

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health

Minutes of July 12, 2016 regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on July 12, 2016 in Wheeling City Council Chambers in the City/County Building.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Tom Tuttle, Wilkes Kinney, Cheryl Wonderly 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.

Prior to the beginning of the meeting Board member Wilkes Kinney and new Board member Chad Thalman were sworn in by Janice Jones, City Clerk, City of Wheeling. Mrs. Jones administered the oaths of office to both Mr. Thalman and Mr. Kinney for their 5 year term, which will expire on 6/30/2021.

The Board held their annual election of chair and vice chair. Dr. John Holloway was elected Board Chair and Cheryl Wonderly was elected Vice Chair.

The meeting was called to order. The minutes from the May 17, 2016 Regular Board of Health meeting were mailed to members prior to the meeting for review. Minutes were reviewed; one spelling mistake was noted, and accepted by the Board.

Board Chairman, Dr. Holloway began the meeting with remembering former Board member and civic leader Brent Bush who passed away recently. Dr. Holloway then led a short discussion with the Board on the Healthcare Worker Influenza project for Ohio County. Proposed was a Board of Health recommendation to require flu vaccinations for healthcare workers in Ohio County. The project approved and signed by all Board of Health members.

Dr. Mercer gave his Health Officer's report. Dr. Mercer updated the Board on the recent July 4th fireworks and smoking. Dr. Mercer mentioned a recent newspaper article (guest editorial) on the homeless population. Dr. Mercer gave an update on the department's Homeless Outreach Program. An individual from Pittsburgh's homeless outreach program will be coming to Wheeling on August 9th to shadow the department's program and hold a discussion at Wheeling Hospital. He concluded with an update on the "Joe Too To Smoke" program including another event scheduled for September. The Board approved \$1,000.00 in support of the program.

Howard Gamble presented the administrators report. The WOCHD was provided with 3,000 CPR Anytime kits, for both adult/child and infant. The kits were provided by the American Heart Association and are being distributed to difference organization in the area. Kits were offered to all the volunteer and paid fire departments and will also be provided to our WIC offices in the northern panhandle.

Due to several issues including the delay in the approval of the State Budget and regular state slow down, we are anticipating a delay in receiving state payment for our state aid and other reimbursable.

The Board was advised that as the department gets closer to this year's influenza season the live attenuated influenza vaccine known as FluMist or the nasal spray will not be used or available. This follows the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice recommendation earlier this summer. CDC as well as most public health and health care organizations continue to recommend the annual flu vaccination for everyone 6 months and older.

ACIP also voted to recommend use of PaxVax Bermuda Ltd.'s cholera vaccine Vaxchora, which gained FDA approval on June 10, 2016, for the prevention of toxigenic *Vibrio cholerae* O1 for travelers ages 18-64 to areas of active cholera transmission. The ACIP gave a Category A recommendation to use of this single-dose, live attenuated oral vaccine, which should be administered 10 days or more before travel.

The department has been participating in a mosquito surveillance program with several other local health departments and the state health department. Active mosquito surveillance began on May 31, 2016. A total of 172 mosquito pools have been collected from the following 14 counties: Berkeley, Cabell, Fayette, Greenbrier, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Mercer, Nicholas, Ohio, Raleigh, Roane, and Wood. Specimens have also been received from Morgan County but have not been processed. Forty mosquito pools have been submitted for arboviral testing for West Nile virus, La Crosse virus, eastern equine encephalitis virus, and St. Louis encephalitis virus. Results are pending. Based upon a comparison with 7 sites previously examined during the month of June last year, there has been close to a 1/3 reduction in adult mosquito activity. This is attributed mostly to a reduction in *Culex* mosquitoes, which showed a 43% reduction this year. *Culex* mosquitoes are the primary vectors for West Nile virus. Although the pestiferous wetland mosquito *Aedes vexans* was 41% less active in June 2016 in comparison with June 2015, the nuisance *Aedes trivittatus* was 20 times as active this past month in comparison with the same time period last year. Recent heavy rainfall may cause a substantial increase in these pestiferous mosquito species.

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

The Board did not go into executive session. The Board set the next regular meeting for September 13, 2016. The Board adjourned.

SUBMITTED BY

William C. Mercer, MD, Health Officer
October 11, 2016

APPROVED BY

John Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
October 11, 2016