

## **Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health**

Minutes of January 9, 2018 regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on January 9, 2018 in Wheeling City Council Chambers in the City/County Building.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Terry Sterling, Tom Tuttle, David Croft, and Chad Thalman. Staff present included Dr. William Mercer, Health Officer/Secretary and Howard Gamble, Administrator of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department (WOCHD or department). Others present included members of the public and media.

The meeting was called to order. The Board approved of the November 14, 2017 regular Board of Health meeting.

Board of Health Chairman Dr. John Holloway did not have a report. Chairman did disburse two public health articles to Board members and staff.

Dr. Mercer gave the Health Officer's Report. Dr. Mercer discussed recent updates and activities with Project HOPE including a 2018 Downtown fundraising walk set for February 24, 2018 and the recent addition of a clinic at Catholic Charities, the department's on going Snoopy/Joe Too Cool To Smoke Program and an update on the current flu activity in the county.

The administrator's report was given by Howard Gamble. The administrator presented to the Board for approval the 2018 mileage reimbursement rate. The IRS in December 2017 issued new standard mileage rates. The rate is \$.545 cents for every mile of business travel, up 1 cent (\$.535) from the 2017 rate. The Administrator asked for Board approval. The Board approved the rate.

The Administrator shared with the Board a letter from Mary Maguire concerning smoking at the Wheeling Downs.

The Board was notified that the department received a Gold Award from the West Virginia Division of Immunization Services for adherence to the Standards for Pediatric Immunization Practices and the prevention and control of vaccine preventable diseases among children, adolescents and adults in West Virginia.

An update was given on the Wheeling-Ohio County Needle Exchange Program. To date over 14000 needles have been given out (September 2015 to December 2017). This includes our location at Northwood Health System, the health department and during our homeless outreach program. The program does offer treatment referrals, individual testing and other items. Along with this program is our Narcan Program, both make up the department's harm reduction program. The department has been conducting community and business trainings and dispensing Narcan Kits to the community since 2016. The department received 200 doses of Narcan from Wheeling Hospital in 2016. These were

distributed to the community. The department then received 500+ Narcan kits from WVU/WVDHHR. Over half of these kits have been given out.

The administrator discussed several draft bills that are to be considered during the 2018 WV Legislative Session. The 2018 Legislative Session begins January 10, 2018. The bills include a bill to reorganize the WVDHHR into four parts. A bill that would propose to move regulatory and rules for milk and milk products from the State Health Department to the Department of Agriculture. A bill to change how Farmers Markets are permitted by local health departments to the Department of Agriculture.

There was no Unfinished Business for the Board.

In New Business, prior to the Board of Health meeting, members were presented with the November & December financials including Bills, Payroll, Aged Receivables and Year to Date Financials. Although it is not shown on the department's outstanding receivables, the department is waiting on three months of payments for the agency's WIC program. Contacts were not approved until recently and the department was not able to bill for the last three months until this week. This represents \$163890. The Board reviewed and approved the financial report.

The Board did not go into executive session. The Board set the next regular meeting for March 13, 2018. The Board adjourned.

**SUBMITTED BY**

William C. Mercer, MD, Health Officer  
March 13, 2018

**APPROVED BY**

John Holloway, MD, Board Chairman  
March 13, 2018