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JEFFERSON COUNTY

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GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

**BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
December 21, 2021
8:15 a.m.**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, December 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

Staff:

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

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 Dr. Macedonia, President. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. All board members were in attendance with the exception of Jean-Philippe Rigaud whose absence was approved.

Dr. Macedonia requested that Matt Grimshaw CEO of Trinity Hospital call in and give a Covid update as it pertains to the hospital. He denoted that of the testing that is performed weekly 15 – 20% of the tests are positive. They are tracking admission trends and census. Over the weekend the admissions dipped slightly then on Monday and Tuesday admissions continued to increase. 25% of the hospitalized patients are vaccinated. The vaccine is making a difference on hospitalization rate and the acuity of the patients.



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Staffing remains to be an issue as it does across the country. Census has remained consistent with 30-40 covid patients since Labor Day.

Mr. Grimshaw stated it is still too early to know the severity of the Omicron variant and that they are extremely busy and have no idea when the peak will crest and start downward. The northern part of the state is at an all-time high of cases.

Mr. Grimshaw spoke about the monoclonal antibody infusions. Trinity does perform the infusions, however, there is a waiting list. They are requesting people to call sooner rather than later to request the treatment. Mr. Grimshaw ended with, “we will get through this just not sure when”.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to accept the November 16, 2021 Minutes of Regular Board Meeting with wording corrections.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion-2021-133	Mr. Bell moved and Chief Crago seconded a motion to accept the November 16, 2021 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting with wording corrections. Correction to Dr. Macedonia’s statement under Medical Directors report concerning routine procedures change “are” to were and add the word now. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Bell 2 nd – Crago Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Absent

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to accept the November 30, 2021 Minutes of the Special Board Meeting.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-134	Chief Crago moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to accept the November 30, 2021 Minutes of the Special Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Crago 2 nd – Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Absent

November 2021 Revenue Report

<i>Action</i>	<i>Approval of November’s Revenue Report</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-135	Mr. Bell moved and Chief Crago seconded a motion to accept November’s 2021 revenue report.	1 st - Bell 2 nd - Crago



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	Motion passed unanimously.	Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Absent
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November 2021 Expense Report

<i>Action</i>	<i>Approval of November’s Expense Report</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-136	Chief Crago moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to accept November’s 2021 expense report. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Crago 2 nd – Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Absent

Personnel

Britney Reed, RN was introduced as a new hire through the Public Health Workforce Grant.

Travel Expenses – None

Contracts/MOU

Health Commissioner Henry stated that neither contract is ready for approval at this meeting.

With the Franciscan University contract, we were sent a face sheet for renewal of the original contract. Health Commissioner Henry asked if they could send a new contract to update the signatures. The prior contract has signatures of individuals who no longer work here. He’s hoping to have an updated contract for the January meeting.

In regards to the JB Green Team Contract, the contract wasn’t on their agenda for their December meeting so they did not have a new contract for 2022 to send us. We should be seeing that come through soon. Health Commissioner Henry let the board know that he is wanting to get the most out of the contract as we have been running this program with a deficit to date. We want to make sure to be reimbursed for all the expenses we incur.

Dr. Macedonia requested that all future MOU’s received be signed by a board member as well. It is his understanding that someone on the board must sign all of those.



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Forms/Policies – None

Purchase Orders over \$5,000

Local Public Health Services Collaborative bill for \$9,500.00 (our E-Clinical Works system). We perform our own billing; they provide the platform for that billing.

Dr. Macedonia asked what services they are providing us for this amount of money. Health Commissioner Henry stated the majority of it is for the E-Clinical Works but there is contact for billing questions we may encounter. During the pandemic they offered to perform billing for us.

Nurse Piko stated this is our entire electronic medical record system that we use for scheduling, submitting claims and billing and it is a very efficient program.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to Approve Purchase Order over \$5,000.00</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-137	Chief Crago moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to approve Purchase Order over \$5,000.00. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Crago 2 nd – Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud - Absent

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 are still dealing with Covid unfortunately. When Mr. Grimshaw spoke he talked about the numbers in the hospital and it doesn’t always reflect Jefferson County numbers. At the county level, we were roughly around 20 patients or slightly below a week ago. Deaths have increased by three. These may be people that died several months ago but are just being entered into the system. There may also be other cases that we don’t have counted because not all other hospital report to us when our patients are in their hospitals.

