

Columbus Board of Health Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2022

Presiding: James Lopez-DDS

Attending Board Members: Sylvester McCrae-MD, Devica Alappan-MD, Rebecca Covington (Mayor office); Crystal Farley (City Mgr office); Yasmin Cathright, Joy Adegbile-MD

Not Present:

Others Present: Beverley Townsend-MD, Joanne Strickland, Tori Endres, Asante' Hilts, Atty Gunby, Pam Kirkland, Kristi Ludy, Joie Gosa, Brandi Nelson, Darrell Enfinger, Patrick Peck, Jeannie Polhamus, (MCSD), Sheryl Wadkins, Octavia White, 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Lopez called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. • Secretary completed roll call. • Dr. Lopez acknowledged a quorum was present. 	None	None
Approval of Agenda	<p>Dr. Lopez: Referred to the February 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>	Motion was made by Dr. Alappan, seconded by Yasmin Cathright, and approved by all members present.	None
Approval of Minutes	<p>Dr. Lopez: Referred to the minutes from the January meeting as delivered to all board members. With no questions or discussion from the members, minutes were approved.</p>	With no questions or discussion from board members, motion was made by Dr. Alappan, seconded by Yasmin Cathright approved by all members present.	None
Director's Report	<p>Dr. Lopez:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Called for the Director's report <p>Dr. Townsend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed Dr. McCrae into the role of Vice Chairman for the Columbus Board of Health. 	None	None

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<p>Director's Report Cont'd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated that we are still in pandemic and Public Health efforts continue to be primarily focused on COVID response for prevention with vaccinations and testing. Follow up reporting will be given later in the meeting. • Informed the board that there have been several break-ins at our Comer Avenue back lot where Vector Control and EP storage and trailer are currently located. Agency vehicles were vandalized and costs us time and money. The recently approved project and budget to relocate Vector Control and EP storage is underway and should help minimize such losses. • Announced that high turnover in staff continues and that Kim Fuller, Columbus Health Department Nurse Manager has taken a different position. The health department is currently under Tori Endres' interim direction as we search for the right person to fill that role. <p>QUESTION: Dr. Alappan – Do we have insurance coverage for the losses due to the break-ins? And do the police patrol the area at night, or have we asked them to?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Townsend – Yes, we do have insurance. It is not to say the police do not patrol the area. We have not specifically asked for them to beyond what they already do. We are looking into hiring additional night security.</p> <p>As a side note to the relocation – once the relocation of Vector Control and EP storage is complete, we will have maxed out the space available at the Veterans Parkway location. There will be no further room for growth.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">None</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">None</p>

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Financial Report	<p>Joanne Strickland, District Administrator</p> <p>Presented the FY22 financial overview, through the end of January 2022 sent to board members in the original packet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We began FY22 with an original budget of \$6,120,536. We have had three revisions during this period and are currently working with a budget of \$6,265,237. Line 3 shows total expenses through the end of January are \$3,663,287.52 which is 58% of budget and on target for 7 months of operations. Line 4 shows the comparison of expenses to last year with an increase of \$146,225.97. <p>Line 5 shows total fee income is \$673,580.90 and lines 6 through 17 shows the breakdown of fund sources and their comparison to the same time last year. Line 18 shows an overall decrease of \$62,245.52 due to no longer receiving income for the administration of COVID. Prior year Admin Claiming Income remains down due to timing of receipts from the state. Details of the summary are on pages 2 and 3. Page 4 lists our grants, which were all on target for 6 months of operation.</p> <p>As a note to the figures on Page 1, Line 8, we would actually have an increase in Out-Patient Client Fees if we were comparing to the inclusion of last year's intake of admin fees for COVID testing.</p> <p>There were no questions.</p>	The Financial Report is attached and made a part of these minutes	None
Excused Absences	None	None	None
Old Business	None	None	None

