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, Dr. O’Hara, and Mr. David Gragg. Mr. Timothy Goergen was not present.

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

Others present: Steve Tricamo, Gary Kaufman and Michael Munn were present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the minutes for the May 21, 2012 regular Board of Health meeting with corrections. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O’Hara, abstain; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

IV. Current Expenses/Financial Report

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the Current Expenses May 17, 2012 to June 11, 2012. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

V. Environmental Health Program Update

a. General Information

Mr. Weisdack stated he has been told that ODH is still proposing 18 inches as the vertical separation distance. The best we can hope for is six inches. This means that in a twelve-inch deep trench, the bottom of that trench must be at least six inches away from any limiting layer. There were many arguments about the eighteen-inch limitation. Mr. Weisdack had suggested that all counties set their own depths. He had many other county health commissioners agree with his suggestion. This issue will not be known for sure until ODH comes out with the written proposal.

Melanie Eppich has been contacted and will be attending the July meeting. A plaque will be presented to her at that time.

Mr. Weisdack stated that the customers are becoming more and more impatient. He indicated he has been receiving more phone calls from the county commissioners with complaints. Most of these people have not even turned in all of the required paperwork. Mr. Weisdack has been forced to do some inspections.

Mr. Weisdack reviewed the number and type of sewage permits to date. There has been a slight increase in the number of permits issued.
On July 6, 2012, Mr. Weisdack will be giving a presentation on gas and oil wells to the Northeast District Auditor’s Office at Punderson State Park.

VI. Variance

a. Mike Munn/Munn Septic Application Site

Steve Tricamo, Michael Munn and Gary Kaufman were present and sworn in by Mr. Benenati. Mr. Weisdack was sworn in by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this was a variance request by Mike Munn for the land application site known as Parcel 01-082500 located on Franks Road in Auburn Township. The request involves sections I and IV of the Geauga County Health Department Guidelines for Land Application of Septage. Section I pertains to Method of Operation: 1. Injection, 2. Land Spreading and 3. Trench and Bury. Section IV pertains to Operation: Site cannot become a nuisance and deals with periods of saturated conditions. In addition, all land application sites are required to follow USEPA 503 septage disposal rules. (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case) Discussion followed.

This parcel of land is situated in an agricultural area and has contained a septage lagoon and land application site for over 30 years. Due to severe inclement weather conditions last year, Mr. Munn is proposing to install 1200 feet of leaching trenches to assure that the lagoon does not overflow during times of inclement weather and when spreading of septage cannot be done.

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the variance to Section I and Section IV of the Guidelines of Land Application of residential sewage for parcel #01-082500 located on Franks Road, Auburn Township as per submitted plan dated June 18, 2012 for leaching trench design along with tanks and dosing components. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

VII. Administrative Hearings


None of the above mentioned were present. Mr. Weisdack 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.


VIII. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Mix reported that the first CDC-scored SNS assessment was completed recently. The staff felt very good about the verbal assessment and appreciated the guidance provided by the CDC and ODH.

The Board was asked to approve an MOU with Chardon Surgery that will allow them to be a POD for the distribution of oral antibiotics, anti-viral, and other vaccinations and interventions during a health threat.

b. Nursing Services

The end of the CFHS grant year is approaching. This year, funds from the grant have enabled the health district to see 50% more children at Amish Well Child clinics than last year using the same resources.
Mr. Mix credited the staff, including Chris Pintchuk, Mary Ann Marsh, Karen DeWeese and Tammy Spencer as well as Dr. Reid in the effort to provide vital services to the community.

The Board was asked to approve contracts with Saint Edward & St. Lucy’s Parish and Troy and Newbury Townships to hold immunization clinics at their locations.

The Board was also asked to approve the contracts with contract nurses for the 2012-2013 year and with Kay Gurtz, RN to perform TB skin testing readings.

c. WIC

The caseload for April was 860, which is a 4% increase over March.

The FY2013 WIC grant has been decreased by 16% from last year. To accomplish this decrease, the contract WIC Health Professional position will be eliminated and the staff has agreed to a 10% reduction in hours. This would be equal to one less day worked per two-week period.

d. Community Health Assessments and State Health Assessments

At the meeting on April 18, 2012, the group identified health promotion (youth), prescription drug coverage for children, obesity, substance abuse, sex against will, going to bed hungry, and improving provision of primary care to keep residents in the county as goals to work on. Plans are currently being worked on to complete the community health improvement plan.

The State Health Improvement Planning (SHIP) committee reviewed the status of funding, information technology, infant mortality and chronic disease workgroups. The final SHIP report was discussed as well.

The Geauga County Health District is collaborating with the Lake County General Health District to apply for the CDC Community Transformation Grant. This grant involves the implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of evidence-based community health activities in order to reduce chronic disease rates, prevent the development of secondary conditions, address health disparities, and develop a stronger evidence-base of effective prevention programming. To meet the target population guidelines in the grant by itself, Geauga County is too small. However, together, Lake and Geauga have a population of about 350,000 including specific target populations. In addition, we will be able to take advantage of Lake County’s many years of experience in promoting healthy lifestyles through ACHIEVE Wellness. The Board gave approval to explore this collaboration.

b. Continuous Quality Improvement/PHAB Accreditation

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 will in turn increase customer satisfaction.

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.

IX. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

X. Executive Session

Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn for Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss pending legal cases. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers,
yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes. The meeting reconvened at 8:55 p.m. There was no action taken because of Executive Session.

XI. New Business

Mrs. Livers moved 6.12-a to approve the contract with Saint Edward & St. Lucy Parish to hold immunization clinics up to three times per month at St. Lucy's parish at a cost not to exceed $75.00 per month, January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 6.12-b to approve the contracts with Barbara Eyring, Carolyn Mann, Shirley Hamilton, George Denniston, Yvonne Mulacek, and Chris Hippley for 2012-2013 at a rate not to exceed $20.00 per hour. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 6.12-c to approve the agreement with Troy and Newbury Township to hold clinics one time per month at no cost for the 2013 Children's Immunization Program. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 6.12-d to approve the agreement with Kay Gurtz, RN to perform purified protein derivative (PPD) TB skin test reading on behalf of the Board of Health. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 6.12-e to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Chardon Surgery Center to be a Point of Distribution (POD) for oral antibiotics, antivirals or other vaccinations and interventions during a manmade or naturally occurring health threat. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

The Board tabled the action on the policy approvals until July 16, 2012 to allow more time for review.

XII. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

VIII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, July 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room of 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

XIV. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

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