

COLUMBUS BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting Minutes
District Administration Conference Room / MS Teams Hybrid Meeting

Date: May 24, 2023

<p>Presiding: James Lopez, DDS Attending Board Members: Sylvester McRae, MD; Joy Adegbile, MD; Marci Norris (City Mgr. office); Rebecca Covington (Mayor’s Office) Not Present: Devica Alappan, MD; Yasmin Cathright Others Present: Beverley Townsend, MD; Tori Endres; Joanne Strickland; Steve Gunby; Pam Kirkland; Michelle Crawford; Berta Cox; Jacqueline Knight</p>			
Agenda Topic	Discussion	Decision	Responsibility
Call to order	<p>Dr. Lopez:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Called the meeting to order at 1:02pm. • Acknowledged a quorum was present. 	Roll call was done by Berta Cox. A quorum was present.	None
Approval of Agenda	<p>Dr. Lopez:</p> <p>Referred to the May meeting agenda as delivered to all board members. With no questions or discussion from the members, asked for a motion for approval of the agenda.</p>	Motioned by Dr. McRae to accept Agenda as written; seconded by Dr. Adegbile; approved by all members present.	None
Discussion and Approval of Minutes	<p>Dr. Lopez:</p> <p>Referred to minutes from March 22, 2023 and April 26, 2023, meetings as delivered to all board members. With no questions or discussion from the members, asked for a motion for approval of the minutes.</p>	Motioned by Dr. McRae to accept minutes as written; seconded by Dr. Adegbile; approved by all members present.	Berta Cox
Commissioner of Health Report	<p>Dr. Beverley Townsend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated the end of the fiscal year is June 30. • Stated that on May 11 the President terminated both the public health and national emergencies declared in response to Covid. Covid still exists even if the pandemic is over and remains a notifiable disease. We are still using supplies from the Covid funding such as Covid vaccines and tests. These things are still free as long as supplies last. Covid funds are ending, and those items will now have to be purchased through our Budget. 		

- Stated some COVID funding ends June 30, 2023 while some will roll into new fiscal year and end June 2024 unless depleted prior to end date.

Dr. McRae

- Asked if we had any Covid funds that were not used.
 - Joanne Strickland responded that \$900,000 was returned to the state from the school health program (732) because of the restrictions on use and not receiving participation from the school systems throughout our district.
 - There was much discussion on the barriers/challenges the schools faced.

Dr. McRae:

- Stated that in the past for HPV vaccinations #16, #18 and #45 are the main ones as cancer causing culprits.
- Asked if there has been an upswing in any other cancer causing HPVS that we should be aware of from a Public Health Standpoint.
 - Dr. Townsend stated that we did have an update and referred the question to Michelle Crawford, Nurse Manager Columbus Health Department. She explained that we receive our guidance from the CDC and others and must wait until we are told to push out that information.
 - Michelle Crawford stated that we did have some updates and now Gardasil can be given to women up to age 45. She further stated that the terminology must be used that it is offered and recommended but not required.
- Said that there are some oropharyngeal and lung cancers being traced back to HPV's and he asked for more information about these and what HPVs are covered in the vaccines.

Dr. Townsend:

- Announced that she was elected as Vice-President of the Georgia Public Health Association.
- Thanked the Board of Health for their continued support for Columbus Health Department and Public Health.

Dr. Townsend stated she would ask our Immunization Coordinator and Epidemiologist to follow up with additional information on HPV.

Financial Report	<p>Joanne Strickland, District Administrator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented the FY23 financial overview as of April 30, 2023, emailed to all members and provided in notebooks for in-person members. Our FY23 current budget is \$11,024,499. There have been five budget revisions during this period. Line 3 shows total expenses through the end of April are \$9,597,103.26 which is above target for 10 months of operations and is 87% of our budget. Line 4 shows the comparison of expenses to last year with an increased variance of \$2,914,118.30. This is due to the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) mentioned previously that all employees received, and we are also now centralized for payroll and accounting. Line 5 shows total fee income is \$888,057.30 and lines 6 through 17 shows the breakdown of fund sources and their comparison to the same time last year. Line 18 shows variance at a decrease of \$21,720.78 due mostly to less COVID19 vaccines being administered. Line 19 shows the prior year admin claiming income, which we received an increase of \$155,320.52. <p>As always, we provide the backup spreadsheet by line item for expenses and revenue sources. Page 12 shows the total grants governed by the Columbus Board of Health (all are on target for 10 months of operation).</p> <p>No further comments/questions.</p>	The Financial Report is attached and made a part of these minutes.	None
Excused Absences	Dr. Devica Alappan and Yasmin Cathright	None	None
Old Business	<p>Dr. Lopez:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asked for status of sink hole in parking lot at Columbus Health Department Building on Veterans Parkway. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marci Norris stated the city is still working with their Risk Management Division and the City Attorney's office on the matter and are trying to get it resolved. 	None	None
New Business	<p>Joanne Strickland, District Administrator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented the FY24 Budget Proposal of \$12,229,393 and a comparison from last year's budget. 	Motioned by Dr. McRae to accept FY24 budget as presented; seconded by Dr. Adegbile; approved by all members present.	3

