

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

**Date:** December 7, 2022

<p><b>Presiding:</b> James Lopez, DDS</p> <p><b>Attending Board Members:</b> Danielle Frazier (City Mgr. office) Rebecca Covington (Mayor’s Office), Devica Alappan, MD, Yasmin Cathright, Sylvester McRae, MD</p> <p><b>Not Present:</b> Joy Adegbile, MD</p> <p><b>Others Present:</b> Beverley Townsend, MD; Tori Endres; Joanne Strickland; Gwen Cunningham; Pam Kirkland; Jeananne Polhamus (MCSD),</p>			
Agenda Topic	Discussion	Decision	Responsibility
<b>Call to order</b>	<p>Dr. Lopez:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.</li> <li>• Acknowledged a quorum was present.</li> </ul>	Roll call was done by Gwen Cunningham. A quorum was present.	None
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	<p>Dr. Lopez:</p> <p>Referred to the December 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 Yasmin Cathright; seconded by Dr. Alappan; approved by all members present.	None
<b>Discussion and Approval of Minutes</b>	<p>Dr. Lopez:</p> <p>Referred to minutes from October meeting 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 Yasmin Cathright; seconded by Dr. Alappan; approved by all members present.	None
<b>Commissioner of Health Report</b>	<p>Dr. Lopez:</p> <p>Called for the Director’s report.</p> <p>Dr. Townsend:</p>	None	None

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greeted those present attending in the District Administration Conference Room and those attending via MS Teams.</li> <li>• Announced that we have basic things going on in the health departments such as continue to hire staff for vacant positions; efforts for Public Health and Safety with all things going on right now.</li> <li>• Announced that we are going to be updating our strategic plan at the beginning of next year. We have sent out surveys to Board of Health Members by email and really need them to be filled out and returned. We have not done it this way in the past but as large as Columbus areas are we have a company that is assisting us in seeing which way we are going in Public Health.</li> <li>• Announced that this is Asante' Hilts, District Program Manager's final Board of Health Meeting because her last day is January 13<sup>th</sup>. We are thankful to have her especially during this pandemic. I congratulate her on her new position and wish her well.</li> <li>• Stated that she appreciated all the hard work everyone has done for public health.</li> </ul>		
<b>Financial Report</b>	<p>Dr. Lopez: Called for financial report.</p> <p>Gwen Cunningham, Business Support Analyst III:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presented the FY23 financial overview as of October 31, 2022, emailed to all members and provided in notebooks for in-person members.</li> <li>• We began FY23 with an original budget of \$10,240,776. There has been one budget revision during this period. Line 3 shows total expenses through the end of October are \$3,166,217.06 which is below target for 4 months of operations and is 31% of our budget. Line 4 shows the comparison of expenses to last year with an increased variance of \$1,085,793.80. This is due to the COLA mentioned previously, the cost-of-living adjustment that all employees received, and we are also now centralized for payroll and accounting. Line 5 shows total fee income is \$380,899.74 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 \$49,021.14 due mostly to less COVID19 vaccines being administered. Line 19 shows the prior year admin claiming income,</li> </ul>	The Financial Report is attached and made a part of these minutes.	None

	<p>which we received an increase of \$39,125.49.</p> <p>As always, we provide the backup Excel by line item for expenses and revenue sources. Page 4 shows the total grants governed by the Columbus Board of Health (all are on target for 4 months of operation).</p> <p>Dr. Lopez:        Asked what the reason was for the large decrease in Private Insurance Fee Income?</p> <p>Gwen Cunningham:        Explained that we bill insurance for an administration fee for Covid Vaccines and testing and we are not doing as much of that this year.</p>		
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<b>Excused Absences</b>	Joy Adegbile, MD	None	None
<b>Old Business</b>	<p>Dr. Townsend:        Columbus Health Department Building on Veterans Parkway repair updates on septic back up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saturday, December 3, 2022, the City did repairs on one area. It was recommended that 3 areas needed to be repaired.</li> <li>• There are additional flooring repairs to be done.</li> <li>• There is a strong odor in room that is different from any smell in any other room. We need a mold evaluation done on that area.</li> <li>• WIC had to move their charts because the floor is remaining wet in that area. Floors need to be checked. A mold evaluation also needs to be done in the area.</li> <li>• The sinkhole in the parking lot is getting worse. We need higher barriers because people are driving around/through the cones. Our maintenance manager, Jimmy Snyder has stopped several vehicles trying to go into the area including stopping a city truck from driving right into the hole. The parking lot needs to be repaired soon.</li> <li>• We are thankful that we did not have to relocate the health department while repairs were being done.</li> </ul> <p>Jimmy Snyder, Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We just had someone drive through the barrier that I couldn't stop, and</li> </ul>	None	None

