

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health
Minutes of November 12, 2013 regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on November 12, 2013 in the Wheeling City Council room in the City/County Building.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Cheryl Wonderly, Wilkes Kinney, Gloria Delbrugge and Mike Caruso. Staff present included Dr. William Mercer, Health Officer/Secretary and Howard Gamble, Administrator of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department (WOCHD or department). Several individuals were present as well as members of the media including WTRF, WTOV and the Wheeling News Register

The meeting was called to order. The minutes from the September 10, 2013 were reviewed and approved.

The health department administrator requested that the Board meet in executive session to discuss a legal issue. The Board moved to go into executive session and adjourned to the meeting room behind the council chambers. After the executive session meeting the Board adjourned back into regular session. No action was taken in the executive session.

Board Chairman, Dr. Holloway, did not have a report. Several individuals were present to do presentations to the Board. Dr. Holloway recognized the speakers. Throughout each presentation the Board discussed the topic that was being presented with the presenters. The following individuals presented before the Board:

- Patricia Jacobson, FaCT-OV/Wheeling Water Warriors presented a letter to the Board. Board members, the Health Officer and Administrator were presented with a large binder that the group had developed concerning gas drilling. Dr. Holloway acknowledged the presented binders.
- Dr. Ben Stout, Wheeling Jesuit University presented an abstract to the Board.
- Jill Kriesky, Associate Director of the Southwest PA Environmental Health Board presented two additional handouts to the Board.
- Robin Mahonen, Wheeling Water Warriors
- Mark Eddy, Ohio County resident read a prepared statement.
- Linda Holmstrand, Regional Tobacco Prevention Coordinator, ALA/WVBPH introduced herself and the current work of the Ohio County Tobacco Prevention Coalition.
- Martha Polinsky, Project Coordinator Ohio County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition discussed the upcoming form.

Dr. Mercer gave the Health Officer's Report. Dr. Mercer updated the Board on his recent American Public Health Association Conference trip. Dr. Mercer reviewed the West Virginia Health Officer's Summit meeting and announced a \$5,000.00 grant that was awarded to the health department for the department's gas drilling research project.

Howard Gamble presented the administrators report. The administrator announced that a new State Health Officer had been appointed. Dr. Letitia Tierney, MD, JD is the new State Health Officer and Commissioner for the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health.

The Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department received a financial donation from Elysian Fields Farm and Penny Miller of Wheeling. Dr. Mercer discussed this in his presentation. The financial donation will be used by the health department to support the ongoing research of Marcellus (Shale) gas drilling and its impact on air quality. Recently the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department and West Virginia University, School of Public Health, launched a project to find out if Marcellus gas drilling is affecting the air quality in the region. Part of the funding will be used to develop an on-line health affects reporting program. The tool will allow individuals to report non-identifiable data on specific health concerns and problems they may have occurring due to drilling activity in their area. The on-line reporting tool is being developed locally.

In New Business the department was awarded a small, \$5,000, grant from Penny Miller (Elysian Fields Farm) of Wheeling. This financial donation will be used by us to support our ongoing research of Marcellus gas drilling in our area. The department is planning to use part of the funds to develop an on-line health affects reporting program. The tool will allow individuals to report non-identifiable data on specific health concerns and problems they may have occurring due to drilling activity in their area. The department's website was built and is maintained by Beyond Marketing of Wheeling. The health department approached them to add this feature to our website. The estimated cost is \$1,800 (not to exceed \$2,000). The Board was surveyed by e-mail earlier this month concerning this project. We received approval from most of the members to proceed with this project. At this time I am asking for a formal approval of this purchase.

For the Financial Presentation the Board was presented with the September and October bills and payroll, aged receivables and the year to day financials. The board discussed each document and the reported was accepted

Following New/Old Business the Board set the next meeting for January 14, 2014. The Board then adjourned.

SUBMITTED BY

William C. Mercer, MD, Health Officer
January 14, 2014

APPROVED BY

John Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
January 14, 2014