I. Call to Order

Mr. J. David Benenati, President, called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. J. David Benenati, Mr. Timothy Goergen, Ms. Melanie Eppich, and Dr. Janet O’Hara. Mrs. Christina Livers arrived during the Environmental Health Update.

Staff members present: Robert Weisdack, Health Commissioner, Daniel Mix, Personal Health Services Director and Michael Tusick, Registered Sanitarian.

Others present: There was no one else present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Benenati asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Election of President and Pro-Tempore

Mr. Weisdack reported that Mr. Benenati was re-appointed to the Board of Health by the Health District Advisory Council for another five years.

Mr. Goergen moved to nominate Mr. Benenati as President of the Board of Health. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, abstain; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

Ms. Eppich moved to nominate Mr. Goergen as Pro-Tempore. Mr. Benenati seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, abstain; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

IV. Appointment of Committee Members

The Board tabled the appointment of committee members.

V. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Eppich moved to approve the minutes for the March 21, 2011 regular Board of Health meeting. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

VI. Current Expenses/ Financial Report

Mr. Goergen moved to approve the Current Expenses March 15, 2011 to April 12, 2011. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.
VII. Environmental Health Program Update

a. Sewage Rules Update

Mr. Weisdack stated that he recently met with Senator Grendell and other health commissioners to discuss the sewage rules. The State is being very inflexible regarding the rules. Senator Grendell stated he would be attending some of the meetings to address concerns that Mr. Weisdack and the other health commissioners have. Some of those concerns have to do with registration of soils scientists, the vertical separation distances, changing wording within the rules from “shall” to “may”, and having the requirement of mechanical devices. Another one of Mr. Weisdack’s major concern is why a sewage system in Northeastern Ohio costs so much more to install than in Southern Ohio when they are designed the same and have the same components? The law will require that every existing sewage system in Ohio must have a service agreement. Discussion ensured regarding other concerns that Mr. Weisdack and the Board have.

b. General Information

Mr. Weisdack attended a meeting where the director of ODH was present. The Director outlined some changes within ODH. They will be eliminating the Mobile Home Park program at the State level. It is currently a state mandated program. After this change, it will become a local program. The Board will have to adopt local rules/regulations and possibly new fees.

Other programs being eliminated are Marinas and the Migrant Worker programs. We currently do not have any establishments within those programs.

Regionalization of the local health departments was discussed at the meeting. Mr. Weisdack stated this will have to do with being accredited. One of the health departments is in dire fiscal condition and may have to contract or combine with another health department. The Director does not support regionalization unless a financial problem exists with a health department. The Director stated he does support accreditation because the CDC will give more grant funding. Mr. Weisdack expressed his concern at more grant funding because it is “soft money”. This kind of funding can be stopped by the giving agency at any time.

VIII. Administrative Hearings

a. Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Mullins

Mr. & Mrs. Mullins were not present. Mr. Tusick was sworn in by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the property owned by Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Mullins located at 17140 Nash Rd., Parkman Twp. This case is in regards to the following sections of the Geauga County Health District Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations:

3701-29-02(D) states: “No household sewage disposal system or part thereof shall create a nuisance.”

3701-29-02(F) states: “No person shall discharge, or permit to be discharged, treated or untreated sewage… or offensive wastes onto the surface of the ground, into any street, road, alley, open excavation, or underground drain.”
3701-29-02(G) (3) states: “Sewage effluent quality as measured at the point of discharge in the system shall comply with current effluent standards established by the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

In the event there are no applicable standards established by the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the following standards shall apply:

(C) Fecal Coliform – Water samples exceeding 5,000 fecal coliform counts per 100 milliliters in 2 or more samples shall be considered creating a public health nuisance.

(4) When test results indicate that the standards set forth in regulation 3701-29-02[G(3)] are not being met or nuisances are being created, additional treatment devices may be required by the Board of Health.

This sewage system is in violation of Section 3718.011 of the Ohio Revised Code- Conditions under which sewage treatment system causes a public health nuisance.

