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**BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
October 19, 2021
8:15 a.m.**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, October 19, 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
Rick Stead, PHEP Coordinator

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 September 21, 2021 Minutes of Regular Meeting.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion-2021-104	Mr. Rigaud moved and Chief Crago seconded a motion to accept the September 21, 2021 Minutes of the Regular Meeting.	1 st - Rigaud 2 nd – Crago Bell - Aye Crago – Aye



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	Motion passed unanimously.	Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Aye
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September 2021 Revenue Report

<i>Action</i>	<i>Approval of September’s Revenue Report</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-105	Mr. Bell moved and Mr. Rigaud seconded a motion to accept September 2021 revenue report. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Bell 2 nd - Rigaud Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye

Dr. Macedonia wanted to mention that we are running in the black for the year so far. All of the 2020 calculations and re-classes of funds should be complete by the end of October, therefore Kelly should have an actual fund balance to provide. Kelly also stated we had a desk audit of all the covid grant funds and we are awaiting those results. The board thanked Kelly Wilson for all the hard work she has done.

Kelly Wilson stated all the Covid grants end 12/31/21 with the exception of the EO grant. The EO grant will have the percentage of salaries that are currently being charged to covid grants charged to it.

Health Commissioner Henry stated there was communication about two months ago that stated any unspent funds on any grant has to be returned to the state. This is a practice that hasn’t been done and many health departments have carry overs from previous grant years. It was a blow to those health departments and so far no follow up information has been received.

Mr. Bell would like to compliment the hours that Kelly Wilson has put in and especially the weekend hours to bring the budget and reports to the board as requested.

September 2021 Expense Report

<i>Action</i>	<i>Approval of September’s Expense Report</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-106	Mr. Rigaud moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to accept September 2021 expense report. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Rigaud 2 nd – Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye



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		Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye
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Dr. Macedonia questioned whether or not the vaccine incentive cards were working or not. Health Commissioner Henry answered yes they were.

Personnel

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to Approve the October 2021 Personnel Changes</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-107	Mr. Bell moved and Mr. Rigaud seconded a motion to approve the September 2021 Personnel Changes. Britney Reed, Full-Time Registered Nurse effective date 10/25/2021, pay rate \$25.46 per hour. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Bell 2 nd - Rigaud Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye

Health Commissioner Henry introduced our recently hired RN, Kortney Slussar. A round of applause was given.

Contracts

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to Approve the City of Canton HIV, MOU</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-108	Mr. Rigaud moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to approve the City of Canton HIV, MOU. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Rigaud 2 nd - Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye

Hannah Piko reported outreach has been dismal. There will be billboards going up soon in the downtown area to advertise for our HIV and STI screenings that we offer. STI screenings are free and can be done anonymously. If an individual would be positive, they would be provided linkage to care. Free condoms are offered through this program as well.



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<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to approve the Central Ohio Trauma System MOU.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-109	Mr. Rigaud moved and Chief Crago seconded a motion to approve the Central Ohio Trauma System MOU. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Rigaud 2 nd – Crago Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye

Health Commissioner Henry described the MOU, it is basically called the Jefferson County Health Care Coalition. Trinity started the coalition throughout the covid pandemic to create a group of health services to meet on a weekly basis to see what is going on with public health, hospitals and area nursing homes. This will expand more as members are added and will be a group of shared resources in the event of a true emergency. This MOU is us attesting to the fact that we want to participate in this trauma system.

Clark Crago asked who chaired the committee, Health Commissioner Henry stated currently it is an employee of Trinity and it will be voted on annually.

Purchase Orders over \$5,000.00

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to approve both purchase orders presented over \$5,000.00.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-110	Chief Crago moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to approve both purchase orders presented over \$5,000.00. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Crago 2 nd – Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye

Purchase orders presented were as follows: \$6052.00 for flu vaccines, and attorney fees in the amount of \$10,071.25.

Health Commissioner’s Report

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



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GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

Medical Director's Report

Dr. Kissinger stated there were 22 patients in the hospital and only two of those were vaccinated. Unfortunately, that means 90+% of those in the hospital are not vaccinated. There has been a significant drop in cases in the past few weeks.

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. Encourage people to stop smoking as smokers incur more costs in health care and die an average of 10 years sooner.

Looking at deaths in Ohio, heart disease is the number one killer in the state, cancer is rated second, covid would fall into third in that category. There is a lot to focus on to improve the health of our residents.

Terry Bell asked Dr. Kissinger about the pending legislation in Ohio on the use, growth and possession of marijuana. Dr. Kissinger stated he doesn't see an upside to it, and is unsure how it will benefit society, only that it will decriminalize it. Long term effects of marijuana usage have significant risks.

