

Columbus Board of Health Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2022

Presiding: James Lopez, DDS

Attending Board Members: Sylvester McRae, 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, RN MSN; Asante' Hiltz, DrPH; Atty Gunby; Pam Kirkland; Kristi Ludy; Brandi Nelson; Patrick Peck; Jeannie Polhamus, RN (MCSD); Sheryl Wadkins, Tiny Washington, Dr. David Lewis

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 1:00 pm • Secretary completed roll call • Dr. Lopez acknowledged a quorum was present 	None	None
Approval of Agenda	Dr. Lopez: Referred to the March 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.	Motioned by Dr. McRae; seconded by Dr. Alappan; approved by all members present	None
Approval of Minutes	Dr. Lopez: Referred to minutes from February meeting as delivered to all board members. With no questions or discussion from the members, minutes were approved.	Motioned by Yasmin Cathright; seconded by Dr. McRae; approved by all members present	None

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<p>Director's Report</p>	<p>Dr. Lopez: Called for the Director's report</p> <p>Dr. Townsend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated that we are still in the pandemic, although testing and positive numbers continue to decline – with a 2.7% positivity rate in Columbus. Will be rolling back on COVID support due to decrease in need as well as funding from state and federal levels. COVID responsibilities will continue to shift into regular daily HD duties. Columbus provided 148 COVID vaccines in February, 117 COVID vaccines in March; COVID testing for February -1140 people, and March shows 186. • Waiting for budget from State to be signed; hoping for salary increases for Public Health. • COVID guidelines for employees have been sent out – masks are currently optional but highly recommended for the immunocompromised persons; masks must be worn when interacting with clients/patients, during in-person staff meetings and when social distancing cannot be done. Clients and patients still required to wear masks in Public Health clinics/buildings. Transmission rates will continue to be monitored. Sick employees are required to stay home. • EPI is anticipating a surge in cases. • In-person BOH meetings will continue at a later time at new HD to allow for social distancing. <p>QUESTION: Dr. Lopez – Last time you said that we were maxed out on space available at the Veterans Parkway location. Are you able to acquire any secure space to store trucks at any other city location?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Townsend – We have not asked. We have utilized all the space that we can utilize over there so far. We</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">None</p>	<p>Secretary to email response from city manager's office once received.</p>
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	<p>have not had a need. We are also renting space over at Comer Avenue. We have our call center set up there so we're already paying for space over at Comer. We're not trying to spend more money if we can help it. I think another building, or another space would be difficult for us to look at right now.</p> <p>Dr. Lopez – I didn't know if the city manager may be able to help you out with that.</p> <p>Dr. Lopez – Why did we spend \$6million on a new facility so far away from the hospitals, away from the patients? I'd like a statement for all the members on the group so we can give a united answer.</p> <p>Dr. Townsend – That was a decision made by the city because they are responsible for paying for space for us. Joanne Strickland from the Administration side could give us more of an update or city manager's office can provide update, if known.</p> <p>Crystal Farley – I do not know the answer at the moment, but we can definitely get that for you.</p> <p>Dr. Lopez – As a board member, we'll be asked, and I would like to have the answer for every member of the board.</p> <p>Dr. McRae – The city's office can correct me, but I was told that the rent was being increased and it was thought that the increase was inappropriate.</p> <p>Dr. Lopez – You're right. I would like to have something that we can all be united and give the same answer when asked this question.</p> <p>Dr. Townsend – I would like that to come from the city's office.</p> <p>Crystal – I'll get a response and get it to Ms. Peggy to be sent out to everyone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No further questions		
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<p>Financial Report</p>	<p>Joanne Strickland, District Administrator</p> <p>Presented the FY22 financial overview, through the end of February 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 4 revisions during this period and are currently working with a budget of \$6,849,329. Line 3 shows total expenses through the end of February are \$4,499,892.36 which is on target for 8 months of operations. Line 4 shows the comparison of expenses to last year with an increased variance of \$427,184. <p>As mentioned previously, we have moved to centralized accounting and have payrolls for the majority of our counties, making up the difference for the increase.</p> <p>Line 5 shows total fee income is \$753,072.91 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 but again, we had three months of COVID-19 admin fees last year that we did not have this year. If you remove that balance, we are actually increased in total fees of \$163,933, which shows we are back on course in providing services to our community.</p> <p>Line 19 shows the admin claiming income, which has not changed since last month since the state is behind on sending those funds down and currently at a decrease as compared to the year before.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 the end of February) • There were no questions 	<p>The Financial Report is attached and made a part of these minutes.</p>	<p>None</p>