(3718.011)

(A) For purposes of this chapter, a sewage treatment system is causing a public health nuisance if any of the following situations occurs and, after notice by a board of health to the applicable property owner, timely repairs are not made to that system to eliminate the situation:

(A) (3) An inspection conducted by, or under the supervision of, the environmental protection agency or a sanitarian registered under Chapter 4736. of the Revised Code documents that there is ponding of liquid or bleeding of liquid onto the surface of the ground or into surface water and the liquid has a distinct sewage odor, a black or grey coloration, or the presence of organic matter and any of the following:

(A)(3)(b) The presence of fecal coliform at a level that is greater to or greater than five thousand colonies per one hundred milliliters of liquid as determined in two or more samples of the liquid or when five or fewer samples are collected or in more than twenty percent of the samples when more than five samples of the liquid are collected.

Discussion followed.

Ms. Eppich moved that a code violation exists on the property owned by Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Mullins located at 17140 Nash Rd., Parkman Twp. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved that the owners be required obtain the necessary permits and install a new sewage disposal system within 30 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to follow this order will result in referral to the prosecutor’s office for legal action. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

c. JD’s Post House, Dhawan-McClure-Ramos, Inc.
No action was taken due to the owner making the payment this afternoon. The owner had indicated that he wanted to speak to the Board, but did not come to the meeting.

IX. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The staff is preparing for a Strategic National Stockpile evaluation. They are working with the County Department of Emergency Services to update emergency response plans and have partnered with the Northeast Region to prepare common public information messages and protocols for regional events.

The communicable disease staff is working with the sanitarians in completing a cancer study centered at two injection wells in the county. The location of the wells in Hamden and Montville will be compared to two selected sites in Auburn and Huntsburg to compare odds ratios. So far, the staff has mapped cancer cases provided the ODH within a two-mile radius of the sites and has identified a comparison set of cases in Auburn and Huntsburg. During this investigation, the sanitarians will perform chemical water scans on five water wells near the Hamden ad Montville injection well sites.

Flu rates have tapered off to minimal activity nationwide.

b. Nursing

Mr. Mix stated that the file export to transfer the DOS-based data to HDIS has met with some problems. Once the information has been repaired the import will be completed and the training will begin.

The nursing director has begun a vaccine promotion campaign for non-Amish residents. A copy of the advertisement for the promotion was given to the Board. This advertisement has been included in church newsletters and through school notifications. Kindergarten packages will include the information as well.

We recently found out that the DDC is holding a clinic the same day and time that we hold our Middlefield clinic. At our most recent clinic we had very few clients when normally we are very busy. Mr. Mix stated that perhaps we should send a couple nurses to DDC to help them run their clinic and abandon our clinic in Middlefield. The role of public health is to get the residents vaccinated. He stated that more thought would be put into this.

The Board was asked to approve an application for the Geauga County Health District to become a certified yellow fever vaccination provider. This certification falls under the World Health Organization (WHO) to maintain worldwide standards and consistency. On behalf of WHO and CDC, the Ohio Department of Health is the certifying agency.

We have had many requests from residents for Geauga County Health District to provide international travel vaccine. In the past we have referred these people to one of several commercially-available choices. We do already provide some of the vaccines such as Tdap, Meningococcal, measles, mumps and rubella, Hepatitis A and B, and polio. To become a well-rounded international travel provider we need to add yellow fever, malaria and typhoid. This would allow the health district to tap a growing market. We would need to establish a consultation fee. Nurses will need to interview the traveler and select the appropriate vaccines based on age, health and destinations.

c. WIC
The March caseload was 908 which is a continued decrease over the last 4 months. The Middlefield community has decreased significantly. The Amish are abandoning the WIC program. They don’t like the fact that the funding comes from the Federal government. Farmers Market will again be offered this year beginning June 1. This program allows WIC participants an opportunity to purchase locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

d. Community Health Assessments

The statewide health assessment draft report was presented on April 7, 2011. Both paper and web-based presentations of the final report were discussed at that meeting. The next step is to include a description of the assets available at the local and state level to address the priority needs identified in the report. Those priorities will be aligned with current state programs designed to address these important health needs.

Our local community health assessment continues in a fund raising mode. A plan to raise funds was presented through townships and municipalities have been favorable to most. A letter has been prepared to send to other non-public entities such as Rotary clubs.