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New Business	<p>Agency Request for Appropriations from CCG for FY2023 Joanne Strickland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented the attached summary of budget expense and resources with a total of \$8,348,695 and the request for the city portion of \$502,012, which is 6% of the total funding for FY2023 for the lead county in the district. • Explained that the level of total funding includes our centralization of accounting for the 16 county health departments to the district level to be more efficient with personnel resources and that the additional funds are pass-through funds for the other counties. <p>There were no questions.</p>	<p>Motion was made to accept the request for CCG appropriations by Dr. Alappan, seconded by Dr. Adegbile, and approved by all members present</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">None</p>
Program Reports	<p>Epidemiology COVID 19 Update – Asante’ Hilts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gave the highlights of the Epidemiology report stating that the Omicron variant of COVID-19 accounts for 98% of our positive cases and that Muscogee County’s population is 42% vaccinated. <p>QUESTION: Dr. Alappan – What percentage of the 42% vaccinated are children?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Asante’ Hilts – That number is not at hand, but we will have the secretary email that information to the board after the meeting.</p> <p>QUESTION: Dr. Lopez – Understanding that we vaccinate for prevention of COVID-19, but what are we doing for treatment of COVID?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Asante’ Hilts – Public Health is providing education, testing and vaccinations, but treatment of COVID-19 is outside our scope of services we can provide.</p>	<p>Program reports are attached and made a part of these minutes.</p>	<p>Secretary to email percentage of pediatric COVID-19 vaccinations.</p>

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<p>Program Reports</p>	<p>Public Information – Pam Kirkland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed the board of continued weekly press release updates on COVID case numbers, which are dropping from week to week, vaccination schedules and mobile Public Health unit activities. Others included severe weather preparation, Fatherhood Initiative and healthy habits. • All interviews and ad campaigns homebound COVID-19 vaccinations, PrEP HIV/Syphilis testing, Linkage to Care for HIV care and support. <p>Environmental Health – Kristi Ludy</p> <p>Referred members to the Environmental Health report of activities covering the month of January which was emailed to all members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Food Service Program conducted 115 routine inspections, 1 follow up inspection, 6 initial inspections and 6 plan reviews. There were 11 informal inspections, 1 complaint and 3 complaint investigations. • Pool and spa activity included 5 permitting inspections. Inspections and permitting will pick up as the season will be opening in April. • Tourist accommodations conducted 9 routine inspections, 5 informal inspections and 2 complaint investigations. • Rabies Control had 19 human only exposure investigations, and 1 human/animal exposure investigation. 9 animals were confined, 2 were tested for rabies and none were positive. • Vector Control conducted 9 complaints and 7 complaint investigations. • On-Site Sewage issued 1 new system permits, and conducted 4 residential installation inspections, evaluated 6 sites and approved 2. • Following pages list facilities inspected with ratings. 		

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Program Reports Cont'd	<p>Nursing Report – Tori Endres</p> <p>Referred to the FY22 Nursing report representing services provided to patients for the month of January which was emailed to board members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients who received services during the period include 9,958 initial visits; 2,334 return visits for a total of 12,292 visits compared to 3,301 total visits for the same period last year. • Community collaborations continue with monthly meetings and include MCAP, Child Fatality Review and CHINS. • Community awareness activities continue with rapid COVID testing for first responders, as well as clinical rotations for CSU nursing students. • Activities for this time frame include continued COVID testing with MAKO, weekly COVID conference calls, daily vaccination clinics, Strike Team and CORE clinics (calendar attached), and regular Nurse Manager meetings. • Total COVID vaccines administered including homebound visits since December 23, 2020, is 32,606. • There were no questions. 		
Adjournment	<p>Dr. Lopez thanked everyone and moved to adjourn.</p> <p>With no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Dr. Lopez at 1:38 pm.</p>		

**Columbus Board of Health minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Peggy Hallmark
NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING TO BE HELD ON
March 23, 2022, at 1:00 PM**