community transmission and individual exposure to Covid. She is fully vaccinated and chooses to wear a mask because she feels it's important. Masks reduce the spray of respiratory droplets and protects the wearer from exposure to other people's respiratory droplets.

The CDC updated its recommendations on August 4<sup>th</sup> to include universal indoor masking for all students, staff, teachers and visitors to K-12 schools regardless of actual vaccination status. These recommendations were updated specifically in response to three concerns, first the rise in highly contagious delta variant infections, second the vaccination rates are not in the targeted 70% in most communities including ours, and third students under the age of 12 are not eligible for vaccination. While we did not see a high rate of Covid infection in children previously, the delta variant is demonstrating a much higher infection rate in children. Unfortunately, this is coinciding with RSV resulting in increased pediatric hospital visits and hospital admissions. This is putting a strain on the bed availability in children's hospitals. In the first week of July there were 12,000 cases nationwide; by the first week of August the number had increased to 96,000 representing about 15% of all new infections. Increased infection rates in children results in higher community spread overall. People opposed to universal masking in schools site concerns of effects on lung development, trapping of carbon monoxide, weakening the immune systems, and affecting the development of language. Reputable peer review articles have disputed each of these concerns and Dr. Cutone has references available upon request.

We must use multiple prevention strategies. The strategies are agreed upon in the medical community and include mask wearing, screening, testing, good ventilation, hand washing and respiratory etiquette. Stay home and get tested when sick, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation additionally cleaning and disinfection are important players of prevention to keep schools safe. I am calling on the Jefferson County Department of Health to make the recommendation of universal masking in our schools as recommended by the CDC.

It is important and it's the right thing to do for our kids, our educators and our community as a whole.



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<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to adjourn</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-89	Mr. Rigaud moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to adjourn.  Motion passed unanimously.	1 <sup>st</sup> - Rigaud 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Aye

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 8:15 a.m. in the Trumbull Towers Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

**ATTESTED:**

  
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Dr. Patrick H. Macedonia, Board President

  
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Andrew Henry, Health Commissioner