

Columbus Board of Health Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2020

Presiding: Rajinder Chhokar-MD
Attending Board Members: James Lopez-DMD, Devica Alappan-MD, Isaiah Hugley, Yasmin Cathright
Not Present: Sylvester McRae-MD
Others Present: Beverley Townsend-MD, Joanne Strickland, Tori Endres, Asante' Hilts, Steve Gunby-Atty, Dr. David Lewis, Kimberly Fuller-RN, Kristi Ludy, Ashley Bassett, Joie Gosa, Brandi Nelson, Peggy Hallmark

In keeping with CDC/GDPH COVID-19 Community Mitigation Recommendations this board of health meeting was held by conference call. All reports were emailed to all board members. Attendees verified by roll call.

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Decision	Responsibility
Call to order	Dr. Chhokar called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.	None	None
Approval of Minutes	Dr. Chhokar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledged a quorum was present. Referred to minutes from the April meeting. With no questions or discussion from the members, Dr. Chhokar asked for a motion of approval. • Called for the Director's report. 	Motion made by Mr. Hugley, seconded by Dr. Lopez, and approved by all members present.	None
District Health Director's Report	Dr. Townsend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated that COVID-19 response is still top priority. Our main test site is here at the back of our building. We will be running every day unless we have a bad storm. We have pop up sites across the district and at different times, to serve our population. We have tested at Dorothy Heights, the Civic Center, Shirley B. Winston, and planned for Carver Heights on Saturday. We have been testing 7 days a week across the district. Number of cases continue to rise in our district. All are listed in our daily updates sent to board members and to media. To date we have 568 cases, 17 deaths in Muscogee County and have collected 3500 tests in Columbus. The numbers reported here are public health only. We do not collect data from other sources or on the antibody test. Our number of deaths (17) have not increased 	None	None

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<p>Director's Report Cont'd</p>	<p>and hospitalization census is not as great as it was, so taxing on hospitals has improved with not a lot of people needing inpatient care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing takes a lot of resources and people to do testing here and take test sites out to other locations and to the counties. We have had some volunteer help. Thank you to Mr. Hugley and the City of Columbus for their support at the Civic Center COVID testing event, and for all the community support. We want to thank the National Guard for their help and support. We have also been going to nursing homes. • We have a new testing contract that will improve turnaround time to 24-48 hours as compared to the 7 days we have had. We do not do antibody tests or rapid tests at the health department. • Today at 3pm will be our regular meeting with the city which the Mayor organized for the various entities to be involved and informed on COVID-19 matters. On today's call he will be asking how to re-open the city. Board members are encouraged to join the conference call at 3pm. • The Governor will have a press conference tomorrow to present a new executive order. • People were out over the weekend. The parking lots, stores were full, and they were not exercising social distancing, so there are some concerns and anticipate some rise in numbers. <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Chhokar You are doing wonderful work and continue to encourage you to keep it up. If there is anything I can do, I will be happy to come and help.</p>		

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Financial Report	<p>Joanne Strickland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented financial overview through the end of April 2020. Stated that we started with an original budget of \$6,037,982; have had four revisions and are currently working under a budget of \$5,998,960. Total expenses as of the end of April are \$4,953,182 and are right on target at 83% of budget for 10 months of operation. There is an increase of expenditures compared to last year due to the increases we received. Total fee income is \$940,971. This is the first month showing fees down due to COVID efforts not allowing us to operate at full capacity with all services. The next two pages show the breakdown by line item. Page 4 shows our current grants all on schedule. Asked for questions and there were none. <p>QUESTION: Mr. Hugley – How did the governor’s ‘across the board’ 14% cut impact the upcoming budget?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Joanne Strickland – The answer to that is included in the FY21 budget proposal under new business.</p>	None	None
Excused Absences	None	None	None
Old Business	None	None	None
New Business	<p>FY 2021 Budget</p> <p>Joanne Strickland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented final proposed FY21 budget with a comparison to last year with expenditures on the left side and fund source on the right side. The second sheet shows the projected revenue and expenses comparative to last year as of April 30th. <p>The projected 14% reduction Mr. Hugley asked about is shown at the bottom of the page in Grant in Aid (\$523,251). We will not have certainty until after the</p>	Motion made by Dr. Lopez, seconded by Dr. Alappan, and approved by all members present.	None

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<p>New Business Cont'd.</p>	<p>June legislation vote, but Dr. Townsend wanted to go ahead and show the worst-case scenario. It would mean that Qualifying Local Funds will be negatively impacted by a projected \$649,503 decrease in funds. That would come directly from our bank account if we do receive the 14% cut.</p> <p>For the first of the fiscal year we should be able to maintain that until we get a grasp on what that will entail. We are receiving funding through the CARES federal funding act for part of the COVID-19 activities. We submitted our request for April reimbursement under that. If those funds come through, it will help. We are maintaining time sheets and posting the staff time to that budget to get reimbursement. We must submit a budget for July through December.</p> <p>Overall, the projected budget shows a decrease of \$83,754. Budget Projection for FY21 is \$5,915,206, which has the 14% cut on grant in aid.</p> <p>Asked for questions and there were none. Requested motion for approval.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">None</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">None</p>
<p>Program Reports</p>	<p>Public Information, Pam Kirkland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued COVID-19 daily press releases with district numbers and testing site locations and hours. • Interviews on information and test sites throughout the month. WRBL & WTVM came to Harris County High School where we had a test site on May 24th. Held a live program on May 14th. • Continued social media posts, updating our web site with current COVID-19 information, showing TV commercials and ads on radio and TV in English and Spanish. 	<p style="text-align: center;">None</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">None</p>

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Program Reports	<p>Environmental Health – Kristi Ludy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented the Environmental Health report for the month of April. Public swimming pools, food services establishments, tattoo studios have been closed and EH was unable to conduct those inspections. During the month EH staff duties were shifted to COVID-19 response efforts, including test sites, call center and contact tracing calls. • Now that some establishments are re-opening, we are switching duties back to conducting inspections with priority on those that serve highly susceptible populations such as hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Also, food service establishments that were not maintaining an A score on inspections. 	Program reports are attached and made a part of these minutes.	
	<p>Nursing Report – Kimberly Fuller</p> <p>Community collaborations and activities have mostly been consumed with COVID-19 testing. Here at the Columbus site we have collected 3,495 specimens and have 302 positives; an 8.6 % positive ratio.</p> <p>QUESTION: Dr. Chhokar – In general, across the country, isn't it true that about 10% are positive? Our number is 8.5%</p> <p>RESPONSE: Joie Gosa – Our rate is what is in line with the country, just under 10%.</p>		
Adjournment	With no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Dr. Chhokar at 1:30 pm.		

**NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING TO BE HELD:
AUGUST 26, 2020 1:00 PM (no meeting in July)
VIA CONFERENCE CALL**

Columbus Board of Health Minutes Respectfully submitted By Peggy Hallmark, Secretary