



JEFFERSON COUNTY General Health District

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**BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 15, 2022
8:15 a.m.**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 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

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
Emma Gray, Sanitarian in Training

Absent: Jean-Philippe Rigaud

Prosecutor:

Guests:

See sign-in sheet

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Chief Clark J. Crago, Vice-President. Chief Crago stated as long as the covid numbers are going down and there are no spikes in cases, he is ok with keeping your masks down as long as you keep your distance from your partner. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. All board members were in attendance with the exception of Jean-Philippe Rigaud whose absence was excused. Dr. Macedonia arrived after the Fiscal Reports.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to accept the January 18, 2022 Minutes of Regular Meeting.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
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Motion-2022-10	<p>Mr. Bell moved and Mr. Mougianis seconded a motion to accept the January 18, 2022 Minutes of the Regular Meeting.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>1st - Bell 2nd – Mougianis Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Absent Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Absent</p>
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January 2022 Revenue Report

<i>Action</i>	<i>Approval of January's Revenue Report</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2022-11	<p>Mr. Bell moved and Mr. Mougianis seconded a motion to accept January 2022 revenue report.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>1st - Bell 2nd - Mougianis Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Absent Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Absent</p>

January 2022 Expense Report

<i>Action</i>	<i>Approval of January's Expense Report</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2022-12	<p>Mr. Mougianis moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to accept January 2022 expense report.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>1st - Mougianis 2nd – Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Absent Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Absent</p>

Kelly Wilson, Fiscal Director stated that the unaudited financial statements are due to the state auditor's office by February 28, 2022. She will provide copies of these statements for the board at the next meeting.

Personnel

Emma Gray was introduced to the board and welcomed. Emma has been with the department close to a month now and is doing a great job.

Travel Requests – none



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Contracts

Health Commissioner Henry stated there are two contracts for this month. Health Commissioner Henry was asked at the previous meeting to have Attorney Blake review the Franciscan University contract. Attorney Blake saw nothing of concern to him. With that being said Health Commissioner Henry, Director of Nursing, Hannah Piko and Attorney Blake would like to move forward with that contract.

Dr. Macedonia said he didn't see a signature line for the board to sign off on. Health Commissioner Henry stated this was going to be addressed under old business. In the Board of Health By-Laws, it states the board president only needs to sign items that require their signature. Prior minutes were reviewed to see if there was a motion approved requiring the board to sign off on all contracts and nothing was located.

Dr. Macedonia feels if we don't sustain a board signature on the contracts as a practice, the commissioners will be put on the hook if something is questioned, i.e. is this your approval or the boards. Dr. Macedonia would like to close the loop on all that, and suggests there be a signature for the president or someone on the board. Dr. Macedonia stated it was pretty standard practice. Health Commissioner Henry asked if the board wanted the contract sent back for a signature line to be added. Dr. Macedonia stated this one is ok for now.

Health Commissioner Henry asked if the board would want it in writing about the signature line being added to contracts. After further discussion it was decided that the chair of the board, in their absence the vice chair and down the line would sign the contracts. Kelly Wilson questioned the possible delay in trying to obtain a contract or MOU that is needed urgently and not being able to obtain a signature timely. Health Commissioner Henry stated the renewal contracts will come in without a signature line and he will have to return to them to have the signature line added which could cause a delay as well. Ms. Wilson also stated that the Health Commissioner is the secretary of the Board and he is actually signing on behalf of the board. Dr. Macedonia stated just because he is the Secretary of the Board that doesn't give him the authority to sign on behalf of the board.

Action	Motion to Approve the Franciscan University Contract.	Vote Detail (Roll Call)
Motion – 2022-13	Chief Crago moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to approve the Franciscan University Contract. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Crago 2 nd - Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Absent



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Health Commissioner Henry stated The Solid Waste Authority met yesterday and signed off on the contract for 2022. They used the same amount of \$80,000.00 and not to exceed that amount. In looking at our 2021 expenses, the estimated costs were approximately \$88,000.00. There are some C & D expenses that need reclassified and that may change those expenses minimally. Health Commissioner Henry has advised the Waste Authority, if the board does sign this contract it may need to be renegotiated if expenses exceed \$80,000.00. This has been done with other MOU's.

The Job and Family Service contract was renegotiated as the per week amount that was agreed on did not cover hospitalization, PERS and Medicare. Therefore, an amendment to the contract was negotiated for the higher rate to cover such costs.

Health Commissioner Henry asked which the board would prefer, to renegotiate now or wait until the expenses come close to the original \$80,000.00 approved to ask for the additional funds. Dr. Macedonia questioned how this was handled in the past. Mr. Bell stated we just invoiced them for the additional amount and it was paid. Dr. Macedonia stated he feels it should be handled prior to signing the contract rather than after the fact.

