Geauga County General Health District  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
August 17, 2015, 7:00 p.m.  
Geauga County Health District Office  
470 Center Street, Bldg. 8, Chardon, OH 44024

I. Call to Order

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

Board members present: Mr. Timothy Goergen, President, Mrs. Christina Livers, Pro-Tempore, Mr. David Gragg and Dr. Denis Rubal were present.

Staff members present: Robert Weisdack, Health Commissioner; Dan Mix, Personal Health Services Director; and Mike Tusick, Registered Sanitarian.

Others present: There were no others present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the minutes for the July 20, 2015 Board of Health meeting. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes and Dr. Rubal, yes.

IV. Current Expenses/Financial Report

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the Current Expenses and Financial Reports, July 15, 2015 to August 10, 2015. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

V. Administrative Hearings

a. Norman & Ellen Miller, Phillip Zanella, Alex Gritton, and John & Ruth Hershberger

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

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the properties owned by Norman & Ellen Miller, 17438 Jug Rd., Troy Twp., Phillip Zanella, 17650 Leggett Rd., Montville Twp., Alex Gritton, 17866 Leggett Rd., Montville Twp., and John & Ruth Hershberger, 15298 Shedd Rd., Middlefield Twp.

Section 3701-29-25(A) of the Geauga County Health District Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations states, “An evaluation of a residential sewage system must be completed at time of 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.

Mr. Gragg moved that a code violation exists on the properties owned by Norman & Ellen Miller, 17438 Jug Rd., Troy Twp., Phillip Zanella, 17650 Leggett Rd., Montville Twp., Alex Gritton, 17866 Leggett Rd., Montville Twp., and John & Ruth Hershberger, 15298 Shedd Rd., Middlefield Twp. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved that Norman & Ellen Miller, 17438 Jug Rd., Troy Twp., Phillip Zanella, 17650 Leggett Rd., Montville Twp., Alex Gritton, 17866 Leggett Rd., Montville Twp., and John & Ruth Hershberger, 15298 Shedd Rd., Middlefield Twp. be required to schedule and complete a For Sale of Property evaluation and make any corrections necessary or 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. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

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


Section 3701-29-25(A) of the Geauga County Health District Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations states, “An evaluation of a residential sewage system must be completed at time of 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.


Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.


VI. Environmental Health Program Update

a. Sewage Rules

Mr. Weisdack will be meeting with some of the other health commissioners soon to discuss any new developments with the sewage rules.

Mr. Weisdack received an email recently from a person from Licking County who sits on a government council. They are getting a lot of feedback from the residents in the county complaining about the new sewage rules. She contacted Mr. Weisdack to inquire about the background of how the rules came to be.
Mr. Weisdack was contacted by OEPA to advise him that possible funding may be available through a grant to assist residents with low income to repair or replace their septic systems. The local health districts can apply for this funding. The deadline for applying is September 18, 2015. There is also funding that the county commissioners can apply for as well.

The Board is in favor with moving forward with this grant opportunity to assist the residents to repair or replace their septic systems if it isn’t too time consuming. Mr. Weisdack will review the application to see what it entails. He will be in touch with the Board with what he finds.

b. General Information

There was no general information discussed.

VII. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The staff participated in the annual CRI exercise at the Cleveland Public Schools. The exercise demonstrated how agencies collaborate during an emergency response and was set up as a POD. There were 800 people served in the exercise. Communication was identified as the major weakness in the event.

The staff will be updating several plans during the upcoming year. They will also develop an essential healthcare service plan and reverse notification system for adverse events in Geauga County.

The Board was asked to approve a revised 2016 PHEP budget not to exceed $91,355.00. This represents a 0.8% reduction due to cuts in the grant funding.

b. Disease Surveillance

The disease count for July was 27. Fifteen of those cases were STDs.

c. Nursing Services

During the month of July, the nursing staff provided two Amish Well Child Clinics, 5 children and adolescent immunization clinics, 5 Friday Morning Adult clinics, and four Senior Center clinics. Included were visits for 28 children at the well child clinics, 416 vaccinations given to 134 children, 15 adult immunizations, and 12 TB tests. The nurses also provided vision screenings that resulted in referrals for glasses for 62 children. There were seven maternal/newborn visits and seven BCMH home visits. Twenty-seven communicable disease investigations were conducted.

