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, Mrs. Christina Livers, and Dr. O'Hara. Mr. Timothy Goergen and Mr. David Gragg were not present.

Staff members present: Robert Weisdack, Health Commissioner; Michael Tusick, Registered Sanitarian; and Christine Pintchuk, Nursing Director.

Others present: Melanie Eppich, Frank and Katherine Arnold, Jason Perry and Howard Bates

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Presentation to Melanie Eppich

Ms. Eppich was given a plaque of appreciation for her service to the Board of Health. The Board thanked her for the time she gave volunteering for the Geauga County Health District Board of Health.

Mrs. Livers moved 7.12-a to adopt Resolution 3-2012 honoring Melanie Eppich. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the minutes for the June 18, 2012 regular Board of Health meeting with corrections. The corrections were grammatical in nature and did not change the content of the minutes. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

V. Current Expenses/Financial Report

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the Current Expenses June 12, 2012 to July 12, 2012. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

VI. Environmental Health Program Update

a. General Information

Mr. Weisdack reviewed the number of plumbing inspections with the Board. The number of plumbing inspections has dropped, while the number of For Sale of Property inspections has increased dramatically. Mr. Weisdack reminded the Board that Herb Shubick and he have also been doing inspections due to the reduction of workforce. To help with some of the workload, Mr. Weisdack has the plumbing inspector doing re-checks of things that do not require a registered sanitarian to approve. The number of sewage permits issued to date has also increased.
Mr. Weisdack stated that the food inspectors are dealing with a food borne outbreak. The investigation spans Lake, Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, and Geauga Counties. Samples are being sent to ODH for analysis. There are several people hospitalized. The company in question was located in Cuyahoga County but catered events in the other counties. The staff has put a lot of time and effort into this investigation.

ODEPA will be holding a meeting July 26, 2012 in Stark County along with ODH to discuss the inspections of the NPDES discharging systems. Because the Geauga County Health District did not sign the Memorandum of Understanding, we are not required to do the inspections of these systems, which the MOU mandates. It is believed that at the meeting, discussion will be held that ODEPA may not issue any NPDES permits within any county that has not signed the MOU. Mr. Weisdack reminded the Board that the health district would be required to perform these inspections for free.

On July 6, 2012, Mr. Weisdack gave a presentation on gas and oil wells to the Northeast District Auditor’s Office at Punderson State Park. Approximately 30 people attended. Mr. Weisdack’s presentation was well received and he has already had requests to give a presentation for a few other counties. Mr. Weisdack stated he would like Board approval to give presentations outside the county. The Board agreed, as long as Mr. Weisdack has the time.

The Manufactured Home Parks Commission is taking over the Manufactured Home Park program effective January 2013. This was a state mandated program that the local health districts covered. The Manufactured Home Park Commission will be the authority over the Manufactured Home Park program. They will be reviewing the possibility that the local health districts would do the inspections under contract. There will be a webinar to discuss these items.

Mr. Weisdack received an email stating that the shipping costs associated with raccoon and skunk rabies specimens will be paid. We have been covering the cost of the shipments for over a year.

Mr. Weisdack has had phone calls from a resident in South Russell who has blue water coming out of her tap. He stated that he has been told that someone put in blue algaecide in a two-acre lake. Mr. Weisdack stated he is working on this case with the South Russell Building Inspector.

VII. Variance

a. Frank & Katherine Arnold

Frank and Katherine Arnold and Jason Perry were present and sworn in by Mr. Benenati. Mr. Tusick was sworn in by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this was a variance request by Frank and Katherine Arnold for property located on 141 Goredon Dr., Claridon Township. The request involves section 3701-28-07(D) of the Private Water Well Regulations, which states that a well shall not be located within 10’ of an occupied building. (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case) Discussion followed.

The owners are proposing to build an addition to their home, which would be closer than the 10’ minimum requirement.

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the variance as requested. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

b. Howard Bates

Howard Bates was present and sworn in by Mr. Benenati. Mr. Tusick was sworn in again and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this was a variance request by Howard Bates for the property located at 13804 Equestrian Dr., Burton Twp. The request involves section 3701-29-02(C) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations, which states, “Each household sewage disposal system shall serve one
dwelling on an individual lot and shall be properly maintained and operated by the owners. All the sewage from the dwelling shall discharge into the system.” (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case) Discussion followed.

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the variance as requested. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

VIII. Administrative Hearings


None of the above mentioned were present. Mr. Tusick was sworn in again by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.


These cases are in regards to section 3701-29-22(A) of the Geauga County Health District Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations that states, “An evaluation of a residential sewage system must be completed prior to the transfer of ownership of any parcel with said system. The evaluation shall be conducted by a member of the Health District and if necessary corrective action(s) required shall be accomplished within the time period(s) directed.” Discussion followed.


