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GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

**BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

September 21, 2021

8:15 a.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 8:15 a.m. in the 2nd 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
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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to accept the August 17, 2021 Minutes of Regular Meeting.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion-2021-92	Mr. Rigaud moved and Chief Crago seconded a motion to accept the August 17, 2021 Minutes of the Regular Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Rigaud 2 nd - Crago Bell - Aye Crago - Aye Macedonia - Aye



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		Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Aye
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<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to accept the September 1, 2021 Minutes of Special Meeting.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion-2021-93	Mr. Bell moved and Chief Crago seconded a motion to accept the September 1, 2021 Minutes of the Special Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Bell 2 nd – Crago Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Aye

August 2021 Revenue Report

<i>Action</i>	<i>Approval of August’s Revenue Report</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-94	Mr. Rigaud moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to accept August 2021 revenue report. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Rigaud 2 nd - Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye

Dr. Macedonia questioned the monies received under Solid Waste and Landfill Receipts. He noticed a sharp drop in solid waste revenue in the month of August. Health Commissioner Henry explained that the payments were previously behind and are now back on track. This amount reflects the monthly monies received. Dr. Macedonia also asked about the PNC Wellness on Wheels income, which was explained as monies received for the supplies to stock the mobile unit from Encino Energy.

August 2021 Expense Report

<i>Action</i>	<i>Approval of August’s Expense Report</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-95	Mr. Rigaud moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to accept August 2021 expense report. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Rigaud 2 nd – Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye



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	Rigaud - Aye
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Dr. Macedonia questioned the Thrifty Car Rental expense for \$200.00. Kelly Wilson explained this was the detailing and removal of the Health Department sticker of the Ford Escape prior to selling.

Personnel

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to Approve the September 2021 Personnel Changes</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-96	Mr. Rigaud moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to approve the September 2021 Personnel Changes. Sarah Dennis – Resignation Community Health Worker effective date 8/27/21 Tina Piergallini – Resignation Registered Nurse effective date 10/1/21 Kortney Slussar, Full-Time Registered Nurse effective date 10/11/2021, pay rate \$25.46 per hour. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Rigaud 2 nd - Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye

Terry Bell asked with the hiring of the new nurse if this would bring the nursing department up to normal staffing level. Hannah Piko responded we still have a Part Time opening.

Travel Requests

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to Approve the September 2021 Travel Requests.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-97	Mr. Rigaud moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to approve the September 2021 Travel Requests. Rick Stead – G300 Intermediate ICS Course, St. Clairsville, Ohio September 20-22, 2021.	1 st - Rigaud 2 nd - Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye



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	<p>Rick Stead – G400 Advanced ICS Course, St. Clairsville, Ohio November 15-16, 2021.</p> <p>Michael Ceraolo- North East Ohio Environmental Health Assoc. Conference, Twinsburg, Ohio October 12 – 13, 2021. \$343.20</p> <p>Jack McGuire – North East Ohio Environmental Health Conf., Twinsburg, Ohio October 12 – 13, 2021 \$343.20.</p> <p>Carla Gampolo – North West Ohio Environmental Health Conf., Sandusky, Ohio October 14 – 15, 2021 \$400.72</p> <p>Marc Maragos – North West Ohio Environmental Health Conf., Sandusky, Ohio October 14 – 15, 2021 \$400.72</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>	
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Contracts

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to table the MOU with Jefferson County Job and Family Services due to concerns about the diagnostic assessments.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-98	<p>Chief Crago moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to table the MOU with Jefferson County Job and Family Services due to concerns about the diagnostic assessments.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>1st - Crago 2nd – Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye</p>

Health Commissioner Henry read the outline of the MOU with Jefferson County Job and Family Services. A copy is attached hereto and made part of the official minutes. Health Commissioner Henry requests that we wait until additional staff is hired and oriented before initiating the contract. Dr. Macedonia is concerned about the services listed stating we will provide diagnostic



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assessments. The recommendation of the board is to have Hannah Piko review the MOU prior to board approval.

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 the testing kits the Health Department are giving out have a 64% accuracy rate. The PCR tests from the hospital have an 80 – 90% accuracy rate.

Unfortunately, we are still talking about Covid-19. Cases have gone up over the past week. The majority of those patients testing positive are unvaccinated making up 80-90% of the positive cases. The vaccinated people who are positive tend to have a much milder faster course. When talking about hospitalizations, those that are not vaccinated stay in the hospital several weeks if not longer as compared to a week or so for vaccinated people.

