

Geauga County General Health District  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
March 15, 2010, 7:00 p.m.  
Geauga County Health District Office  
470 Center Street, Bldg. 8, Chardon, OH 44024

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, Dr. Donald Bowers, Ms. Melanie Eppich, and Mrs. Christina Livers.

Staff members present: Robert Weisdack, Health Commissioner; Daniel Mix, Personal Health Services Director; and Michael Tusick, R.S.

Others present: There were no others present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

**Mr. Goergen moved to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2010 regular meeting. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion.** Ms. Eppich had a correction to the minutes. For the Humphreys' Administrative Hearing, it is listed as Ms. Eppich voting yes. Ms. Eppich was not present at that meeting. **Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.**

IV. Financial Report / Current Expenses

**Dr. Bowers moved to approve the Current Expenses February 11, 2010 to March 10, 2010. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.**

V. Environmental Health Program Update

A. Meeting with Dr. Alvin Jackson and Sewage Update

Mr. Weisdack reported that the meeting with Dr. Jackson held March 2, 2010 in Columbus. Sen. Neihaus and Sen. Grendell were also in attendance. The Ohio Department of Health still has some issues with the definition of a public health nuisance.

Sen. Grendell has proposed an addition to the law which would give the owner the option of going to an appeals board if they do not want to install the type of system that the local health district or ODH was requiring them to install. This board would consist of one person from the local health district, one from ODH and one would be appointed by the probate judge. The decision as to what type of system must be installed would be made at that level. Another choice would for the homeowner to come to the Board of Health and if they don't like the decision the Board makes they could take it to the common please court for a decision. Senator Grendell proposed this change to help keep these decisions at the local level.

Another issue is about mandatory maintenance. Mr. Weisdack stated that he and the environmental health staff are discussing numerous issues and will be reporting back to Sen. Grendell with their comments.

The rules were supposed to become effective March 1, 2011. Mr. Weisdack stated that he opposed that date due to the amount of confusion the last time the rules were changed and became effective. There is

now a new effective date will be January 1, 2012. This will allow more time for the local health departments to fully understand the rules.

There was a discussion to clarify whether existing systems are grandfathered if they are not creating a public health nuisance or if they can be repaired. As far as the rules are concerned, ODH has not given any real direction. Mr. Weisdack stated that he feels that as long as the system is not creating a nuisance, that those systems would be grandfathered. Mr. Weisdack indicated that he and the staff would be discussing developing a protocol regarding any repair to existing malfunctioning systems. Mr. Weisdack stated that he wants to be sure that what he and the staff decide is not overruled by ODH.

The deadline for the grandfathering of permits has been proposed as anything prior to the effective date of the bill. These systems will be allowed to be installed under the old rules for a period of three years. This matter is still under discussion and has not been finalized.

If the vertical separation distance remains the way it is written, Geauga County would only be able to install drip and mound systems in most cases. The discussion of the matter of the vertical separation distance caused a commotion. Sen. Neihaus received comments at the meeting about the vertical separation distance. After some heated discussion, Sen. Neihaus indicated to ODH that he wanted Geauga County to be able to continue to install trench systems. After the meeting, the vertical separation distance section was changed in the law. Mr. Weisdack read the new section to the Board that is now written into the law based on what Sen. Neihaus indicated at the meeting. However, the rules will be the final determining factor where we can continue to use leaching trenches or not.

Mr. Weisdack thanked Sen. Grendell and Dan Mix for their hard work on this effort.

## VI. Personal Health Services Update

### A. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Mix reported that the submission of the second quarter report for PHEP and PHER has been completed. The Board was asked to approve the budget revision for PHER which will shift money from contracts and equipment to salaries. To date, approximately 55% of the PHER funds have been expended.

The Board was asked to extend the two part-time positions created at the outset of the PHER H1N1 vaccine campaign until August 6, 2010. The 6-month positions are set to expire on or about April 12, 2010. This would continue the clerical position currently responsible for H1N1 recordkeeping and telephone contact, and the part time emergency planner responsible for the volunteer staff.

The Board was also asked to approve three contracts, all pertaining to PHEP. The storage rental contract is for a two-year contract here in Chardon at Western Reserve. The staff visited several sites. The security gate and password access made the decision easier for the staff.

Mr. Mix also asked to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Russell Auxiliary Fire Dept. for EMT services during an emergency event.

The last contract is for an online background check for our MRC volunteers. Currently, volunteers must be fingerprinted at the Geauga County Sheriff's office and we pay \$22 for the check and this cost will be increasing. As an alternate, this online service, which is being used by the Ashland County MRC, allows the volunteer to enter private information from their home computer and results will be mailed to the Health District office. If the volunteer does not have a computer, they can still go to the Sheriff or come to the office and get assistance from the staff.

The Governor has rescinded the H1N1 Emergency effective March 31, 2010.

### B. Nursing

H1N1 clinics are being held at faith-based organizations and in private industry. This is one of the criteria established by ODH to use the existing supply and insure that everyone that wants a vaccination has the opportunity. We are also allowing residents to get H1N1 vaccinations at Friday morning clinic and all

children's vaccination clinics. We have surpassed the 14,000 mark for immunizations given since October 15, 2009.

For the 2010-2011, the public school immunization vaccination schedule has been modified to require a tetanus booster for students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade. This vaccine has existed on the schedule for many years, but has not been mandatory for school entrance.

