

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health
Minutes of November 14, 2023, regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on November 14, 2023, at 12:00pm in the City/County Building, Ohio County Commission office, Wheeling West Virginia.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Elisabeth Slater, Chad Thalman and Erik Harris. Dr. Mathew Wood sent notification that he 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.

The Board adjourned into an Executive Session with legal counsel Shawn Turak (Ohio County Prosecuting Attorney office) to discuss pending legal issues. The Board concluded the executive session and moved to return to the regular business meeting. No actions were taken.

Minutes of the September 12, 2023, Board of Health meeting was distributed to members prior to the meeting. Board meeting packets arrived late to member's homes. Minutes were approved.

A group from Dr. Lee Jones Miracles Happen Center was present and presented to the board regarding smoking at the facility. A motion was made to provide for an exemption. Motion was not approved by the Board.

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. A short discussion was held regarding the **LifeHub**. He also gave a short update on disease occurrences in the county.

The administrator gave a report on department programs and services.

COVID Updates

The administrator provided local Wastewater Disease testing updates and future testing for fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, and nicotine through the Wheeling Water Pollution Control treatment facility.

Office Updates

The administrator requested the Board to approve locally the closing of the Health Department and WIC offices either December 22 or 26. The department anticipates that the Governor's office will grant an additional day off, either the 22nd or 26th. Depending on this announcement, the department will close the day that is not chosen by the Governor's office. If no additional day is given, the department will close on the 22nd. The request was approved.

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).

Board of Health 2024 Calendar

The Board of Health was presented with proposed dates for 2024 for meetings. The Board approved the calendar.

WIC

- A WIC State and regional caseload document was provided to Board members.
- Funding FY24 for the WIC program was also discussed.

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.

In New Business, due to the late mailing of the Board of Health meeting packets the September and October 2023 financials will be held over until the next meeting.

With no other business before the Board, the Board moved for adjournment. The next regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2024.

SUBMITTED BY

William S. Przybysz, MD, Health Officer
January 9, 2024

APPROVED BY

John D Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
January 9, 2024