There is a benefit for being vaccinated. If you contract the virus and are not vaccinated, you are 10 times more likely to become hospitalized and 11 times more likely to die. There is a lot of data out there concerning the vaccines, however, there are not enough people tested to be sure at this time if a second J & J shot would be just as good as the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines.

As far as the third dose, the data collected of those vaccinated in the past 6-8 months 80% still have antibodies. However, those 65 years and older have 50% or less and the CDC is looking to provide boosters to that age group first.

Clinic visits continue. We need to emphasize better health, healthier eating, reducing excess body weight, promote physical activity, encourage appropriate health and cancer screenings. We need to promote healthier lifestyle choices.

Dr. Macedonia reiterated that the questions arising about Covid can change daily. What the answer is today may not be the answer tomorrow. Health Commissioner Henry also spoke about the numbers we post on social media. The numbers are current at the time of the posting but could increase due to the lag time in cases being entered into the system.

Nursing Report

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



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Dr. Macedonia asked about the scheduled outings for the Wellness on Wheels. Health Commissioner Henry stated the next outing will be in Brilliant on the 28th.

WIC Report

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

Dr. Macedonia questioned about the amount of re-certifications vs. follow-up numbers. Stephanie explained that there were changes in the time frame for re-certifications. Dr. Macedonia then asked why there was a drop in cases after a year. Ms. Chester responded that most people feel they can obtain the same products with food stamps and therefore drop out of the WIC program.

For June, July and August, WIC was able to provide \$35 for fruits and vegetables, a number of people came and stayed on the program for that benefit.

Environmental

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

Dr. Macedonia questioned about standing water in old tires. Mr. Maragos said when they observe standing water they advise the property owner to remove the standing water as standing water is a health hazard.

Accreditation

Health Commissioner Henry stated the letter to archive has been submitted. We are awaiting official word at this time. We will have one year to compile and submit the documentation. The CHIP and the CHA will also need to be updated and that process has been started. We will be having a stakeholders meeting in October. Health Commissioner Henry will provide a list of the stakeholders to the board prior to the next meeting for their review.

PHEP

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

Dr. Macedonia questioned where the funding for the computers were coming from. Kelly Wilson said it is not. The funds aren't available, the quote provided is out of our price range. We will look at reducing the number of computers to get the costs down. Health Commissioner Henry stated we will move forward if it is a number we feel comfortable with.



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Correspondence

A letter concerning the Salem Compressor Station was read by Health Commissioner Henry and is attached hereto and made part of the official minutes.

A lengthy discussion transpired, notes are included with the environmental report by Marc Maragos. Dr. Macedonia questioned Mr. Maragos about the difference between these complaints and the odor complaints with Apex Landfill. Mr. Maragos stated we do not have the equipment or training to perform air quality testing in Jefferson County. Dr. Macedonia again questioned why we don't follow the same process as we do when inspecting odor complaints with Apex. Carla Gampolo explained the reason we are able to write violations for odor complaints at Apex is because it goes back to how they are operating the facility. If we cannot tie that odor to an operation that is not functioning properly at that land fill, we cannot write a violation. We can only regulate the operation. When we are inspecting and an odor is detected, we go to the facility to investigate, that is why there is a weekly inspection performed.

Dr. Macedonia feels these people have legitimate concerns and is not content with it being an EPA issue. Dr. Macedonia would like to know what we as the county health department can do to help these people with their health complaints. J.P Rigaud wanted to know if it was the responsibility of the health department to put pressure on the EPA as we don't have the authority otherwise. Health Commissioner Henry has reached out to Columbiana and Harrison County Health Commissioners who both said they don't have the training or equipment to answer these complaints either and direct them to the Ohio EPA. Health Commissioner Henry and Marc Maragos had a call with an Ohio EPA representative who stated they are working with the Ohio Department of Health to find a way to ensure indoor investigations could begin happening. Ohio EPA will take the ball with the outdoor air quality. Those individuals wanting an indoor air quality inspection the EPA is working with the ODH.

Mr. Bell spoke to a representative from Williams yesterday. There was a private company hired to test the air in several of the homes in this plan, none of the odors detected could be tied to the compressor station. This has been an ongoing problem for the past year to year and a half. Health Commissioner Henry asked if the odors were detectible odors or air quality.

With there being no solution, Clark Crago suggested that the environmental committee meet and report back at the next monthly board meeting with the findings of that meeting.

