

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health

Minutes of January 9, 2024, regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on January 9, 2024, at 12:00pm in the City/County Building, Ohio County Commission office, Wheeling West Virginia.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Elisabeth Slater, Tom Tuttle, Dr. Mathew Wood and Erik Harris. 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 November 14, 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. He also gave a short update on disease occurrences in the county.

The administrator gave a report on department programs and services.

COVID Updates

- Printouts were provided to the Board of the levels of disease being reported through wastewater testing at the Wheeling Treatment Plant

State/Association Update on Fees

- An update was given by the administrator regarding Fees for Permit rules and potential changes for the agency and other public health agencies in WV.

Office Updates

- The department has been re-enrolled back into Medicare, and we are completing the application to WV Medicaid (as well as other providers). Our electronic funds transfer was approved. Our next step is the Medicaid application and then contracts with some private carriers. The department will need to develop a fee schedule and a new encounter form. At this time the department is anticipating a late February start up with an early focus on Immunizations. The department will do training for staff in mid to late February.

Legal Updates

- At this time the department is involved in two legal cases. 16 Renaissance Way regarding feeding of raccoons in a residential setting and use of Scenic Sites, regarding no health permits and no functioning sewage system. The administrator gave a more in-depth presentation on these legal issues.

Needle Testing & Harm Reduction

- The department has reapplied for licensing for the department's needle exchange program. The renewal fee is \$150 for the three locations (health department, mobile at Northwood Health Systems and mobile at HOPE outreach).
- Annual Report, calendar year 2023
 - # of Encounters: 891
 - # of Needles Given 11720
 - Condoms 107
 - Swabs 890
 - Brochures 56
 - Treatment Referrals 51
 - Testing Referrals 59
 - HIV Tests (Rapid) 4
 - Test Strips 97
 - Narcan Dispensed 165

WIC & TP

- Funding FY24
 - At this time the WOCHD does not have a FY24 contract, expense reports or invoices for the new WIC or TP contract. Of concern is the continued delay and the time it will take to process an invoice request once the department receives these from the State.

Financial

- The Department has secured the assistance of HD Billing Solutions to assist with bringing the department back online with billing for specific clinical procedures. This agency can also assist with billing services once credentialing is completed.
- An auditor was selected for the FY23 and FY24 audits. Ferrari and Associates from Morgantown was selected. Cost is \$13,932 (audit fee \$12220, WV State fee \$680 and processing fee \$1032) per year. WV State Auditor's office assisted in securing the firm.

Other

Effective January 1, 2024, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) has been reorganized into three separate departments: West Virginia Department of Health (DH), West Virginia Department of Health Facilities (DHF), and West Virginia Department of Human Services (DHS). New social media pages are currently in development and will be launched soon. This page will remain active and share information for all three new departments. New websites are also in development. The dhr.wv.gov website will remain functional for the foreseeable future.

In Unfinished Business, no discussion or action was taken regarding a continued request to allow smoking at Dr. Lee Jones Miracles Happened facility.

In New Business, due to the late mailing of the Board of Health meeting packets the Board approved both the September and October 2023 as well as the November and December 2023 financials at the meeting.

With no other business before the Board, the Board moved for adjournment. The next regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2024.

SUBMITTED BY

William S. Przybysz, MD, Health Officer
March 12, 2024

APPROVED BY

John D Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
March 12, 2024