The Board was asked to approve two contracts with the Hospital Council of NW Ohio. The first contract is to complete the youth (12-18 years) and adult surveys. The cost is $50,000.00, half of which will be paid by the Centers for Health Affairs on behalf of the hospitals in NE Ohio. Once the contract has been signed, the planning process will begin to move forward to identify local indicators that will be surveyed. The plan is to assemble the partners in May for a day-long session to identify 40 adult and 20 youth indicators. The Hospital Council of NW Ohio will chair these sessions. We will be responsible for notifying the partners and selecting a site to conduct the meeting.

The second contract is a contingency contract to conduct a mailed child survey of 0 to 5 years and 6 to 11 years. The cost is $35,000.00, half of which will be paid by the Centers for Health Affairs on behalf of the hospitals in NE Ohio. This contract will only be executed if sufficient funds can be raised locally.

Current funding efforts include United Way Services of Geauga for $5,000.00 and ODH via our local health district improvement for $12,000.00. We have a tentative commitment of $5,000.00 from Job and Family Services so long as we conduct the children survey. The Mental Health Board has indicated they would give $10,000.00.

e. Workforce Development

Mr. Mix reported that he is still waiting for the final workforce development report.

f. Continuous Improvement Project

Mr. Mix reported that the quality improvement charter team has been established. Weekly meetings of the team have begun to complete work which will result in a project and a statement of what will be accomplished between May 1 and September 1, 2011.

As part of our quality improvement project, we were asked to complete the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) local health district standards. These will replace the ODH standards for 2012. This will allow us to see improvements that we make over the next nine months due to our community health assessment, strategic planning and quality improvement project. The standards
serve as a way to determine accreditation-readiness by scoring our responses. Mr. Mix provided a copy of the standards and our scores which were completed by Wright State University on our behalf.

X. Old Business

a. Injection Well Chemical Water Sampling

Mr. Weisdack provided a map showing where the injection wells are located in Montville and Hambden. Water well logs for properties within a mile of the injection wells were pulled and the depths of the wells were marked on the map.

Mr. Weisdack stated that he has received a letter from the county commissioners requesting that five chemical waters be taken from surrounding homes. The machine used for these samples is out for repair, but is expected to be returned to the health district soon.

He stated that once the machine is back, he would like to take twenty-four samples from those areas. Letters will be sent to the homeowners requesting to take samples from their homes.

Mr. Weisdack reported to the Board that he would be putting a news release together to notify residents that they should have a scan of their water done so they have a baseline. This will help in the event that they have problems with their well in the future.

Mr. Goergen moved 4.11-a to allow the Geauga County Health District to take a minimum of five chemical water samples around each injection well site in Hambden and Montville Townships at no cost to the homeowner. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

XI. Executive Session

Mr. Goergen moved to adjourn for Executive Session at 9:15 pm to discuss pending legal cases. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes. The meeting reconvened at 9:30 pm. The Board took no action as a result of the discussion during Executive Session.

XII. New Business

Mrs. Livers moved 4.11-b to approve the contract with Hospital Council of NW Ohio for Youth (12 to 18 years) and Adult Community Assessments in an amount not to exceed $50,000.00. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved 4.11-c to approve the contract with Hospital Council of NW Ohio for Children (0 to 5 years and 6 to 11 years) Community Assessment in an amount not to exceed $35,000.00. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Ms. Eppich moved 4.11-d to approve the application to the Ohio Department of Health to become a certified yellow fever vaccination provider. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.
Mr. Goergen moved 4.11-e to approve the Out-of-State Travel for Dave Sage to attend the International Hazardous Response Teams Conference in Baltimore, MD, May 18-22, 2011. All expenses will be paid by EMA. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Mr. Weisdack stated that the sewage resolution would not be moved on at tonight’s meeting. We were informed by the prosecutor’s office that it must be published in the newspaper before the Board can move on the resolution. Mr. Weisdack asked the Board to send him any comments and he will address them.

Family Planning of NE Ohio approached the health district about a letter of support. They are applying for a new grant. They asked if we would like to be a host. Mr. Mix reported that Family Planning’s lease was not renewed because of problems with picketing in front of the offices they were using.

The Board discussed that because the health district does not own the building, we cannot rent space. Mr. Weisdack stated he recommends that space not be rented to Family Planning. The Board concurred with Mr. Weisdack’s recommendation.

XIII. Other Business

There was no other business.

XIV. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board will be held Monday, May 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon.

XV. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 p.m. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert K. Weisdack, R.S., M.A., M.P.H.
Secretary of the Board