The Geauga County Health District IAP activities have vastly improved in the last year. Our most recent score from ODH improved to 23 out of 24. Activities included assessing local children’s vaccine providers, training providers to improve their vaccination rates and assessing our own vaccination rates and practices. For the past three years, we have collaborated with Lake and Ashtabula Health departments to administer this grant, however, due to funding challenges Lake will no longer act as the lead agency. Ashtabula is interested in a 2-county application, which we will pursue.

Mr. Mix stated that over half of the IAP funding would now be outcome-based reimbursements. We will be paid a fee per provider that we train and assess. New outcome objectives now include assessing vaccination rates among 13-15 year old children.

Mr. Mix reported that according to 2013 data from the National Immunization Survey, Ohio ranks 48th nationally in on-time immunization rates at 61.7%. This is a significant decrease from 2006 when Ohio ranked 33rd.

The Ohio IAP will target four new outcomes in 2016. These include focus on DPT, followed by PCV13; Recall/reminder system in place; contact within 3-5 days if no show; and standing orders to give all vaccines.

We are in the final stages of scheduling flu clinics for this year. We continue to collaborate with VaxCare as the provider of vaccines to reduce waste and make the program cost-effective.

The Board was asked to approve a revised 2016 CFHS budget not to exceed $62,998.00, which is a 4.6% reduction.

d. WIC
The WIC caseload for July was 705, a 4% decrease from June.

The Board was asked to approve the 2016 WIC grant budget not to exceed $206,787.00 and a revised 2015 budget for $203,275.00

Geauga WIC completed its biennial State WIC management evaluation and came through with only a few minor administrative reminders.

Mr. Mix reported that WIC is transitioning to an electronic coupon rather than a paper coupon. This will increase security and reduce the service delivery time to clients.

e. Administration

Mr. Mix stated that our fiscal audit is almost complete.

The Board was asked to approve the annual payment to Public Entities Pool for our liability insurance. The cost for 2015/2016 is $26,009, which represents a 12.6% increase. Some of this increase is likely due to the replacement of nine automobiles to the fleet.

f. Accreditation

The staff has formed a performance management committee, which have met numerous times. The committee is identifying performance indicators for all our programs and services. The focus is on specific key indicators of performance. This includes accreditation-readiness, customer service, staff development, and practices that cost the health district money, such as re-inspections and unfunded inspections.

The expected outcome of the performance management plan is more customer feedback and more understanding of practices that cost us money. Mr. Mix stated that the plan is expected to be in place by the end of September. More information will be shared at that time.

We will begin the process of assembling our accreditation documentation this fall in a secure, online location that will be accessible to the staff so they can contribute to the accreditation preparation process.

By law, all Board of Health members are required to have two CEUs per year. Last year we covered open meeting laws and sewage system laws. Two education sessions will need to be scheduled over the next few months and can be held during the Board meetings.

VIII. Old Business

a. O&M Shareholders Committee

The committee held a meeting recently. Mr. Weisdack and the Board felt it was very successful. Another meeting has been scheduled for September 14, 2015.

b. State Audit Findings

Mr. Mix stated that the audit showed some findings. Most involved procedural changes that will be implemented by the county auditor’s office.

IX. New Business

Mr. Gragg moved 8.15-a to approve the Public Health Emergency Preparedness FY2016 budget revision not to exceed $91,355.00. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 8.15-b to approve the Child and Family Health Service FY2016 budget revision not to exceed $62,998.00. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 8.15-c to approve the WIC FY2015 budget revision not to exceed $203,275.00. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.
Mr. Gragg moved 8-15-d to approve the payment of the 2015-2016 Liability Insurance to Public Entities Pool of Ohio at the same level as the previous year ($3 mil), not to exceed $26,900.00. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 8.15-e to approve the purchase of a monitored vaccine refrigerator not to exceed $9,000.00. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 8.15-f to approve the WIC FY2016 budget not to exceed $206,787.00. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

X. Other Business

There was no other business.

XI. Meetings

Regular Board of Health Meeting, Monday, September 21, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

O/M Shareholder Committee Meeting, Monday, September 14, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room of 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

XII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

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