

**Columbus Board of Health Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2020**

Presiding: Rajinder Chhokar-MD
Attending Board Members: James Lopez-DMD, Devica Alappan-MD, Isaiah Hugley, Sylvester McRae-MD
Excused Absences: Yasmin Cathright, Rebecca Covington (Mayor Office)
Others Present: Beverley Townsend-MD, Joanne Strickland, Asante' Hilts, Steve Gunby (Atty), Pamela Kirkland, Kimberly Fuller-RN, Kristi Ludy, Jeannie Polhamus-RN (MCSD), Peggy Hallmark

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Decision	Responsibility
Call to order	Dr. Chhokar called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm. Seeing no quorum was present at that time, proceeded with call for the Director's report.	None	None
District Health Director's Report	<p>Dr. Townsend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 12/15/19 state requires a strategic hiring process with a directive from Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) that all positions with an annual salary of \$40,000 or more must have state approval before the position is posted. Result is some delay in filling vacant positions. All RNs are in that category. • Update on the relocation of the health department - We have been meeting with city officials and with architects to work out the details. District Administration will still be located here. All clinical/patient care will move to the old Virginia College facility. Vector Control will stay here. <p>RESPONSE: Mr. Hugley - Appreciates the team working closely with the city team and the architects. We want to relocate services that the city is required by law to pay for within a reasonable distance and convenient to the users and to keep the clinical services together.</p>	None	None

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<p>District Health Director's Report Cont'd</p>	<p>The new location is 3.3 miles from here. City has 33 daily stops coming/going to that location and proposed to add a shuttle service from the Metra Transfer Center to the Virginia College building and back to the Transfer Station at no cost to the clients.</p> <p>Financially - The City has paid rent of \$321,000 per year to the owner for the last 25 years. In 2016 Family Holdings purchased the building and gave notice the rent would be adjusted when contract expires June 30, 2020. The current \$3.86 per square foot would be adjusted to the range of \$10.75 - \$20.00 per square foot, so the city decided to look for space that could take care of the users, services, and benefit the taxpayers. We pay only for the health department component; not the administrative offices. We have a \$2.5 mil. purchase with an estimated \$2.5 mil. renovation cost at 2.07% interest rate. This will bring the yearly cost to approximately \$310,000 with no property tax and is significantly less than what Family Holdings will charge us.</p> <p>QUESTION: Dr. Chhokar – You are saying only clinical. Why is that?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Mr. Hugley – By law, the city is only required to provide space for the health department component.</p> <p>QUESTION: - Dr. Chhokar – Who pays for administration?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Joanne Strickland – The state. Programs with clinics that are not part of the health department component but are moving to the new location will pay rent to the city. Their space is funded by the state and program grants. This way we keep all the clinical services together which benefits our clients.</p>		

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<p>District Health Director's Report Cont'd</p>	<p>Discussion followed regarding details of space funded by the state and of staff input to actual layout of the new workspace.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Mr. Hugley – He is open to accept questions regarding the necessary move. Council will meet next Tuesday (1/28/20) to close on the proposal.</p> <p>QUESTION – Dr. McRae – Will you have the building updated and ready by the June 30th contract expiration?</p> <p>RESPONSE: - Mr. Hugley – Yes. Everything is in place to meet that date.</p>		
<p>Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>Dr. Chhokar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledged a quorum was present. Asked attending members to refer to minutes from the December meeting. With no questions or discussion from the members, Dr. Chhokar asked for a motion of approval. 	<p>Motion to approve minutes by Dr. Alappan, seconded by Dr. Lopez, and approved by all members present.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Financial Report</p>	<p>Joanne Strickland:</p> <p>Presented FY20 financial overview through the end of December. Current budget is \$5,883,730. with two revisions. Total expenses are \$2,807,704. Total fee income is \$629,187. Following pages show the breakdowns of the summary and grants which are all on target.</p>	<p>The Financial Reports are attached and made part of these minutes.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Excused Absences</p>	<p>Yasmin Cathright</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Old Business</p>	<p>Dr. Chhokar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Lot Size Rule must be postponed until further notice because it requires some language change from the state. 	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>