Dr. Macedonia stated statistics have shown that marijuana is a gateway to other drug use.

Dr. Macedonia questioned the covid deaths, we've seem to have lost site of the other reasons of mortality and would like to see covid deaths separated from other mortality. Dr. Macedonia read that only 20% of deaths are truly covid related deaths. There are people with underlying conditions that contribute to their death is not strictly covid.

Nursing Report

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

Dr. Macedonia asked about the number of gonorrhea cases that seem to be getting out of hand. He asked if there was a way to break it down by age. Hannah Piko reported that the cases are younger and that we have had to call pediatrician offices to report the cases. We always follow up with cases younger than 18 years of age. Dr. Macedonia reported the amount of STD cases are continuing to increase across the state.

Dr. Macedonia asked if we are doing anything for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Health Commissioner Henry stated Trinity is providing a virtual training and we will be having one of our community health workers host a watch party for it.



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Dr. Macedonia requested Health Commissioner Henry to send out a public announcement reminding people who are sick and have been tested and awaiting results and those that have tested positive vaccinated or not must isolate for 10 days.

WIC Report

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

WIC card is specific in what items can be purchased as compared to the SNAP card (food stamp program) which allows more general food choices.

Marijuana usage among mothers is increasing. We offer them drug and alcohol counseling services. We send a referral to their doctor to make them aware that their patient has disclosed marijuana usage.

Environmental

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

Terry Bell asked about animal nuisances and what our role is. Mr. Maragos answered it is required by law, anyone bitten by an animal and is treated they have to fill out an animal bite report. The report is submitted to the environmental division. The environmental department will follow up with a letter to the victim and to the owner. There is a 10-day mandatory quarantine period for the animal and the animal must be cleared by a veterinarian.

Dilapidated structures and public health nuisance complaints are on the rise. There is a standard form that is sent out to the complainant. A lot of the forms are returned without all the necessary information. We do not have the authority to tear down any structure. The environmental department goes out to determine if it is a public health issue at the dilapidated structure and determine if we need to take action against the property owner.

Dr. Macedonia questioned what makes them a public health issue. Mr. Maragos responded rodents, garbage, old tires are considered public health issues and orders will be issued to the property owner to abate the public health issue identified with a deadline to comply with the order. If the deadline is not met, the property owners are brought before the board.

Dr. Macedonia asked about the drone and how training is coming. The stickers for the drone have been received and added to the drone. We will be setting up a time and location for training. Terry Bell suggested contacting the sheriff's department as a resource.



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Accreditation

Health Commissioner Henry stated we have received the notice of archive and we will have until next September to submit all documentation.

CHA Assessment update, the stakeholders list was just finalized and Health Commissioner Henry will send the list out after the meeting. The first week of November will be the first stakeholders meeting. The CHA is expected to be completed by March or April 2022.

PHEP

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

Correspondence

No correspondence received.

Old Business

Job and Family Services MOU

The MOU was updated to make sure our nurses do not operate outside of their scope of practice. Language was eliminated and the understanding is our nurses will act in a role of a school nurse. The nurses will do assessments, intakes, and learn about the children as they come in. The service will be 24/7 on call basis, Health Commissioner Henry spoke with all the nurses and they are onboard with it. There is training for mental health and trauma that will be required and Job and Family Services will provide that training.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to Approve the Jefferson County Job and Family Services MOU.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-111	Chief Crago moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to approve the Jefferson County Job and Family Services MOU. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Crago 2 nd – Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Aye



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Williams – Salem Compressor Station

The board voted to have an environmental meeting to discuss the health issues in Salem Township due to the compressor station located in this small community. The committee voted to have a public meeting with the citizens of that community. There was a designated speaker along with a professor and a handful of citizens in attendance. The board learned a lot of the issues those residents are dealing with due to that compressor.

Health Commissioner Henry stated he found it very educational including the science behind the gases that they feel are affecting their health. JP Rigaud asked them what their expectation of the health department was. They would like a letter of support for their research into the science as to the volatile gases, to continue to follow the science of the oil and gas industry and the effects it can have on public health. They provided us with information and research that has been very helpful. They would like us to be their voice to get information from the company about planned system processes they perform that affect the residents.

Mr. Mougianis said it was very informative and educational. He lives 7.9 miles away from that compressor and it effects all of us not just those residents. They are tasting metal, having headaches and other health issues. It's very concerning and as a health department we should support them any way we can. We need to be an advocate and keep the oil and gas companies accountable.

Clark Crago agreed and is very concerned about what is causing these health issues for these citizens. The environmental studies no matter who is performing them need reviewed and we should be there to help out.