Emergency department issues; Dr. Kissinger stated there are more beds at Trinity than there are workers to staff those beds due to lack of nurses, housekeeping, dietary and other support staff. These staffing shortages are causing holdovers in the emergency room. The ER holdovers limit the space available to treat broken ankles, hips etc. The holdovers lead to backups of people waiting to be served who enter the emergency department.



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In regards to the common cold, flu or covid and getting tested, Dr. Kissinger reported we need to inform the public on what they should be doing before going to the emergency rooms. People should contact their family physician first if they have one. If they don't have a doctor, go to an urgent care center for evaluation first, the urgent care center can then refer them to the emergency room if needed.

Availability of test kits, the Health Department does have test kits for free but they are limited in the amount of tests received. There are test kits for sale in local pharmacies as well. In speaking of tests, Dr. Kissinger stated the test has to be a verified test (proctored) for further treatment such as the antibody infusions. Patients are taking pictures of home tests and sending them in and that is not considered a verified test.

Dr. Kissinger stated approximately 95% of individuals over the age of 18 will qualify for the antibody infusion. People with a BMI over 25 will qualify, which is the majority of the population. The infusion helps reduce the need for hospitalization and deaths. The earlier the treatment the better for the best outcomes.

Omicron variant, there are a lot of unknowns at this time. Omicron has taken over in a very short amount of time and accounts for 75% of our cases. We are just hoping that this variant is milder.

Flu season is just around the corner, just a reminder that the flu vaccine is safe and effective in helping to protect against the flu and keeping the symptoms milder.

With the holidays fast approaching, a reminder to everyone to make safe choices.

Dr. Macedonia spoke about the number of cases in the Cleveland, Akron areas. Their hospitals are experiencing high volume of covid patients.

Dr. Macedonia would like to endorse/recommend not mandate that all public meetings held in the county including city council, chamber meetings, school board meetings, that everyone wear a mask. He is requesting this be sent to all public entities to wear a mask whether they are vaccinated or not to try to protect our citizens.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to endorse mask wearing for all public entities at all public meetings.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-138	Mr. Bell moved and Mr. Mougianis seconded a motion to endorse mask wearing for all public entities at all public meetings. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Bell 2 nd – Mougianis Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye



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		Rigaud - Absent
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Mr. Mougianis asked the medical director about the booster and what is recommended. Dr. Kissinger stated it is the individual’s choice. Dr. Kissinger stated the data suggests that the J&J booster is not showing as effective, and suggests either Pfizer or Moderna for the booster.

Dr. Macedonia asked about what is considered as fully vaccinated. Dr. Kissinger responded it is mixed at this time. There is nothing official yet that says you have to have three doses to be considered fully vaccinated.

Nursing Report

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

Nursing Director Hannah Piko asked Angie Bates from the RadX program to speak about upcoming education events she has planned for the community.

Angie Bates stated we are partnering with Jefferson Metropolitan Housing Authority (JMHA), Urban Mission and Ohio Valley Health Center to address vaccine rates and vaccine hesitancy within minorities, the underserved and vulnerable populations. With JMHA we have co-written a covid education mini grant with Urban mission. The emphasis will be on residents who are in low income housing and church and community individuals aged 18 -35 which have the lowest vaccination rate among adults. The health department, as part of the mini grant, will be conducting the education piece and will provide the vaccination if requested. People don’t know the when and where. Where to go and when to go to test. This will be a main focus of the education.

Dr. Macedonia asked about the county vaccination rate. Health Commissioner Henry stated we are currently around 46%, we were closer to the 50% mark and then they lowered the age for vaccinations to 5 and older and it changed our percentage. Health Commissioner Henry did state we have the highest percentage as compared to our neighboring counties.