	<p>Dottie Hall, Call Center Supervisor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explained how the call center worked and what has been done to improve the efficiency. 		
Program Reports	<p>Epidemiology COVID 19 Update – Dr. Beverley Townsend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. Public Health Emergency Declaration Ended on May 11th. What has remained- Covid-19 vaccines, test, and treatment still available; Covid-19 cases still reportable; updated healthcare guidance. What has discontinued- Covid-19 Community Transmission Levels; V-safe tracking for health check-ins after vaccination; Covid-19 Data Tracker is no longer reporting aggregate cases and deaths. On May 15th, CDC released a Health Alert Network on the potential risk for new Mpox cases. A cluster of Mpox cases were identified in the Chicago area between mid-April to early-May. DPH is emphasizing the importance of prevention measures and remaining vigilant in Georgia. Notifiable disease condition reporting -all Georgia physicians, laboratories, and other health care providers are required by law to report patients with the following conditions. This was updated in March and some of the language has been updated. The link to review this information is https://dph.georgia.gov/epidemiology/disease-reporting. <p>No further comments/questions.</p>	Program reports are attached and made a part of these minutes.	None
Program Reports Continued	<p>Public Information Pam Kirkland, Public Information Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two press releases for May about National Women’s Health Week and Hepatitis B Awareness Month. We did 2 interviews End of Covid “Emergency Declaration” and what that means and National Women’s Health Week. Social Media Posts contained Public Health on Wheels Columbus and district; Move it Monday; Dad’s Boot Camp; District/holiday closings; Yoga for mommy; Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month; Curbing Gang Violence; National Women’s Health month; Happy Nurses Week; Cure Violence video. TV/Radio/Print/Cable Specific/Social Media/Billboard Campaigns – Cure Violence campaign; Stop Vaping campaign; Fatherhood Initiative campaign . 		

- You Tube Channel – West Central Health District-TV commercials and videos, “This is Public Health.”

No further questions / comments.

Environmental Health – Dr. Beverley Townsend:

Referred members to the Environmental Health report of activities covering the month April 2023.

- The Food and Service program has 679 permitted establishments, and 64 permitted schools. For the period April 1st – April 30th we have conducted 33 temporary food service inspections, 45 routine inspections, 0 follow up inspections, 3 initial inspections and 1 plan review. There were 11 informal inspections and 6 complaints and 7 complaint investigations.
- Public Swimming Pools, Spas, & Recreational Water Parks Program has 28 permitted public pools, conducted 2 permitting/opening inspection, 1-re-inspection for permitting and investigated no complaints.
- Tourist accommodations have 57 permitted establishments. We conducted 3 routine inspections, 0 informal inspections, 0 plan reviews, investigated 1 complaint.
- Body Art Studios – 21 studios and 87 permitted body artists, no routine inspections at this time and conducted 0 permitting/opening studio inspection.
- Rabies Control - there were 29 humans only exposure investigations, 2 animal-only exposure investigations and 1 human/animal exposure investigation, 22 animals were confined, 4 animals tested for rabies, 2 positive animal Rabies cases and 9 lost animals.
- Vector Control Program investigated 21 complaints and 18 complaint investigations.
- On-Site Sewage Management Program issued 3 new system permits, 3 residential Installation Inspections, 1 repair permits, conducted 2 repair inspections, 0 sites were evaluated, 7 currently permitted sewage removal contractors, 5 septic pumper vehicle inspection and 2 complaints and 2 investigations.
- Pages 17 – 21 are the scores for all establishments that were inspected during the period.

	<p>No further questions / comments.</p> <p>Nursing – Michelle Crawford, County Nurse Manager</p> <p>Referred to the FY23 Nursing report, emailed to all members and provided in notebooks for in-person members, representing services provided to patients for the time of July 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total patients receiving services during the reporting period is 9,374 in comparison to 14,389 at the same time last year. • Community awareness activities continue: Muscogee County Attendance Panel (MCAP), via Zoom monthly; Children in Needs of Service Panel (CHINS), via Zoom monthly; Child Fatality Review (CFR), via Zoom monthly; Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meeting monthly (face to face and via Zoom). • Community collaborations continue with providing community education on COVID-19 as needed/requested. • Activities for this time frame include continued COVID-19 drive through testing with LTS Monday – Friday from 9am – 2pm; COVID-19 vaccines Monday – Friday no appointment required; Monkey Pox Vaccination Clinic, Monday-Friday; Fast track clinic for STD testing and awareness; Covid-19 conference call with district staff and Nurse Managers each month; day care immunization Audits; MOU’s and MOA’s with several community partners for various services, such as PPD’s and immunizations. • Strike Team Events for this time frame include LOVE Day event and Wellness Event. • Upcoming Activities include Back to School Rush (immunization clinic); COVID-19 drive through testing (LTS), Monday through Friday 9am-2pm; Covid vaccine with current schedule; Child Health Fair, Saturday March 18th, Public Health Week. <p>No other questions / comments.</p>		
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Adjourned	Dr. Lopez adjourned the meeting at 2:12 p.m.		
Respectfully submitted by: Berta Cox, District Admin Operations Liaison			
NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING			
Date/Time: June 28, 2023, at 1:00 PM	Place: In-person: Administration Conference Room, 2 nd Floor, 2100 Comer Ave and via Teams Virtual Meeting (or phone)		