

## **Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health**

Minutes of March 8, 2022, regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on March 8, 2022, at 12:00pm in the City/County Building, City Council Chambers, Wheeling West Virginia.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Elisabeth Slater, Dr. Mathew Wood, Chad Thalman, and Tom Tuttle. 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 January 11, 2022, Board of Health meeting were distributed to members prior to the meeting. Minutes were approved.

Prior to the start of the regular Board of Health meeting Erik Harris was sworn in by Ohio County Clerk Michael Kelly as a new Board of Health member. Mr. Harris will fill an unexpired term of office ending in 6/30/22.

The Health Officer gave a short update on COVID-19, including the department's vaccination efforts and an update on Project HOPE and issue with the area's homeless population. The Board held a short discussion on local encampments and warming shelters. The Health Officer also informed the Board that Wheeling Hospital had resupplied the HOPE Program with items for treating the area's homeless population.

The administrator gave a report of department programs and services as well as a short update on COVID activities in Ohio County.

The administrator provided Board of Health members with a copy of the department's policy and procedure manual/handbook. Two new policies/procedures have been added.

- Infection Control Plan, with addendums)
- Infectious Medical Waste Management Plan

Both additions are updates to information that was previously on file at the department.

The department has been working on catching up on several areas at the agency. Two part time staff have been added to assist with Grants Management and Human Resources / Hiring functions. Both are former employees of the agency.

To assist the department in the COVID response, the agency added about 40 part time staff to the payrolls of the agency. These additions were mostly testers and vaccinators. The department did have one staff member assigned to us from the Ohio County Commission and 3 West Virginia National Guard members.

Two Board of Health member's term of offices, Elisabeth Slater (County) and Erik Harris (City) will be up for re-appointment or other action. The Administrator asked that these two Board members let him know their intentions so paperwork can be submitted to the City and County.

Inspections have pick up at county permitted establishments. The department has a number of new food service inquires both in the city and county. Recently inspectors completed indoor pool sampling and inspections.

Since the department's involvement in COVID we have seen 8531 confirmed cases, 2445 probable cases, over 151000 confirmatory lab tests have been conducted and we have had 156 county deaths associated with COVID. Over 67% of the county's population has been vaccinated, with 97% of individuals 65yrs and older receiving at least one dose. Ohio County leads the state per capita in Booster Doses and is just behind Kanawha County in people fully vaccinated and people with at least one dose per capita (per 1000 people).

COVID Testing has decreased. The department has scaled back tested to three days a week, effective March 1, 2022. Total clients tested since 3/1/22 has been 236, with 51 being tested this Monday. This compares to about 300-400 clients tested on just one day in November and December of 2021.

The demand for COVID vaccinations has also decreased. Effective 2/28/22 all COVID vaccinations will be given at the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department (1500 Chapline Street, Wheeling) from 9-11am & 1-3pm, Monday thru Friday. The department closed the community vaccination center at the Highlands. The department estimates that 36,000 vaccinations where given at the center and other location by the county health department.

An update was provided on the recent announcement concerning the recall of powdered infant formula manufactured by Abbott. Abbott has issued a recall for Similac powder formulas manufactured in Sturgis, Michigan. These formulas may be contaminated with *Cronobacter sakazakii*. *Cronobacter* bacteria can cause severe, life-threatening infections (sepsis) or meningitis. Symptoms of sepsis and meningitis may include poor feeding, irritability, temperature changes, jaundice (yellow skin and whites of the eyes), grunting breaths, and abnormal movements. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced an investigation into four complaints of infant illness related to products produced at the Sturgis, Michigan, facility from September 6, 2021 to December 18, 2021. Abbott issued a voluntary recall of powdered infant formula from Similac, Alimentum or EleCare and one lot of Similac PM 60/40. If a WIC customer purchased baby formula included in the recall with WIC benefits, the product may be returned to the store where it was purchased for an exchange for the same product (not included in the recall), a liquid form of formula, a different size container or a different brand. Each store establishes their own return policy. WIC participants may contact their local WIC clinic if there are difficulties with store exchange. An additional waiver granted from the USDA Nutrition Services allows flexibility in addressing the options of available formulas, expanding the brands of baby formula allowed for purchase with WIC benefits without the need for medical documentation. In

addition to Similac, WV WIC will offer Enfamil and Gerber products as well as store private labels for a period of time. If a child has a special need for hypoallergenic formula, a medical prescription is still required.

A financial report was provided to Board members at the start of the regular Board meeting. The financial review included a year-to-date General Ledger Trial Balance and account payables and payroll reports from December 2021, January and February 2020.

The administrator also reviewed the additional fraud checks that have been identified. To date 7 large checks have been flagged. The department now has a positive pay program in place with the Bank.

The Board needs to adjust the May and November Board meeting dates, both are on a election day. Administration would recommend May 3 or 17 and November 1 or 22. Board meetings were set before the WVDOP calendar came out with the two election day notices. The meeting area will be used for election day activities. The Board moved the May meeting to May 17 and the November meeting to November 15.

With no other business before the Board, the Board moved for adjournment. The next regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2022.

**SUBMITTED BY**

William S. Przybysz, MD, Health Officer  
May 17, 2022

**APPROVED BY**

John D Holloway, MD, Board Chairman  
May 17, 2022