

Columbus Board of Health Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2021

Presiding: Rajinder Chhokar-MD
Attending Board Members: James Lopez-DDS, Devica Alappan-MD, Isaiah Hugley, Richard Bishop (Mayor Office), Yasmin Cathright, Sylvester McRae-MD
Not Present:
Others Present: Beverley Townsend-MD, Joanne Strickland, Tori Endres, Asante' Hilts, Atty Gunby, Pam Kirkland, Kimberly Fuller, Patrick Peck, Kristi Ludy, Darrell Enfinger, Brandi Nelson, Jeannie Polhamus (MCSD), 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 1:05 pm.	None	None
Approval of Minutes	Dr. Chhokar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledged a quorum was present. Referred to minutes from the January 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 Dr. Lopez, seconded by Isaiah Hugley, and approved by all members present.	None
Director's Report	Dr. Townsend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID testing continues as well as COVID vaccination clinics in our community. • Commented that this week's story on COVID dashboard vaccine numbers are a week behind actual number and made it sound like Public Health is not doing its job. Asked the state to do a pop-out comparison of counties using the dashboard data. It shows Muscogee County to be in line with other comparable counties having received 35,000 doses and 14th most in state. Vaccine allocations are not based only on populations, but on vaccine providers. We are definitely putting out the vaccines that we receive in. 	None	None

Columbus Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2021

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Decision	Responsibility
Director's Report Cont'd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We try not to announce community locations because people would be standing in line thinking they can get a vaccine when it is actually by appointment. The numbers reported of vaccines allocated includes other providers, be they private physicians, drug stores, etc. The numbers going out also depend on the portion of population that fall within the approved categories to receive the vaccine. We are ordering quantities of vaccines but receive only a portion of what we order. Vaccines are being given at the Columbus Health Dept. as well as the drive through clinics. We are getting in vaccines this week and have plans to get out 1,500 vaccines on Friday and plans for the Strike Team continuing to go to vulnerable populations. 		
Financial Report	<p>Joanne Strickland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented financial overview, through the end of January 2021, with our current budget of \$6,081,044, which includes three revisions. Total expenses for FY21 through the end of January are \$3,517,061, which is 58% of our total budget and on target for seven months of operations. Total fee income is \$735,826. Lines 6 through 16 show detail for fees and their comparisons to last year, up overall by \$29,602 because of the admin income we received from COVID testing. Prior Admin Claiming Income remains down by \$22,982.62 due to timing of receipts from the state. Detail of the summary are on pages 2 and 3. Page 4 shows our grants, which were all on target for seven months of operation. <p>There were no questions.</p>	The Financial Report is attached and made a part of these minutes.	None

Columbus Board of Health Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2021

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Decision	Responsibility
Excused Absences	None	None	None
Old Business	None	None	None
New Business	<p>Agency Request for CCG Appropriations for FY22 Joanne Strickland, District Administrator</p> <p>Presented the FY2022 proposed budget summary and its comparison to FY2021. The total proposed budget includes the amount to be funded by the city to the Columbus Health Department. The projected budget for the city portion of FY2022 is \$502,012, no change from last year. City appropriations, plus income of fees, plus interagency allocations, also known as pass-through funds, make up qualifying funds for our total budget. Grant in aid funding is what we receive from the state. The total FY2022 projected budget is \$6,162,789 which is \$81,745 more than FY2021. Of that total, the city portion that will be submitted for their approval is the \$502,012.</p> <p>This proposed city budget will need a vote from the board members. Are there any questions?</p> <p>QUESTION: Dr. Lopez – Why are contracts down?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Joanne Strickland – We have been in contract to share an I.T. Manager and other I.T. staff with another district. That manager has left the agency and Dr. Townsend made the decision to have our own I.T. manager on board, which reduces the amount for contracts.</p>	A copy of the FY2022 Budget Expense and Resource Summary is attached and made a part of these minutes.	None

Columbus Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2021

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Decision	Responsibility
New Business Cont'd	<p>QUESTION: Dr. Lopez – And are repairs and maintenance down because we are in our own building?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Joanne Strickland – That is correct.</p> <p>With no further questions or discussion, Dr. Chhokar called for a motion to accept the proposed city appropriations amount for FY2022.</p>	<p>Motion made by Dr. McRae, to accept requested appropriations, seconded by Dr. Lopez and approved by all members present.</p>	<p>None</p>
Program Reports	<p>Epidemiology - Brandi Nelson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muscogee County confirmed cases to date as of February 22nd are at 12,505 and our 14-day positivity rate is at 10.1%. We have had a total of 997 hospitalizations and 310 deaths. <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Lopez – No one has mentioned the California COVID virus variant.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Brandi Nelson – Our data reports Georgia information and we do not have information on the California variance.</p> <p>QUESTION: Dr. Chhokar – Are the number of cases down in comparison to last month?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Brandi Nelson – Yes. We are seeing a downward trend in the number of cases.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Chhokar – We would like to see the comparison of number of cases from month to month.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Brandi Nelson – Yes. I can get that information.</p>		

**Columbus Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2021**

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Decision	Responsibility
Program Reports	<p>Public Information – Pam Kirkland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued weekly COVID-19 updates for press release, including number of cases, information on testing, vaccines and schedules. • Several interviews answering common questions regarding the vaccine which airs on 14 stations across the district. Two stories in the Ledger-Enquirer, two stories on WRBL and a live update with Dr. Hilts filling in for the mayor; several stories on WTVM, all having to do with the virus, COVID testing and the COVID vaccine. • Social media posts covering Call Center number change, COVID vaccine videos, clinic updates and registration information. <p>Environmental Health – Kristi Ludy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referred to the EH report which was emailed to all board members. Pages 1 and 2 show a summary of EH activity for the month of January, which includes inspections and investigations for Food Service, Pools & Spas, Tourist Accommodations, Tattoo Studios, Vector Control, Onsite Sewage, and Well Water. Three animals tested for rabies and all were negative. Food service inspection details are listed on pages 3 through 10 of the report. <p>There were no questions.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Townsend – Introduced our new District Director of Environmental Health, Patrick Peck.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Patrick Peck – Greeted the board of health stating his pleasure to be on board with us.</p>	<p>Program reports are attached and made a part of these minutes.</p>	<p>None</p>

**Columbus Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2021**

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Decision	Responsibility
Program Reports Cont'd.	<p>Nursing Report – Kimberly Fuller</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referred to the Nursing report emailed to board members and reported 2,681 initial visits, 625 return visits for a total of 3,306 visits from July 1 through January 31. Last year for the same time, total visits were 6,946. <p>Continued COVID-19 rapid testing for first responders as well as daily testing at the SPOC; COVID vaccine drive through clinic operating Monday – Thursday by appointment only and changing to Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to continue with faith-based outreach and other community awareness activities.</p> <p>There were no questions.</p>	Program reports are attached and made a part of these minutes.	None
Adjournment	With no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Dr. Chhokar at 1:44 pm.		

**NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
TO BE HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL:
March 24, 2021 1:00 PM**

Columbus Board of Health Minutes Respectfully submitted by Secretary Peggy Hallmark