

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health

Minutes of July 11, 2023, regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on July 11, 2023, at 12:00pm in the City/County Building, Ohio County Commission office, Wheeling West Virginia.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Tom Tuttle, Dr. Mathew Wood, Chad Thalman and Erik Harris. Board member Elisabeth Slater informed the department that she would not be able to attend. Staff present included Howard Gamble, Administrator of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department and County Health Officer Dr. William S. Przybysz.

The meeting was called to order by Board of Health Chairman Dr. John Holloway. Minutes of the May 9, 2023, Board of Health meeting was distributed to members prior to the meeting. Minutes were approved.

Dr. Przybysz gave a Health Officer's report. Dr. Przybysz updated the board on the activities of Project HOPE, which continues to conduct weekly rounds and services. The program is seeing 15-20 more clients. Wheeling Soup Kitchen is donating lunches for the program to distribute to HOPE clients. He also gave a short update on disease occurrences in the county.

The administrator gave a report on department programs and services. The department was asked to review an Ohio County Medical Cannabis distribution business by the WV Office of Medical Cannabis. The department was provided information on Harvest Care Medical, LLC, which will operate in Elm Grove. The Board was provided with background information and to approve or disapprove the information that the Office of Medical Cannabis has provided. The review was approved and signed. The report will be forwarded to the WVOMC.

The Board was provided with an update on three legal issues that the health department has been involved in with the Ohio County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. The three issues deal with the feeding of raccoons at 16 Renaissance Way in Bethlehem, septic issues at Innisfree Farms in Wheeling and an ongoing sewage and operation operational issue at Scenic Sites in Valley Grove.

WOCHD is participating in a real-time drug surveillance study with WVU. WOCHD along with six harm reduction centers in WV are participating in the study. WVU has partnered with a toxicology lab in Pennsylvania called Molecular Dx. The department is sending weekly needles to WVU/toxicology lab for testing. At this point the lab has tested nearly 4,000 used syringes against a panel of over 160 molecules.

The Board was provided with the new Standards for Local Boards of Health. Members were asked to review the new Standards for Local Boards of Health. These were updated in 2023. The department is planning to have a staff meeting this month to review and see where the department needs to focus, in order to meet the standards.

The department has been waiting on new computers, switch, and router as well as a larger server relocation project since early 2023. Currently the department has received some of the monitors and computers. The server has not been moved by the WVOT. This project needs to be completed before the department moves to a larger medical records and billing initiative with WVU/EPIC.

The administrator presented to the Board a Financial update on staff raises and bonuses. The 5% and 7% raises for HD and WIC staff were started this month. The department planned to give the one time non base building bonus between the July 1st pay and the 2nd pay, however, we may need to evaluate this due to lagging paperwork from the State Health Department.

In New Business, the Board was presented with May and June 2023 financials. The financial review included a year-to-date General Ledger Trial Balance and account payables and payroll reports. The report was approved by the Board.

With no other business before the Board, the Board moved for adjournment. The next regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2023.

SUBMITTED BY

APPROVED BY

William S. Przybysz, MD, Health Officer
September 14, 2023

John D Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
September 14, 2023