Action	Chief Crago moved and Mr. Bell seconded a Motion to Forward the Salem Williams Compressor Station discussion to the Environmental Committee with the	Vote Detail (Roll Call)
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	<i>Results of that Meeting to Come Back to the Next Regular Meeting.</i>	
Motion – 2021-99	Chief Crago moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to forward the Salem Williams Compressor Station discussion to the Environmental Committee with the results of that meeting to come back to the next regular meeting. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Crago 2 nd - Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Aye

Old Business

Legal Fees

Director of Finance Kelly Wilson stated the first payment of the legal fees was authorized for payment by the board. We have processed that payment and have since received two additional invoices. Kelly Wilson stated that we will have to pay the legal fees. Currently we are around \$10,000.00 in legal fees and we are expecting that amount to increase. Dr. Macedonia stated it is the responsibility on the Health Department to pay these attorney fees. Health Commissioner Henry stated when the EEOC case starts we shouldn't receive additional legal fees for that case.

New Business

Social Media Policy

Health Commissioner Henry was hoping to get board approval on a social media policy. As of late we have gotten a number of distasteful comments that are vulgar or misleading information and wanted to look into a social media policy. The more Health Commissioner Henry looked into it and spoke to Attorney Blake, he was advised not to put in a policy due to potential litigation on first amendment rights and freedom of speech.

The account is set up to hide any curse words in a comment. The administrators of the account are able to hide comments that are incorrect or misleading but the account is not monitored 24/7. Some days we post the numbers and leave for the day and the residents are fighting amongst themselves.

Covid/Masks

Dr. Macedonia discussed the CDC's recommendation on the proper wearing of masks. There was an article published the end of August called "Your Guide to Masks" which talks about the types, proper usage etc. that Dr. Macedonia is requesting be sent to the superintendents of the schools.



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<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to Forward the CDC’s “Your Guide to Masks” on Behalf of the Board to all the Local School Superintendents.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-100	Mr. Bell moved and Mr. Rigaud seconded a motion to forward the CDC’s “Your Guide to Masks” on Behalf of the Board to all the Local School Superintendents. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Bell 2 nd - Rigaud Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Aye

Health Commissioner Henry stated we have a meeting with the superintendents today and will forward them a copy of “Your Guide to Masks” on behalf of the board. Nurse Chester asked if it could also be added to Social Media. The answer was yes.

Dr. Macedonia asked the CEO of Trinity Health System to call and provide a current update of the hospital and covid cases.

Matt Grimshaw CEO, Trinity Health System spoke concerning the cases of Covid and the effect on the local hospital. Mr. Grimshaw stated that cases have doubled since Labor Day. They were treating 10-13 a day prior to Labor Day and now are seeing 25 covid positive patients per day average. The admissions are staying consistent with approximately six a day which coincides with discharges and/or deaths of the same number. The acuity of the patients has increased in the past 4-5 days. A week ago there were 5 or 6 covid positives in critical care; there are currently 25 covid positive inpatients, 12 of those patients are in critical care with ten of those being vented.

Mr. Grimshaw noted that census is rising based on length of stay. The acuity is going up as well for those needing critical care. Beds are very tight across the region and state. The hospital is currently at staffed capacity.

Vaccinated vs non-vaccinated, 20% of hospitalized patients are vaccinated. This is the same trend showing across the nation. ICU and ventilated that percent drops drastically. Vaccine is proving to be effective against high acuity status. Locally for capacity they are tight. The hospital is currently at staffed capacity.

Dr. Kissinger responded that we don’t know that we have reached the peak in cases. Once the peak is reached, the hospitalizations will increase for two weeks and then the deaths will increase as the trends have shown.



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Antibody testing can be obtained through Quest Labs, Lab Corp. a couple Franciscan University professors are conducting testing you must contact the university to schedule for testing.

Dr. Macedonia stated that the Covid task force at Trinity meets daily and that the numbers are constantly changing.

Public Participation

No public participation

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to Move into Executive Session</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-101	Mr. Rigaud moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to move into executive session. Health Commissioner Henry and Marc Maragos were asked to stay for executive session. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Rigaud 2 nd - Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Aye

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to Return to Regular Session With No Action Taken in Executive Session</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-102	Mr. Rigaud moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to return to regular session with no action taken in executive session. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Rigaud 2 nd - Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Aye

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to adjourn</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-103	Mr. Mougianis moved and Chief Crago seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Mougianis 2 nd - Crago Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Aye



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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 8:15 a.m. in the Trumbull Towers Building, 2nd Floor.

ATTESTED:

Dr. Patrick H. Macedonia, Board President

Andrew Henry, Health Commissioner