



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

MEIGS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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**Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
August 11, 2020**

Board of Health (BOH) President Roger Gaul called the convention to order at 5:01PM.

This public meeting was offered in a conference call format in response to COVID 19 Pandemic and the State's Stay Safer Ohio Order.

In attendance in person at the Meigs County Health Dept. (MCHD): Weber; BOH Medical Member Wilma Mansfield, MD; Administrator Courtney Midkiff; Director of Environmental Health Steve Swatzel; BOH Member Eric Rock; WIC Breastfeeding Peer Helper Amber Evans.

In attendance via telephone: Gaul; BOH Member Pam Patterson; Health Commissioner Marc Barr.

**Staff Presentation:**

Evans was employed as the part-time WIC Breastfeeding Peer Helper in March 2020 about the time that the COVID 19 Pandemic resulted in declared global, national, state and local emergencies and ensuing closures and economic shutdowns. Evans has been communicating with approximately 50 expectant and new moms via text messaging and social media. Evans reported that she enjoys her job. August is National Breastfeeding Awareness Month. Evans shared promotional efforts being executed by the Meigs County WIC Program including the provision of goody bags to expectant and new moms and submission of Meigs Health Matters articles for publication in local newspapers. Evans responded to BOH Members' questions before exiting the meeting at 5:12PM.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Midkiff beseeched a motion to approve the 7/14/20 BOH Meeting Minutes as emailed. Rock made a motion to approve the document as emailed; Mansfield seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

**New Business:**

Midkiff requested a motion to approve the July 2020 fiscal report as presented; payment of July 2020 bills as presented via the expenditure spreadsheet; the July 2020 daily deposit records as submitted to the County Auditor/Treasurer as presented; July 2020 medical claim billing remuneration report. There were no July donations. Rock made a motion to approve the fiscal reports/daily deposits/expenditures/medical claim billing remuneration/donations as presented; Weber seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Midkiff initiated a discussion about the employment of a registered nurse (RN) [with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) preferred] for COVID 19 response and mitigation efforts with Ohio Dept. of Health (ODH) contact tracing grant funds through 6/30/21. The MCHD's Decision Policy was used to guide discussion with Midkiff completing Annex B and emailing it to the Members prior to the meeting for review. Use of this policy is in response to a Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Site Visitors' identified opportunity for improvement from the MCHD's Site Visit Report: *MCHD has made substantial efforts to document meetings and significant milestones in a way that would help them provide documentation for the accreditation process. An opportunity to improve standard documentation practices exists by including more details about discussions held, decisions made, reasons for the decisions and follow up.* Rock shared that he personally observed the amount of work involved with contact tracing during his visit with Midkiff prior to today's meeting. It was noted that the need for contact tracing likely will increase as students from the County's three educational districts and the privately operated Mid-Valley Christian School will return in Sept. and following the anticipated free pop up testing site offered by the Ohio National Guard in Meigs County on Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>. The MCHD public health nurses (PHN) are becoming overwhelmed by the current outbreak at Overbrook Rehabilitation Center; as a result, Midkiff and several other MCHD staffers are assisting with contact tracing efforts. Midkiff reviewed identified alternatives as outlined in Annex B of the MCHD Decision Policy. With no other alternatives offered for consideration, Rock made a motion to approve advertising for and employing a RN (with a BSN preferred); Weber seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

### **Environmental Health:**

The July 2020 Nuisance Status and Animal Bite Reports were emailed to the Membership for review prior to the meeting. There were 20 nuisances in total= eight COVID 19 related investigations; three sewage complaints; one solid waste investigation; one bed bug complaint; one food service operation complaint; two mold complaints; 4 other complaints reviewed. Swatzel noted that the MCHD is educating alleged violators of the State-issued COVID orders (which contain no enforcement authority for local health departments other than that used for nuisances) upon receipt. Local law enforcement and the County Prosecutor are reluctant to issue citations or to legally pursue alleged violators.

There were 12 animal bites investigated in July 2020 involving: four cats, one raccoon and seven dogs.

Swatzel advised that the MCHD's food safety training program for an Ohio Certified Person-in-Charge (PIC) was changed by ServSafe and ODH. These changes will increase the cost of the training program for the MCHD. The current fee for the in-person training is \$10 per person. Swatzel sought a motion to approve a new fee of \$35 per person to cover costs for new books and sanitarian time. The MCHD can continue the \$10 food safety training to non-profit organizations, but it will not be recognized by ODH as a certified program. The new ServSafe PIC training program is ODH certified. Each food service must have a certified PIC on staff. Mansfield made a motion to approve the revised fee; Rock seconded the motion; Patterson abstained from voting. Motion carried. Swatzel will revise the environmental health fee schedule and post it on the MCHD's website.

Swatzel announced that the Meigs County Cleanup Day has been postponed again because of increasing local COVID 19 cases and volunteer concerns. The decision was made in conjunction with event sponsors including the Board of Meigs County Commissioners and Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District. The OEPA grant funding is available for use through June 2021. The event likely will be rescheduled for May 2021 or other alternatives will be considered to expend the awarded funding.

