

**Columbus Board of Health Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2019**

Presiding: Rajinder Chhokar-MD

Attending Board Members: James Lopez-DMD, Devica Alappan-MD, Yasmin Cathright, Sylvester McRae-MD, Lisa Goodwin (City), Alexis Thompson (Mayor Office)

Excused Absences:

Others Present: Beverley Townsend-MD, Joanne Strickland, Tori Endres, Steve Gunby (Atty), Jeannie Polhamus-RN (MCSD), Kimberly Fuller-RN, Kristi Ludy, Ashley Bassett, Justin Smith, Joie Gosa, Peggy Hallmark (Secretary)

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Decision	Responsibility
Call to order	Dr. Chhokar called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.	None	None
Approval of Minutes	Dr. Chhokar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked attending members to refer to minutes from the last meeting of September 25, 2019 and with no questions or discussion, asked for a motion to approve. 	Motion to approve by Dr. McRae, seconded by Dr. Alappan, and approved by all members present.	None
District Health Director's Report	Dr. Townsend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported from State DPH Commissioner Toomey's letter to physicians which includes the State DPH Health Advisory and Clinical Alert on vaping included in the left side of binders. • Stated we will be attending Columbus Hometown Connection luncheon and meeting where local legislative concerns can be brought to the attention of our local government who are very supportive of public health concerns. As public health employees we cannot legislate or advocate, but we can and do educate. We have informed City Manager Hugley that vaping is a serious concern and forwarded the public health clinical alert, health advisory and letter from Dr. Toomey to put this forth for consideration. 	None	None

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<p>District Health Director's Report Cont'd.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminded board of health members they can and should advocate on public health concerns at City Council and other open governmental meetings. • Reported that we attended the annual State of Public Health conference in Athens yesterday, October 22nd. Reported that she received a certificate for completing the Public Health Leadership Academy at the University of Georgia which she has attended since February. We will send at least two more employees to that academy. • Expressed thanks to our Muscogee County School District Nurse, Jeannie Polhamus, for attending today's board of health meeting and encouraged continued attendance. All counties except Columbus in our 16-county district require school superintendent to be on the board of health as a vital part of decision making. 		
<p>Excused Absences</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Financial Report</p>	<p>Joanne Strickland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented FY20 financial overview through the end of September with a budget of \$6,037,982. Total expenses are \$1,404,113.54 and total fees collected are \$365,800.40. • Called attention to top of next page showing 4% reduction in grant in aid. \$154,252 cut is not included in these numbers yet as it starts in October to take that reduction. We are still 2% ahead of the game with \$120,000 we did not spend this quarter. The reduction will not create a struggle. 	<p>The Financial Reports are attached and made part of these minutes.</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>Financial Report Cont'd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated all programs and grants are on target for 3 months of operations. Page 4 shows grants on track for the 1st quarter. Some grants are on federal fiscal year and show 100% spent out, but we will receive the new allocations sometime this month. Some we only receive on a quarterly basis for a quarter at a time. • Announced we completed our FY19 independent audit with no findings. We are thankful for not having to deal with findings thanks to our awesome staff's preparation. Each member has the financial audit report included in the binders to take with you for review. The report will be presented at our next board meeting and answer any questions you may have. <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Townsend – Technology has been very instrumental in getting things to the auditor because our staff does a great job ensuring that all the information is in place.</p> <p>QUESTION: Dr. Chhokar – Who are the auditors?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Joanne Strickland – Albright, Fortenberry & Ninas of Columbus. They are very familiar with governmental accounting.</p>		
<p>Old Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of Environmental Health Rules <p>Dr. Chhokar – We said we need to postpone the Environmental Health Rules until a meeting when Mr. Hugley is present. But what does Mr. Hugley have to do with the Body Art rule?</p>	<p>Secretary will redistribute copies of the Environmental Health Rules to be voted on.</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>Old Business Cont'd</p>	<p>RESPONSE: Dr. Townsend – The Lot Size Rule is the main thing he has a question about and wanted to discuss the issue with city zoning.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Chhokar – We do depend on the city for that. So that’s the Lot Size Rule and Water Well Location.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Lisa Goodwin – I know he had some concerns, but I’m not familiar with what they were.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Townsend – You could vote on the Body Art rule.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Chhokar – I believe Kristi Ludy will be the best one to address this.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Kristi Ludy – If you are okay with it you can move forward with the Body Art Rule. It is the same Body Art Rule we have been using, it is just the formality of putting it in writing that it’s been voted on.</p> <p>QUESTION: Dr. Chhokar – When we are voting on this, we ought to have the rules in the folder. Do we have all the rules?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Kristi Ludy – These were distributed and presented at the public hearing and posted on our website. We can present them to you again if needed.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Peggy Hallmark – They were distributed in the binders in a previous meeting.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Kristi Ludy – We did open it up for questions with both Justin and I in the meeting. There were not any questions. Then it was left open for 30 days to be voted on the next meeting.</p>		