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Old Business Cont'd	RESPONSE: Asante' Hilts – Requesting that the board postpone the Minimum Lot Size Rule adoption until we get the language clarified by the state. We will bring it back to the board once the language has been reviewed and finalized.		
New Business	<p>Jeannie Polhamus, RN for MCSD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On behalf of Dr. David Lewis, Superintendent of Muscogee County School District, announced they are exploring possibility of working with the Oral Health Impact Project, a mobile dental health unit, as an option to assist students in obtaining dental care. Dr. Lewis has been in communication with Dr. Lopez. Dr. Lewis is looking at other options as well. 	None	None
Public Information	<p>Pam Kirkland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented the Public Information report including press releases, interviews, social media posts and billboards, with mention of campaign on Diabetes Prevention and the stories by Channels 3, 9 and the newspaper regarding the upcoming move. <p>QUESTION: Dr. Chhokar – Who asked the media to do that?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Pam Kirkland – The news director or executive producer decides what stories they will cover. We have nothing to do with that and no control over what they report. Our only response when contacted has been that they need to contact the city.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Asante' Hilts – We distributed flyers at our last board of health meeting. The link is on our website. The only requirements are that you must be over 18 and not have diabetes. It is prevention.</p>		

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<p style="text-align: center;">Public Information Cont'd.</p>	<p>RESPONSE: Mr. Hugley – Some do not have access or skills to do an online program.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Asante' Hilts –We went to all the housing authority complexes and they have agreed to allow us to use the community room/computer lab so users can have assistance. We have had success, even with the senior community. In the future we will have a health educator who can offer in person classes.</p> <p>Discussion followed regarding results of recent community health assessment and accessibility to programs and care.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Environmental Health Report</p>	<p>Kristi Ludy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented EH report and summarized the activities through end of December. Reported one animal to animal (raccoon/dog) case in which the raccoon tested positive for rabies. The dog has been strictly isolated by the owner in lieu of euthanizing. We will continue to follow up. • Complaints of rodent activity on Broadway are getting special attention with all sewers and manholes being treated and baited. <p>QUESTION: Dr. Lopez – Did the dog that was exposed have its vaccinations?</p> <p>REPONSE: Kristi Ludy – It was a puppy. The dog was a 6-month-old puppy that had not been vaccinated.</p> <p>QUESTION: Mr. Hugley – Is there a law or policy that says the owner can quarantine if they can show they can care for it before it is decided to put the animal down?</p>	<p>The Environmental Health report is attached and made a part of these minutes.</p>	<p>None</p>

**Columbus Board of Health Meeting Minutes
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<p>Environmental Health Report Cont'd.</p>	<p>REPOSE: Kristi Ludy – Yes. Euthanization is the first choice, however, if the owner is unwilling to euthanize a pet, the decision tree goes to strict isolation. This is from our Georgia Dept of Public Health Rabies Manual. EH inspected and approved the owner isolation before the dog was allowed to leave the vet. We will continue follow up.</p> <p>QUESTION: Mr. Hugley – In a case like this, are the neighbors notified there is an animal in quarantine for rabies and to keep a safe distance?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Kristi Ludy – We don't know if the raccoon transmitted rabies to the dog, hence the requirement for strict isolation. There is currently no notice of isolation for exposure, but we can absolutely look into that.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Asante' Hilts – That is something we have not considered. The language would have to be very clear because there is an unknown. We will explore this.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Chhokar – We should look into that because it is a potential problem and do need the attorney for the correct language. It could potentially create a situation of owner retaliation.</p> <p>Cross discussion related to notification and owner/neighbor scenarios.</p>		
<p>Nursing Report</p>	<p>Kimberly Fuller:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented the nursing report on 5,147 initial clinic visits and 993 return visits, totaling 6,140 visits for FY20 (July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019). <p>QUESTION: Dr. McRae – Is the clinic linked to EPIC?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Kimberly Fuller – No</p>	<p>The Nursing report is attached and made a part of these minutes.</p>	<p>None</p>

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Nursing Report Cont'd.	RESPONSE: Dr. Townsend – Commissioner Toomey did look at EPIC and her answer is that public health would not be able to do that. Mitchell & McCormick (now called Harris) is our system. There are RFPs going out at the state level for public health.		None
Adjournment	With no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Dr. Chhokar at 2:04 pm.		

**NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING TO BE HELD:
FEBRUARY 26, 2020 1:00 PM
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING,
2ND FLOOR, LDR CLASSROOM**

Columbus Board of Health Minutes Respectfully submitted by:
Peggy Hallmark, Secretary