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Excused Absences	None	None	None
Old Business	None	None	None
New Business	None	None	None

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<p>Program Reports</p>	<p>Epidemiology COVID 19 Update – Brandi Nelson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omicron variant remains the dominate variant, circulating the US and globally. Estimated genomic sequencing in GA is 88% and 12% BA.2 sub-lineage, but no surges. <p>Many Europe and Asia countries are experiencing surges and hospitalization related to Omicron sub-lineage BA.2. Remains unknown when surges will occur in US, but some experts do expect that to happen in the spring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided highlights of the Epidemiology report including Muscogee County vaccination rate is at 43% and the 14-day positivity rate 2.5%. • Reviewed the updated CDC guidance regarding mask wearing and advised on metric now used for determining transmission rates. • Advised of Administrative Order sent to school districts and childcare programs, explaining parameters of modified quarantine and other changes to case reporting requirements, contact tracing and quarantine. • Advised of CDC’s new COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Calculator • Advised of cluster of 3 pediatric patients in District 3-4 with lymphadenitis consistent with non-tuberculous mycobacterial infections after dental procedures at the same dental office. CHOA has alerted providers through their clinician networks regarding infections. <p>Question – Dr. Lopez – What exactly was the dental infection? Brandi – Lymphadenitis with non-tuberculous mycobacterial infections.</p> <p>Dr Lopez – Was the mycobacterial macrocytosis? Brandi – State did not specify when notifying district EPIs.</p>	<p>Program reports are attached and made a part of these minutes</p>	
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	<p>Dr. Lopez requested information be forwarded to him, as he would like to forward to the American Academy for Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Lopez briefly discussed a similar incident that occurred in the Atlanta area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No further questions. <p>Public Information Pam Kirkland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informed the board of continued weekly press release updated on COVID case numbers & vaccines. Others included Georgia Pre-Teen Vaccine Awareness week and World TB Day.• Interviews conducted regarding COVID-19 vaccinations, antivirals available for treatment of COVID-19, test kits & the decline in testing. Dr. Hilts conducted an interview with Councilor Pop Barnes on Diabetes Prevention and our Yellow Dot program.• Provided brief breakdown of social media posts during reporting period (40)• Ad campaigns for PrEP HIV/Syphilis testing, Linkage to Care, still maintaining use of YouTube channel for advertising• No Questions <p>Environmental Health Kristy Ludy</p> <p>Referred members to the Environmental Health report of activities covering the month of February which was emailed to all members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Food and Service program has 681 permitted establishments, conducted 126 routine inspections, 2 follow up inspections, 6 initial inspections and 3 plan reviews. There were 8 informal inspections.		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pool and spa activity included 13 permitting inspections and 1 informal inspection.• Tourist accommodations has 55 permitted establishments including 1 new (change of owner), conducted 12 routing inspections and 1 informal inspection.• Body Art Studios – currently 18 permitted studios and 60 permitted body artists, conducted 1 review inspection and 1 opening inspection• Rabies Control had 28 human only exposure investigations, and 2 human/animal exposure investigations. 14 animals were confined and 17 were unable to be located.• On-Site Sewage issued 4 new system permits, and conducted 6 residential installation inspections, evaluated 1 site, received 1 complaint and completed 1 complaint investigations. <p>No questions.</p> <p>Nursing Tori Endres</p> <p>Referred to the FY22 Nursing report representing services provided to patients through the month of February which was emailed to board members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are still recruiting for a Nurse Manager for the clinic• Total patients receiving services during the reporting period is 12,928.• Community collaborations continue with monthly meetings and include MCAP, Child Fatality Review and CHINS via Zoom.• Community awareness activities continue with rapid COVID-19 testing for first responders, as well as clinical rotations for CSU BSN nursing students.		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activities for this time frame include continued COVID-19 testing with MAKO and LTS Lab, weekly COVID-19 conference calls, daily vaccinations clinics, Strike Team events (calendar attached), and regular Nurse Manager meetings. Strike Team planning meeting occurring on Fridays and vaccines are also administered to homebound patients as needed.• All Leadership staff attended Applied Leadership training at Columbus Technical College on February 11th.• Total COVID-19 vaccines administered since December 23, 2021, is 32,905.• There were no questions. <p>Dr. Lopez requested motion to adjourn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motioned by Dr. McRae and seconded by Dr. Adegbile.		
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**Columbus Board of Health minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Sheryl Wadkins
NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING TO BE HELD ON
April 27, 2022, at 1:00 PM**