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<p>Old Business Cont'd</p>	<p>RESPONSE: Dr. Chhokar - We will wait until the next meeting to vote on the rules and regulations. And will have the rules in front of us.</p>		
<p>Discussion (Vaping)</p>	<p>DISCUSSION: Dr. Alappan – I would like to revisit the issue of vaping. I had not seen the letter. We have received a lot of information and had some discussion. I am happy to see the school representative is here. As a pediatrician we see a lot of kids that are exposed to vaping. I am aware that in other states like Massachusetts the governor has banned vaping products. I spoke to the Georgia Chapter American Academy Pediatrics and they said they are trying to legislate. I know you said this committee cannot do anything to legislate in Columbus. But what can we do? We have a very dangerous situation as we are all aware. And what can we do as the board of health to protect our kids, specifically in the schools? Legally, what can we do about the products that are being sold?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Lopez – This information can go to the school system, at very minimum, to do what they can in the schools. That was the question last time and why we want the school representative here.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Jeannie Polhamus, RN – It is part of the health curriculum taught in 9th grade. They do touch on it in middle schools as well. We are in the process of getting more information together to put on our school website and other media websites we have. Also, it is part of our tobacco SOPs to have none on campus, and if we see it, we take it and there are consequences just as if they were to have a tobacco product. It is included in our policies and procedures that we allow no vaping no tobacco use at all</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>

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<p>Discussion (Vaping) Cont'd</p>	<p>on campus. Students are getting educated on vaping included in the tobacco cessation and prevention policy.</p> <p>DISCUSSION: Dr. McRae – I wrote something down from a television program on this issue. My question is, who monitors or regulates vaping products? Is it the health department or is it the Tobacco and Firearms? On the program the issue in Colorado is impurities and what substances they are putting into the cartridges. Who has responsibility to monitor these products?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Jeannie Polhamus, RN – From what I understand from the webinars, especially with the CBB oils there is no regulating authority. That’s a big problem.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Townsend – The FDA has the power and authority; they just have not done it.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Lisa Goodwin – There is currently no legislation in Georgia that governs that. It can certainly be taken up with our legislatives.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Chhokar – Dr. Lopez was kind enough to provide an article which tells that the FDA is saying they should have moved on this earlier and they are feeling the impact of not having done so. It’s fair to say we need some guidance. Also, I would like to recommend research into media outlets for vaping education and do spots on CGTV of risks.</p> <p>Continued cross discussion followed concerning possible legislation, increasing age for purchase of products, posters and videos in schools and tv and furthering education on vaping.</p>		

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New Business	None	None	None
Public Information	None – To be reported at next meeting.	None	None
Environmental Health Report	<p>Kristi Ludy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented EH report and summarized the activities through end of September. Most activity is in food service with inspections. Scoring details are at the end of the report and available on our website. Permits were issued for septic tank pump trucks. We have 10 based in Columbus servicing Muscogee and surrounding counties. • EH conducted ServSafe training on September 23rd for 21 attendees. This food protection training for food service managers and owners is offered once each quarter. <p>QUESTION: Dr. McRae – What type of food service complaints do you usually receive and how do you follow up?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Ashley Bassett – Complaint type varies. We get complaints of roaches seen, sometimes sickness after eating at a restaurant, seeing a restaurant employee with no hair net. In the case of sickness complaint, it is reported to state and epidemiology follows up. For other complaints we follow up with inspections and follow up inspections for correction.</p> <p>QUESTION: Dr. Alappan – Is it true that in Georgia it is illegal to kill bats?</p>	The Environmental Health report is attached and made a part of these minutes.	None

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<p>Environmental Health Report Cont'd</p>	<p>RESPONSE: Kristi Ludy – Yes. Bats have to be relocated. A licensed pest control can perform that service. Bats are very helpful in control of mosquito population.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Justin Smith – The Department of Natural Resources is the authority. Their website is the best resource for information on why certain species are protected,</p> <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Chhokar – The bats and others help balance the environment.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Lisa Goodwin – We want to thank Kristi and her Vector Control team for how well they work closely with neighborhood groups on environmental issues.</p>		
<p>Nursing Report</p>	<p>Kimberly Fuller:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented the nursing report on 2,025 initial clinic visits and 176 return visits (2,201 total visits) for FY20 (July 1, 2019 – September 30, 2019). • We had our first meeting for Public Health on Wheels where we are planning to utilize the previous WIC on Wheels trailer to take services, including immunizations, to other counties in our district. • Will be conducting the Drive Thru Flu at the Civic Center. <p>QUESTION: Dr. Chhokar – Did we shelter people during Hurricane Dorian?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Lisa Goodwin – Yes. It was basically the same people as last time; mostly from Glenn County and a few from Savannah.</p>	None	None

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Nursing Report Cont'd	QUESTION: Yasmin Cathright – What is the youngest age to get the flu shot at the Drive Thru Flu? RESPONSE: Kimberly Fuller – Six months of age and older.		
Adjournment	With no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Dr. Chhokar at 1:39 pm.	None	None

**NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING TO BE HELD:
DECEMBER 4, 2019 1:00 PM
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING, 2ND FLOOR, LDR CLASSROOM**

Columbus Board of Health
Respectfully submitted by
Peggy Hallmark, Secretary