Health Commissioner Henry stated the language of the contract wasn't the issue as it spells out everything that is reimbursable, it's the \$80,000.00 cap that could come back to hurt us. Kelly Wilson stated we do invoice total costs monthly and we could ask total expenses not to exceed \$100,000.00. After further discussion it was decided that we set a cap of \$100,000.00 as they would need an amount for their budget.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to request revision of the Jefferson Belmont Regional Solid Waste Contract with total costs to be billed with the maximum amount not exceed \$100,000.00.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2022-14	Chief Crago moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to request revision of the Jefferson Belmont Regional Solid Waste Contract with total costs to be billed with the maximum amount not to exceed \$100,000.00. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Crago 2 nd - Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Absent

Adoption of Forms/Policies

The Jefferson County General Health District Branding Policy was presented. Health Commissioner Henry stated we have been looking at our logo and letterhead and trying to get a more consistent and uniform identity. The logo and letterhead previously approved says Jefferson County Public Health. We would like to use our actual name; The Jefferson County



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General Health District and then put the public health tagline of prevent, promote, protect for our logo. In line with that, we will have a consistent letterhead that matches exactly and removes the previous health commissioners name from the letterhead. Discussion about whether or not to add the Health Commissioner's name to the letterhead ensued. All board members were in agreement following discussion that there would be no name added. All the board members approved the policy as written.

Purchase Orders over \$5000 - None

Health Commissioner's Report

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

Medical Director's Report

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

Dr. Kissinger stated there has been a significant drop in Covid cases. He stated that the hospitalizations still show that those that have not been vaccinated make up the majority of those cases. The rapid tests don't work as well with the Omicron variant. He tells those who test negative on a rapid test but still have symptoms, to obtain a PCR test to be sure. There are antibody treatments that are on a limited supply currently. As the demand declines and supplies increase there should be an ample supply in the future.

February is Heart Health Month. 7.4% of Jefferson County residents have heart disease according to US News and nationwide is 6.7%. Going back to smoking and a smoking cessation program, there is a 27% smoking rate in Jefferson County and 21% nationally. Clearly we could use some smoking education and prevention. Life expectancy in Jefferson County is 74.5 years. Nationwide life expectancy is 77.5 years. Jefferson County residents tend to die three years earlier. Modifiable risk factors such as exercise, diet, smoking and obesity play a big part in that. Obesity here in Jefferson County is about 40% and nationwide is 35.5%. Diabetes we are about 1 percentage point higher than the rest of the nation.

The biggest cause of mortality is cardiovascular disease which includes heart attacks and strokes. 280 out of every 100,000 people die of heart disease. Jefferson County has approximately 65,000 residents. Lung cancer and breast cancer is 88 out of every 100,000. There is a much higher prevalence of heart disease and that should be focused on all year long.

The biggest jump in mortalities in the last 30 years or so has been from substance abuse disorders. This has gone up 15 times between 1980 and 2014.



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Dr. Macedonia asked Dr. Kissinger what should be our first major focus. Dr. Kissinger responded; heart disease and stroke with a focus on the modifiable risk factors. Smoking, exercise, and healthy eating to help with this and other mortalities as well.

Hannah Piko stated they have been out and getting education to the communities, but the lack of participation is a huge barrier. They were in Adena last week and only had five people show up. We have great resources, but we need community involvement to distribute the education.

Health Commissioner Henry stated he feels that the Health Department alone is not a draw for a lot of people. If we were to attend events that are already planned, we might have a better chance to get the education out to the public.

Chief Crago suggested as we move into the Lenten season, we could possibly set up at the fish fry's as a way to get the education out there. Nurse Piko suggested with the weather warming up, we could use the WOW also.

Nursing Report

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

WIC Report

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

Dr. Macedonia asked if we are able to obtain birth information for those who give birth at home. He suggested that those mothers be contacted as well. Nurse Chester said she doesn't collect birth statistics, that those are collected through vital statistics. The data we get is all births in Jefferson County mainly Trinity Birth Center. Dr. Macedonia stated there has been an increase in home births in Jefferson County.

Environmental

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

Mr. Bell stated after the last board meeting he reached out and contacted officials from the three largest drilling companies in our area concerning the brine. Two of the companies share the flow back, some of which is transported into other counties. One company has its own injection well. There are two companies, one in Cambridge and one in Newcomerstown, that take the flow back. Those companies reprocess the flow back and separate the components of the water and sell it back to the companies that are fracking next.



