

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health

Minutes of January 10, 2017 regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on January 10, 2017 in Wheeling City Council Chambers in the City/County Building.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Tom Tuttle, Wilkes Kinney 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). Also present was a representative from the Wheeling News Register.

The meeting was called to order. The minutes from the November 15, 2016 Regular Board of Health meeting were mailed to members prior to the meeting for review. Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Board Chairman, Dr. Holloway, began the meeting with the discussion of a Board of Health Position Statement concerning the county's clean indoor air regulation. The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed position statement. The Board approved the statement and was signed by Board Chair and the County Health Officer.

Dr. Mercer gave his Health Officer's report. Dr. Mercer updated the Board on the health department's homeless outreach program, including the new exam room that was created at the YSS Winter Freeze Shelter. A "Joe Too Cool To Smoke" update was given to the Board. Dr. Mercer discussed the current influenza levels in the county, which are currently low. Dr. Mercer mentioned the cover page of the WV State Medical Society Journal, which featured Dr. James Edmund Reeves, former health officer for the City of Wheeling.

Howard Gamble presented the administrators report. The administrator requested the Board approve a new 2017 mileage reimbursement rate. The rate will be effective January 1, 2017 at \$.53.50 cents per mile. This rate reflects the IRS travel rate which was approved December 13, 2016. The Board approved the request.

On January 25, 2017, the health departments of the northern panhandle, Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel/Tyler will hold a public health policy roundtable meeting with area lawmakers to discuss key public health issues. Members of each county Board of Health's are welcomed to attend; however, it will not be considered an official meeting on any Board.

The department recently hired two new part time professional staff members, Crystal Bauer, RN and Thomas Wack, MD. Both will be working with the department's homeless outreach program, project HOPE. Both are paid through grant funds. This brings the agency's employee numbers to 32 staff.

The 2017 Food School calendar was distributed to the Board. New this year will be several additional off campus food schools, including several at the Highlands. The department is

working with two new “on-line” food schools to provide additional options for area residents.

Starting February 1, 2017, the department will welcome a new Sanitarian/Health Inspector to replace Garen Rhome, RS, who left the agency for a public health position at the Harrison County Health Department in Ohio. Jonathan Monroe of Morgantown WV will be joining the department. Jonathan is a graduate of WVU holding a bachelor’s degree in Geography/GIS and is currently a Sanitarian II with the Monongalia County Health Department.

In Unfinished Business, the Board reviewed and discussed the county tanning bed regulation. The regulation was presented to the Board in 2016 and was put out for public comment following the January 10, 2017 meeting. No comments were received during this period. The Board approved the regulation. The regulation will be registered with the county clerk’s office by the administrator.

In New Business, the Board was presented, prior to the meeting with a financial packet that contained the October, November and December 2016 bills, payroll, Aged Receivables and Year to Date financials. The Board accepted the financial presentation.

The Board did not go into executive session. The Board set the next regular meeting for March 14, 2017. The Board adjourned.

SUBMITTED BY

William C. Mercer, MD, Health Officer
January 10, 2017

APPROVED BY

John Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
January 10, 2017