JP Rigaud spoke next and stated he knows the university has doctors and scientists that are very interested in air study projects from years ago that are from Harvard. He has asked them to reach out to Dr. Yuri Gorby as that community could use more help and man power for the monitoring stations set up out there. The university students could obtain credit for those services. The connection has been made and we were able to provide that connection.

Dr. Macedonia stated the feedback from that group was they were very appreciative of our commitment and they felt like they had a voice. We will commit ourselves to find out more about this and continue to follow up at our monthly meetings.

Mr. Mougianis stated we don't see it every day and don't understand how much Jefferson County has been drilled. One company has just drilled their 100th hole in the county. This is happening on a large level and we need to be watchful on how this is affecting citizens in our county. We need to stay steadfast on this and not let it go.



Terry Bell stated that the minimum amount of time the oil and gas industry will be in the area is 30 years. Jefferson County is the hottest drilled county in the state of Ohio presently.

New Business

Holiday Fitness Challenge

Health Commissioner Henry wants to reengage some community health programs and put a nice spin on it as we approach the holiday season. JP reached out about a community wellness program. This is a fun start and a step in the right direction of creating partnerships with different health fitness agencies. Holiday hustle fitness challenge will run from November 29th to December 29th every Monday and Thursday at 5:00 pm at the Martin Luther King Center. There is no cost, if you attend 5 out of the 10 classes we are going to try to get you a free t-shirt. This is a way to get the community together and get them focused on their health during the holiday season. More to come on this, there are two open slots left to fill.

Dr. Macedonia asked if we can partner with SVRTA to possibly help with transportation for others wanting to participate. Health Commissioner Henry stated he would like to expand to other areas in the county.

Mr. Rigaud stated that as you put this program together to make sure and gather whatever statistics you can for future work.

Nursing Fees

Health Commissioner Henry would like to propose a change to the nursing fee schedule itself. He reached out to the health department collaborative for their fee schedule that was updated on July 15, 2021. Our fees are slightly different than what is on the most up to date fee schedule. Ultimately the injection fee will remain the same. The cost of the vaccines has changed slightly and we will need to update the fees accordingly.

The current fee schedule was presented and attached with the minutes. It has the necessary information with the boxes to be check for the type of service, but it is not exactly well understood from a public standpoint. Health Commissioner Henry would like to update the form so people could have a better visualization. The new form was presented and a copy is attached to the minutes. The new form will have the most up to date costs and includes discounted rates for self-pay. The fees will be added to the new form and updated.

Dr. Macedonia questioned if this was the actual charges or the reimbursements we would be getting? Health Commissioner Henry stated it would be the cost charged to the insurance. Private pay costs are what a person pays if they have insurance and chooses to pay out of pocket or have no insurance at all.



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Kelly Wilson questioned the injection fee and how we are charging for some and not for others. She wants to make sure we are being consistent and feels we are losing out on revenue by not charging. Health Commissioner Henry stated the \$28.00 was common practice across the collaborative and should be charged.

Hanna Piko questioned the amount of the insurance reimbursement vs the amount of the actual fees charged, should we be billing for those outstanding amounts the insurance doesn't pay?

Kelly Wilson spoke up with an example of vaccine clinics, some clinics the insurance cards were collected at others they were not collected. We have to treat everyone the same. The nursing division is in the hole and we need to be collecting the revenue that we are entitled to within the confines of any agreements.

Kelly Wilson stated the medical assistant that was going to be hired would bill these as a responsibility of that position. We talked about using a current employee to do the billing but we need to get a grasp on the agreements for what we can and cannot bill for. This should be a huge project that we tackle going into 2022.

Health Commissioner Henry stated we don't have a billing service, it is our nurses who are monitoring the denied claims and figure out why it was denied. If there is a balance owed they have to determine if it is something that can be billed for. Not having a dedicated biller is problematic. We do have someone that could do that with some training. Dr. Macedonia agreed we need a dedicated person to handle the billing.

Kelly Wilson has researched other health department websites for information and it was clear on some websites that the patient was responsible for any balance not covered by insurance, but that would depend on any agreement we might have. We would need to get ahold of all those agreements to move forward.

Dr. Macedonia asked for an update as to where we are with the billing process for the next board meeting.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to Update the Nursing Immunization Fee Schedule to the Most Up to Date Schedule provided by the Health Collaborative.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-112	Mr. Bell moved and Chief Crago seconded a motion to update the nursing immunization fee schedule to the most up to date schedule provided by the Health Collaborative. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Bell 2 nd - Clark Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye



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		Rigaud – Aye
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Public Participation

No public participation

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to adjourn</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-113	Mr. Rigaud moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Rigaud 2 nd - Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Aye

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 8:15 a.m. in the Trumbull Towers Building, 2nd Floor.

ATTESTED:



 Dr. Patrick H. Macedonia, Board President



 Andrew Henry, Health Commissioner