Mrs. Livers moved that Anthony Rockman, 11180 Caves Rd., Chester Twp., Daniel & Kristin Klingman, 12295 Claridon Troy Rd., Claridon Twp., Bonner Farms, 15211 Madison Rd., Middlefield Twp., Louis Horvath, 16553 Old State Rd., Parkman Twp., Valerie Fales, 15679 Pioneer Rd., Huntsburg Twp., Jacklyn Lanstrum, 8649 Ravenna Rd., Chardon Twp., Stefan & Gayle Meiling, 30 Ridgecrest Dr., S. Russell Village, Ciara Marra, 11365 Saybrook Ln., Auburn Twp., Bruce Randau, 11361 Sperry Rd., Chester Twp., Ingrid Nelson, 14481 Watt Rd., Russell Twp., Greg Popik, 13992 W. Willard Rd., Russell Twp. be required to make application, pay for, schedule, and complete a For Sale of Property evaluation and/or obtain the necessary permits and install a new sewage disposal system within 30 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to follow these orders will result in referral to the prosecutor’s office for legal action. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

IX. Personal Health Services Update

Mr. Mix was not present. Chris Pintchuk, Nursing Director, provided the Personal Health Services Update to the Board.

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

There was no report for Public Health Emergency Preparedness
b. Nursing Services

The communicable disease investigation staff and nursing director along with the food protection sanitarians spent the past week investigating a food borne illness outbreak that Mr. Weisdack had mentioned earlier. A great deal of time has been spent gathering the necessary information to isolate the cause and determine if secondary infections had occurred.

There have been legislative changes that do not allow the health district to give free services to people who have health insurance or Medicaid. This requires us to establish a price and collect a fee for children and adolescent vaccines. To accomplish this the Board was asked to approve a two-year contract with Quadax, Inc to provide billing services for Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance companies. Quadax will charge the Geauga County Health District $.35 per claim with a minimum of 150 claims per month.

The Board was also asked to approve the payment of a setup fee to Quadax, Inc. and to purchase software and training from CHC Software.

c. WIC

The caseload for April was 863, which is a 4% increase of client seen over March.

The Board was asked to approve the WIC FY2013 budget. The budget represents a decrease of 16%. To compensate for this reduction, the contract WIC Health Professional position will be eliminated and the staff will work one-less day per two-week period.

d. Community Health Assessments and State Health Assessments

There was no report for Community and State Health Assessments.

e. Continuous Quality Improvement/PHAB Accreditation

As part of the accreditation preparation process, we are examining our policies. The Board was asked to approve three policies; Internet and email policy, confidentiality policy, and records confidentiality policy.

The staff received training on e-mail retention recently from the County Archivist.

The CQI committee kicked off the data collection and improvement process for the project on June 15, 2012. Staff members will be reviewing the website to identify errors and missing information. Some staff members will be receiving Microsoft Word training that will enable them to create and edit forms. They will also be reviewing procedures to identify opportunities to automate uploading current information to the website. This will reduce the amount of time it takes to create and update forms and keep timely information on the website. This is will in turn increase customer satisfaction.

The Board adjourned for a short break.

X. Old Business

Mrs. Livers moved 7.12-b to approve the amendment to the Geauga County Health District Personnel Policy Section 11: Internet Policy with the revised Section 11: Internet and E-mail Policy. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Mrs. Livers stated that she would like to proofread and submit changes via email. If there are any modifications that change the content of the policy, the motion will need to be amended at the next meeting. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 7.12-c to adopt the proposed Geauga County Health District Confidentiality Policy. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.
Mrs. Livers moved 7.12-d to approve the amended Geauga County Health District Personnel Policy Section F.21-a: Records Confidentiality to reflect the new confidentiality policy. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

XI. Executive Session

There was no need for Executive Session this month.

XII. New Business

Mrs. Livers moved 7.12-e to approve the WIC FY2013 budget in an amount not to exceed $184,160.00. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 7.12-f to approve the two-year contract with Quadax, Inc. to provide billing/reimbursement services for Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance companies. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 7.12-g to approve the payment of $600.00 for a setup fee to Quadax, Inc. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 7.12-h to approve the payment to CHC Software in an amount not to exceed $1,557.50 to purchase software and pay for training. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 7.12-i to approve the transfer of excess Worker’s Comp funds into Other Expense as follows: BOH, $10,740.72; Trailer Parks, $550.00; Food Service, $1,265.78; Solid Waste, $313.78; Private Water, $776.26; Swimming Pools, $226.26; and Sewage, $1,523.48. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

XIII. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

XIV. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, August 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room of 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

XV. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Dr. O’Hara moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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