To accommodate this law, the health district will provide free vaccinations at the public and private schools beginning in April for sixth grade students. A consent form will be delivered through the school nurses. Students that do not receive the vaccination through this program will have to attend a health district clinic or obtain the vaccine from their physician.

We are asking the BOH to approve the purchase of seasonal influenza vaccine for 2010-2011 for 1,200 doses. Manufacturers are confident that it will be a busy flu season and demand will be high. We are keeping the private order the same as last year at 1,200, and we will order about 800 pediatric vaccine and VFC vaccine, as well as a modest adult safety net for those without the resources to pay. Additionally, there will be a Super Flu shot available this year for persons over 65 with chronic medical conditions. We have asked the Medical Director for an opinion and are awaiting test results. We are considering ordering several hundred, but they will be more expensive and we want to be sure that Medicare will pay for the vaccine. The cost of the regular seasonal flu shot will remain \$25.00 per dose, which includes a modest charge for supplies and our time. We will receive a 5% discount on our order when invoiced because the AOHC has secured a contract for local health districts to receive a lower price

C. WIC

The WIC February caseload was 964.

We applied for and were granted an additional \$6,300 of WIC funds for the purpose of sending all three dieticians to the annual breastfeeding conference and taking a self-study course in breastfeeding techniques and equipment.

Starting in July 2010, Ohio WIC is encouraging all local WIC programs to participate in the Peer Helper program. A peer helper assists WIC participants with concerns and training when breastfeeding their children. The peer must be a WIC participant. In the 2011 grant year, the Peer Helper will become a mandatory component of the WIC grant program. With these additional funds, Geauga WIC can get a head start on the Peer Helper program by employing a part-time WIC participant(s).

Additionally, we have set aside about 240 hours for contract dietician services to fill gaps such as vacations and sick time. Due to the staff shortage we experienced in 2009, we would like the service to fill gaps and provide backup.

The Board has already approved the contract of one contract dietician and Ms. Herman has begun the search for additional personnel.

D. Health Education

There was no information for Health Education.

VII. Old Business

A. 2011 Health District Budget

Mr. Weisdack reported that he and Mrs. Gerzeny met with Frank Gliha, Geauga County Auditor recently regarding the budget. There was only one adjustment and that was with the levy amount. The budget was presented at the preliminary HDAC meeting. There were very few questions and the group was pleased with the proposed 2011 budget.

**Mr. Goergen moved 3.10-1 to approve the presentation of the 2011 Geauga County Health District Budget at the annual HDAC meeting March 30, 2010. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.**

VIII. Executive Session

**Mr. Goergen moved to adjourn for Executive Session at 7:44 pm to discuss pending legal cases and the Health Commissioner's evaluation. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.** Meeting reconvened at 8:30 pm. Mr. Benenati stated there is no comment on the discussion of pending litigation and that action would be deferred on the Health Commissioner's evaluation until the next Board of Health meeting.

IX. New Business

**Ms. Eppich moved 3.10-2 to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Russell Twp. Fire Dept. which allows EMT's to work at mass vaccination clinics and other events. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.**

**Mrs. Livers moved 3.10-3 to approve the agreement with Western Reserve Mini Storage Rental. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion.** Dr. Bowers inquired as to the location of the unit. Mr. Mix stated that it was on Rt. 6 in Chardon. The size of the unit is 10' x 20' and will be \$85.00 per month. This unit will be used to store some items that are needed in case of a public health emergency. Nothing of value will be stored in the unit. It is very well secured. **Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.**

**Dr. Bowers moved 3.10-4 to approve the PHER Budget Revision as presented. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.**

**Mrs. Livers moved 3.10-5 to approve the purchase of flu vaccine for the 2010-2011 season in an amount not to exceed \$11,582.40. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion.** This is for 1,200 doses. **Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.**

**Mr. Goergen moved 3.10-6 to approve the extension of the Emergency Planner position (P/T Temporary) to August 6, 2010. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.**

**Dr. Bowers moved 3.10-7 to approve the extension of the PHER Clerical position (P/T Temporary) to August 6, 2010. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.**

**Mrs. Livers moved 3.10-8 to approve the contract with Pre-Employ.com to do background checks for the MRC. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion.** The cost will be \$9.00 per review. **Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.**

**Mrs. Livers moved 3.10-9 to approve the purchase of phone upgrades in an amount not to exceed \$1,680.00. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion.** This will be for wireless headset devices. **Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.**

**Dr. Bowers moved 3.10-10 to approve the purchase of lobby chairs in an amount not to exceed \$4,900.00. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion.** This will to replace 35 existing chairs that are in poor condition. Some of the better ones will be used in the staff's offices. The others will be sent to the county auction. **Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.**

X. Other Business

Dr. Bowers indicated that he would not be running for the Board of Health. He stated he has many things going on in the next few years that will be taking up more of his time.

Mr. Weisdack and the Board thanked Dr. Bowers for his service on the Board of Health.

Mr. Weisdack stated he was planning a recognition night for past Board of Health members and he would be informing the past members of the date.

**Mrs. Livers moved 3.10-11 to recognize the service of Dr. Bowers to the Board of Health and the residents of Geauga County. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, abstain; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.**

XI. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board will be held April 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon.

XII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, **Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Dr. Bowers 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

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