Dr. Macedonia commended Nurse Piko and her staff for the work they have done. He also questioned the number of clients per city report, stating the numbers have doubled. Nurse Piko and Health Commissioner Henry stated this was due to the boosters becoming available and that Trinity has gotten away from holding vaccine clinics and we’ve taken on a lot of their patients wanting boosters.

WIC Report

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



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Environmental

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

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to approve the licenses for Cardinal Residual Landfill, Hollow Rock Residual Landfill and Apex Landfill for 2022.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-139	Mr. Bell moved and Chief Crago seconded a motion to approve the licenses for Cardinal Residual Landfill, Hollow Rock Residual Landfill and Apex Landfill for 2022. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Bell 2 nd - Crago Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Absent

Accreditation

Health Commissioner Henry stated that we started the Community Health Assessment which is a key part of the accreditation process and in 2022 we will be focused on the PHAB accreditation.

PHEP

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

Correspondence

Terry Bell read a memo from the board to Health Commissioner Henry and the staff of the Health Department. A copy of the memo is attached hereto and made part of the official minutes.

Committee Reports

None

Old Business

Williams – Salem Compressor Station

Terry Bell read an email he received from Emma Curtis with a statement from Williams for the board. A copy of the email is attached hereto and made part of the official minutes. Also included in the minutes is a Booster Facility Fact Sheet from Encino Acquisition Partners.



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Sale of Old Medical Trailer and Old Cargo Trailer:

Health Commissioner Henry let the board know that both trailers were sold. The medical trailer sold for \$10,000.00 and the utility sold for \$525.00. We received the checks for both vehicles.

2nd Reading of 2022 Food Service Fees and Environmental Fees:

The public reading of the fees was held this morning prior to this regular monthly board meeting.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to approve the 2nd reading of the 2022 Food Service Fees and Environmental Fees.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-140	Chief Crago moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to approve the final 2021 appropriation adjustments. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Crago 2 nd - Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Absent

New Business

None

Public Participation

As Chairman of the Board, Dr. Macedonia using his authority to recognize members of the audience, opened the floor to Commissioner Anthony Morelli. Me. Morelli thanked the Health Department staff for all their hard work and diligence in improving the department. Mr. Morelli stated he feels better this year than he did last year in regards to Covid. He could ditto the memo the board sent to the staff. He feels that the staff has done a fantastic job. He would like to say thank you and thank you for all you do. He thanked the board for their good leadership. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and thank you again for all your hard work and be safe.

Dr. Macedonia also thanked Health Commissioner Andrew Henry and the entire staff for the work and progress that has been made since the beginning of 2021. We started out the year without a Health Commissioner and a number of empty positions. In speaking on behalf of the board, we commend all of you and we expect 2022 to be a better year. Coming from year 2020 through the year 2021 what a great difference, even in attending the meetings it is not a chore but rather the meetings are meaningful and the community realizes the work you all have done.



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<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to Enter into Executive Session</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-141	Mr. Bell moved and Mr. Mougianis seconded a motion to enter into executive session and asked that Health Commissioner Andrew Henry, Kelly Wilson and Michele Henry stay for executive session. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Bell 2 nd - Mougianis Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Absent

Chief Crago asked to be excused during executive session. A quorum remained.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to Return to Regular Session.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-142	Mr. Bell moved and Mr. Mougianis seconded a motion to return to regular session. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Bell 2 nd - Mougianis Bell - Aye Crago – Absent Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Absent

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion that no Action was Taken at Executive Session.</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-143	Mr. Bell moved and Mr. Mougianis seconded a motion that no action was taken at executive session. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Bell 2 nd - Mougianis Bell - Aye Crago – Absent Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Absent

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to adjourn</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2021-144	Mr. Mougianis moved and Mr. Bell seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.	1 st - Mougianis 2 nd - Bell Bell - Aye Crago – Absent Macedonia – Aye Mougianis - Aye Rigaud – Absent




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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 8:15 a.m. in the Trumbull Towers Building, 2nd Floor.

ATTESTED:


Patrick H. Macedonia, MD, Board President


Andrew Henry, Health Commissioner