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Mr. Maragos spoke about an email from the Attorney General's office that was received concerning the upcoming dates with the Cross Ridge Landfill. A copy is attached hereto and made part of the official minutes. Mr. Maragos doesn't know, as far as the environmental issues ongoing at the site, if we are able to proceed or if we must wait pending their investigation and litigation. Dr. Macedonia stated that is the concern of the board and the health department that the issues are still occurring. Dr. Macedonia doesn't feel that the AG's office answered the question, but only provided us with upcoming dates. Mr. Maragos is awaiting a response from Nathan Johnson from the EPA to see if he might have more information for us from the EPA's perspective.

Dr. Macedonia doesn't want to wait for a response but rather continue to ask the questions from the environmental health stand point. At the last inspection, there were still environmental violations. Dr. Macedonia feels we should have recourse from an environmental standpoint that has nothing to do with the legal aspects ongoing. Mr. Maragos stated the money that will be involved to address the issues at the site is a major concern. He feels that may be a portion of the meeting in June. Health Commissioner Henry added that the health department continues to perform the quarterly inspections. We issue the violations and they just keep piling up with no repercussions. It is very frustrating because it takes money and that is what they are fighting over at the moment.

Mr. Maragos stated that we are still receiving phone calls and letters from the residents as well. Mr. Bell questioned if this falls back on the EPA for allowing this to continue without issuing a fine or a penalty to Cross Ridge and Mr. Scugoza. During this discussion, Mr. Maragos received a text response from Nathan Johnson from the EPA. Mr. Johnson's response was the Attorney General's office is still involved in the case.

Since 2012 the license has not been renewed. Dr. Macedonia asked that Mr. Maragos stay on top of it and continue to provide the board with updates.

Accreditation

Health Commissioner Henry stated the CHA Community Health Assessment has been extended until March 4, 2022, we are hoping to obtain 1000 surveys.

Now that the branding policy has been approved, we will be updating all forms, policies and letterheads to present a clear consistent image.

PHEP

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

Correspondence – None



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Committee Reports

Environmental

Mr. Bell stated there is no new information concerning the compressor station and booster pad. Encino Energy took out a building permit to re-drill a pad adjacent to where the booster pad will be constructed. Health Commissioner Henry stated he received an email from board member JP Rigaud concerning the compressor station. His contact Dr. Chris Payne reached out to Dr. Yurgi and Darlene Williamson and has not yet received a response.

Old Business

DAC Meeting

Reminder: District Advisory Council Meeting will be March 22, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Applications need to be submitted by Monday February 21, 2022.

Board of Health signatures on MOU/Contracts and Policies:

Discussion was held under the contracts portion of meeting, and the decision was to add a signature line to all contracts. The board was all in agreement. Health Commissioner Henry to add verbiage to the by-laws.

New Business

Building Security follow-up to ALICE Training:

On January 18th JP Rigaud spoke with Joe Lamantia, from the sheriff's department, who spoke with Commissioner Tony Morelli concerning security in this building. JP learned from Commissioner Morelli that budgetary issues were the cause for the lack of security. The board requested that Health Commissioner Henry contact all other departments in the building and form a leadership committee. This committee will provide a unified approach from all tenants to approach the county commissioners. Health Commissioner Henry will follow up per Dr. Macedonia's request.

ARPA Funds:

Health Commissioner Henry spoke about the funds that the county has received and indicated that the health department was on the front lines during the pandemic. Our nurses were pulled from their positions and had to halt programs normally conducted. This has left our nursing department with a deficit and other departments funds are being used to fund nursing.



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Health Commissioner Henry hoped that the Health Department would have been approached to say, you have done so much for the community during the pandemic, is there anything you might need or is there something we can do for you. This has not happened, therefore, we need to be proactive to seek some financial help for the long term. Dr. Macedonia asked what the funds would be used for. Health Commissioner Henry stated, it would be to help supplement the loss in the nursing program due to the past two years with the pandemic and being taken away from their grant opportunity programs. The Covid grant funding that was received was not enough to cover the demands of the staffing that was needed, thus the loss that has been incurred in the nursing department.

Board President Patrick Macedonia, MD will attend the commissioner’s meeting with Health Commissioner Henry for the presentation.

Public Participation - None

Executive Session


Postponed to March Meeting

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to adjourn</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2022-15	Chief Crago moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Crago 2 nd - Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Absent

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 8:15 a.m. in the Trumbull Towers Building, 2nd Floor.

ATTESTED:



Patrick H. Macedonia, MD, Board President



Andrew Henry, Health Commissioner