	<p>it flatten their tires. They kept driving after that, so we are assuming the occupants are okay. I am afraid that someone is going to get seriously hurt if we don't do something to keep this from happening.</p> <p>Dr. Lopez</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have people on this call representing the city. Who do we need to contact about this issue?</li> </ul> <p>Rebecca Covington</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please forward any emails or information about who you have spoken with regarding the parking lot. I will get with Danielle Frazier, and we will work on it.</li> </ul> <p>Joanne Strickland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have spoken to Johnny Harp, Drale Short, Pam Hodge, and Lisa Goodwin and City Manager, Isaiah Hughley is aware of the situation.</li> </ul>		
<b>New Business</b>	Dr. Lopez opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson.	Yasmin Cathright nominated Dr. Lopez to remain as Chairman. Accept by Acclamation.	Berta Cox
	Dr. Lopez opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairperson.	Yasmin Cathright nominated Dr. Mcrae to remain as Vice Chairman. Accepted by Acclamation.	Berta Cox
	Dr. Lopez opened the floor for nominations for Commissioner of Health.	Yasmin Cathright nominated Dr. Townsend as Commissioner of Health. Accepted by Acclamation.	Berta Cox
<b>Program Reports</b>	<p><b>Epidemiology COVID 19 Update – Report Attached</b></p> <p>Monkey Pox</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of December 2, 2022, there have been confirmed Monkeypox/Orth poxvirus in the United States; 2,000 in Georgia.</li> </ul>	Program reports are attached and made a part of these minutes.	None

There has been estimate of 58 female cases, but the majority being male and 97% being African American men; 31 in our district with 97% males and 3% females.; age groups 0-17 there is one case; 18-25 there are six cases; 26-35 there are seventeen cases; 36-45 there is six cases; 45+ age group there is one case.

COVID 19

- Confirmed cases 36,579 to date
- 14 days Confirmed cases per 100K is 43 cases
- COVID-19 probable antigen cases to date:7,354
- 14-day probable Ag cases per 100K:23
- 14-day PCR% Positivity rate: 10.3%
- 7-day PCR% Positivity rate: 12.4%
- Level of transmission: high
- Total hospitalizations:3094
- Total confirmed deaths:781
- “Fully vaccinated” “47%
- Primary series breakthrough cases:18%

Influenza

- Widespread flu activity across the state of Georgia
- Promote vaccinations
- Remain at home if ill
- Practice prevention measures: proper handwashing, cover your cough, encourage masking, and cleaning/disinfecting.

Additional Updates

- In November, CDC posted a new resource for administrators and staff members of schools and early care and education programs related to monkeypox: [Monkeypox Toolkit for Schools and Early Car and Education Programs](#). This toolkit provides a new, user-friendly format for existing monkey pox considerations in schools and early care and education. In addition, [Monkey pox toolkit for Institutions of Higher Education](#) is also available.

No further comments/questions.

