

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health

Minutes of May 17, 2016 regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on May 17, 2016 in Wheeling City Courtroom in the City/County Building.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Tom Tuttle, Wilkes Kinney, and Michael Caruso. Staff present included Dr. William Mercer, Health Officer/Secretary and Howard Gamble, Administrator of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department (WOCHD or department). Several guests and a representative from the Wheeling News Register were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order. The minutes from the March 8, 2016 Regular Board of Health meeting were mailed to members prior to the meeting for review. Minutes were reviewed and accepted by the Board.

Board Chairman, Dr. Holloway discussed with the Board a Healthcare Worker Influenza project. Proposed was a Board of Health recommendation to require flu vaccinations for healthcare workers in Ohio County. The project was discussed among Board members. Recommendations will be presented to the Board during the July 12, 2016 meeting for full approval.

The Board heard from Marty Crumm (and business associates) concerning the clean indoor air regulation and their plans to open a "vape" shop in Wheeling. The group was requesting an exemption from the regulation. The Board discussed the plan with the group and did not take any formal action.

The Board also heard from Paul Altman concerning decapitated properties in Ohio County and issues with air pollution.

Tara Tighe, Esq., United State Attorney's Office, discussed with the Board the Ohio County Opioid Prescribing Guidelines Project. The guidelines were provided to the Board prior to the meeting. OVMC and Wheeling Hospital along with the health department and the USAO have been working on drafting the provided draft prescribing guidelines. The goal of the project is to establish guidelines for the prescribing of opioid pain medications in hospital ERs in Ohio County. Staff from the USAO was on hand to answer questions about the project. Approval of the guidelines was recommended by the health department staff. The Board voted to approve the guidelines which will not be presented to the county's emergency rooms/hospitals.

Mr. Donald Kirsch, Administrator of the Good Shepherd Nursing Home discussed with the Board a request for a temporary smoking regulation exemption. The staff of the health department worked with the GSNH on this issue. Currently there are two residents of the GSNH that were admitted and are smokers. Under the CMS rules, unless the facility has a No Smoking Policy and informed new admissions of the policy the facility has to make

arrangements for the smoking patients. GSNH did not have a smoke free policy in place when the patients were admitted and our regulation requires both no smoking indoors and outdoors. The Board was presented with two new GSNH policies concerning the admission of future residents and smoking. The department recommended that a temporary smoking regulation exemption be approved for the two GSNH residents until the residents move on. Staff of the GSNH has identified an indoor and outdoor smoking area that can be used temporarily. The Board approved the temporary exemption.

Dr. Mercer gave his Health Officer's report. Dr. Mercer updated the Board on the department's Homeless Outreach Program and the recent Joe Too To Smoke program at Ritchie Elementary School.

Howard Gamble presented the administrators report. The administrator gave a short update on the department's needle exchange program. The program began in late September 2015 and is held each Friday from 12noon to 3pm at the Northwood Health Systems Eoff Street office. To date the department has given over 650 needles and accepted as many and more. Condoms, swabs and information have also been given out. Staff also discusses treatment and testing options with the participants.

The department is also very active with the Narcan training program. Each Wednesday the department holds training for the community at the health department. Staff has also gone to different organization locations to conduct the training. With the assistance of the IMPACT program in Ohio County the department now gives out the Narcan and supplies in a small blue box.

The Board was provided with a Public Health Overview of the 82nd WV Legislature.

In March the health department was notified by the State Immunization Program that the Immunization Action Plan funding was reduced to all WV health departments by 50%. Issues with federal funding and state financial requirements were identified as the main reasons. WV DIS hopes to restore the funding.

The health department was recently provided the new, FY 16-17, PEIA insurance rates. Over all the cost for health insurance will increase from \$15,702.45 to \$15,959.65, a \$255.20 increase. This amount will change with several proposed WIC staffing changes.

Environmental

The department is working with the Ohio County Extension Office to educate vendors with the new Farmers Market regulation and procedures. The department held a training program on Monday May 17.

The Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department will host the annual Northern Panhandle Regional Public Health Conference on June 10, 2016, at the Wilson Lodge, Oglebay Resort and Conference Center. This year's conference is sponsored by the Wheeling-Ohio County Health

Department and the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department in Parkersburg, West Virginia. The annual Public Health conference will feature:

- Howard Gamble, MPH, WOCHD; Algae and the Water Supply
- Herb Linn, MS, WVU School of Public Health; NARCAN Programs in West Virginia
- Kevin Dixon; PCR Testing
- Chief Deputy Drage Flick, Ohio County Sherriff's Office; ALICE Program
- Michelle Atkins, AS, MOVHD; Pediatric Preparedness
- Frances Nicholson, MPH, Regional Epidemiologist; Rabies Vaccine
- West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services; Lab Packing Procedures
- Erice Dotseth, PhD, WV Entomologist; Lyme Disease
- Miguella Mark-Crew, PhD, Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist; Zika Virus.

The conference is open to the public and free of charge. Registration starts at 8:00am and the conference will conclude at 4:30pm. The annual Public Health conference has been approved for 8.0 contact hours and 6.2 continuing Education Credit Hours for nurses (RN Provider # WV2005-0481RN). Conference registration space is limited. For more information or to register contact Wayland Harris, Threat Preparedness Director, Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department at (304) 234-3682.

In New Business the Board was presented, prior to the meeting, a financial packet that contained the March & April bills and payroll, Aged Receivables and Year to Date financials. The report was approved.

The Board was presented with the 2016-17 Budget. The Budget included the anticipated 25% state reduction in aid that the health department receives from the State of West Virginia. No salary increases for health department, WIC or TP is planned for the upcoming fiscal year. A letter was sent to both the Ohio County Commission and City of Wheeling concerning the potential need for additional funding from both the City and the County. At this time the administrator sees the potential need for additional funding in the amount of \$84,000 as a result a 25% reduction in state aid funding. The administrator did a follow up communication with both agencies. Based on the potential 25% budget cut in our state funding this would result in a \$84,000 loss of funding to the health department. An equal amended FY2017 City and County budget request would be \$67,000 (current \$25,000 requested amount + \$42,000) from each agency. The County Commission has verbally agreed to contribute their share of the additional funds per our request. The Budget was approved.

The Board was provided with a final copy of the health department's annual audit. The audit has been completed filed with WVDHHR and submitted to the Federal Clearing House. No findings were presented to the department.

The Board was informed that the appointments of Gloria Delbrugge and Wilkes Kinney to the Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health will be up at the end of June. These members were asked to advise the Board on their intention to remain on the Board by the May meeting. The Board will need to formally recommend to the members appointing agency (City or County) of the tenure expiration and willingness to remain on the Board.

The Board did not go into executive session. The Board set the next regular meeting for July 12, 2016. The Board adjourned.

SUBMITTED BY

William C. Mercer, MD, Health Officer
July 12, 2016

APPROVED BY

John Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
July 12, 2016