<p><b>Program Reports Continued</b></p>	<p><b>Public Information</b> Pam Kirkland, Public Information Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No press releases for October 2022.</li> <li>• Two Tv Stations aired the story about “Take Back Event” that was held where we collected 500 lbs. of unused medication consisting of OTC and prescription medication. We also gave out Narcan Nasal Spray to 4 people that asked for the spray.</li> <li>• Halloween Safety</li> <li>• You Tube interview about new programs; Flu and Covid updates</li> <li>• TV and Billboards about new EWIC cards that have replaced vouchers.</li> <li>• Talbot County Flu Clinic</li> <li>• District Closures for Holidays</li> </ul> <p>No further questions / comments.</p> <p><b>Environmental Health – Report attached</b></p> <p>Referred members to the Environmental Health report of activities covering the month of October which was emailed to all members and provided in notebooks for in-person members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Food and Service program has 675 permitted establishments, and 65 permitted schools. For the period October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup> have conducted 0 temporary food service inspections, 66 routine inspections, 0 follow up inspection, 5 initial inspections and 3 plan reviews. There were 5 informal inspections and invested 6 complaints.</li> <li>• Public Swimming Pools, Spas, &amp; Recreational Water Parks Program has 41 permitted public pools, conducted 1 permitting/opening inspection, 1-re-inspection for permitting and investigated no complaints.</li> <li>• Tourist accommodations has 54 permitted establishments. We conducted 0 routine inspections, 2 informal inspections, 0 plan reviews, investigated 3 complaints.</li> <li>• Body Art Studios – 18 studios and 73 permitted body artists, no routine inspections at this time and conducted 0 permitting/opening studio inspection.</li> <li>• Rabies Control - there were 34 humans only exposure investigations, 1 animal-only exposure investigations and 0</li> </ul>		
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	<p>human/animal exposure investigations, 20 animals were confined, 0 animal tested for rabies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vector Control Program investigated 27 complaints.</li> <li>• On-Site Sewage Management Program issued 0 new system permits, conducted 3 repair inspections, 3 sites were evaluated, and 27 complaints was investigated.</li> <li>• Pages 3 – 8 are the scores for all establishments that were inspected during the period.</li> </ul> <p>No further questions / comments.</p> <p><b>Nursing</b> Tori Endres, District Nursing and Clinical Director</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 October 31, 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total patients receiving services during the reporting period is 4,314, in comparison to 6,724 same time last year.</li> <li>• Community awareness activities continue Muscogee County Attendance Panel (MCAP), via Zoom Monthly. Children in Needs of Service Panel (CHINS), via Zoom Monthly. Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meeting monthly (face to face and via Zoom)</li> <li>• Community collaborations continue with providing community education on COVID-19 as needed/requested. MOU's and MOA's with several community partners for various services, such as PPD's and immunizations. Clinical rotation for BSN Students from CSU.</li> <li>• 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, School immunization audits, Breast Cancer Awareness Events.</li> <li>• Strike Team Events for this time frame include Columbus Police Department, Columbus State University, Columbus Dream Team, Steam Mill Food Mart, Big Cup Ministries and Cooper Foods.</li> <li>• Upcoming Activities include continue COVID-19 drive through testing with LTS Monday – Friday from 9am – 2pm, continue</li> </ul>		
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	<p>administering COVID-19 vaccines Monday – Friday no appointment required, continue to provide COVID-19 Vaccines to homebound residents. WCHD Strike Team for COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach Clinics. Public Health on Wheels (PHOW) Outreach Clinics. School Based Flu Clinics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stats – COVID 19 vaccines administered through October 31=35,145</li> <li>• Holiday Closures – Columbus Health Department will be closed Friday, December 23-Monday, December 26. LTS will be closed for COVID-19 testing Saturday, December 24-Monday, December 26</li> </ul> <p>No other questions / comments.</p>		
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<b>Adjourned</b>	Dr. Lopez adjourned the meeting at 1:43 p.m.		
<b>Respectfully submitted by:</b> Berta Cox, District Admin Operations Liaison			
<b>NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING</b>			
<b>Date/Time: January 25, 2023, at 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Place: In-person: Administration Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 2100 Comer Ave and via Teams Virtual Meeting (or phone)</b>		