## **Other New Business:**

The 2020 Meigs County Jr. Fair will take place Aug. 16-22. Swatzel mentioned several logistics that would be used to prevent or limit the spread of COVID 19 throughout the week. The MCHD is sponsoring 10 hand-washing stations for use during the event. MCHD-logoed signage encouraging hand-washing as COVID 19 prevention will be displayed on the stations.

It was also noted that the Meigs County Agricultural Society approved the MCHD's request to use the fairgrounds for a free pop-up COVID 19 testing site on Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>. Swatzel said that, despite of any animosity that may have risen out of Governor DeWine's orders prohibiting full fairs in 2020 and/or other county Fair Board's experiences with their respective local health departments, the Society appreciates its collaborative relationship with the MCHD and sees the value and need for widespread community testing before school begins.

The MCHD applied for continuation grant funds in the amount of \$100,000 for the FY 21 Creating Healthy Communities Program via ODH. Midkiff noted that this was the first grant application to be submitted by Program Coordinator Sara Hill, who was employed in Jan. 2020. Midkiff commended Hill; she indicated that the application was thorough and funding should be awarded.

Midkiff continues in her efforts to gain Board of County Commissioner approval to connect and test the annunciator for the CAT D125 generator, which serves the Meigs Multi-Purpose Health Center in which the MCHD is situated as well as for the installation of a dusk to dawn light to illuminate the parking lot (in response to staff requests in the 2020 Employee Satisfaction Survey). Midkiff also is attempting to get a quote from Kamdyl Concrete to replace the damaged sidewalk leading to the second-floor entrance of the Meigs Multi-Purpose Health Center, which presents fall hazards. Meanwhile, thirteen slightly used office chairs recently were purchased to replace worn chairs in the conference room and three employees' offices.

The MCHD will begin to offer influenza vaccine on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10AM-1PM in conjunction with the Meigs County Farmers' Market on the Pomeroy Levy Parking Lot. The MCHD will privately purchase 100 doses via GSK and other doses will be obtained from VaxCare and ODH. More outreach clinics will be offered throughout the County, if time and resources allow.

The MCHD will offer two extended immunization clinics on Aug. 25 and Sept. 15 until 6PM for the convenience of parents/guardians whose child(ren) necessitate vaccines for school.

## **Old Business:**

There was significant discussion about the MCHD's response to COVID 19. Community spread is increasing, thus, the number of positive and probable cases reported daily by the MCHD. The MCHD awaits a response from the Ohio National Guard about its request to offer free pop-up COVID 19 testing in Meigs County on Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>. A testing site occurred in Athens County on Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>. The MCHD has been collaborating response efforts with Overbrook Rehabilitation Center as a result of a COVID 19 outbreak at the facility. The Ohio National Guard tested staff of the County's two long-term care facilities: Overbrook and Arbors on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The MCHD did not receive the results until Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>, which was 14 days (the length of a quarantine period). MCHD staff has been actively contact tracing as a result of the positive results of which only one was from Arbors.

Barr relayed that he has attended Board of Education meetings held by the County's three educational districts. In his professional opinion, all the superintendents are doing a fantastic job developing plans to keep their students and staff safe in accordance with State-issued guidance. While the educational districts'

plans are different, the Boards of Education based their decisions on survey results received from parents/guardians. Barr described the current plans of each educational district to reopen on Sept. 8. Barr referenced the map used by Governor DeWine during a recent press conference to show educational district's reopening plans throughout the State. Barr noted several reasons to reopen schools including identification of child abuse; provision of free/reduced meals; prevention of suicide. Since the educational districts are the County's largest employers, Barr said that it is important that reopening is successful. The free pop-up COVID 19 testing site requested by the MCHD was timed strategically to facilitate student and staff safety.

Midkiff advised that the MCHD still has not received any sealed bids to sell the MCHD's Beverage-Air 48 cubic foot stainless steel commercial refrigerator that was purchased in 2009. The refrigerator was advertised via the Pomeroy Daily Sentinel, Meigs Independent Press and WBYG. After discussion, it was decided to remove the minimum bid and to sell the refrigerator to the highest bidder Midkiff will again advertise via the Meigs Independent Press and via free mediums offered by WBYG and the Mid-Ohio Valley Bulletin Board to enlarge public awareness.

Midkiff announced that the Board of Meigs County Commissioners approved placing the MCHD's one mil five-year renewal tax levy on the Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election ballot. The current tax levy expires 12/31/21. The appropriate paperwork was remitted to the Meigs County Board of Elections by the County Commissioners.

Midkiff reminded attendees that the MCHD's PHAB Site Visit Report is on the agenda for the Accreditation Committee's meeting scheduled for 09-01-2020. The MCHD will be notified within two weeks of the PHAB Committee's meeting about its accreditation status: accredited or action plan. The Site Visit Report was emailed to the BOH Members prior to the meeting for review.

#### **Miscellaneous Business:**

Barr suggested that the BOH begin opening its meetings by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and with a moment of silent prayer. Attendees concurred that these would be good practices to implement.

Upcoming events include: Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> Staff Meeting via conference call; Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> closed for Labor Day; Sept. 9 Annual WFD Day/Employee Recognition.

Barr, Patterson and Gaul exited the meeting at 6:26PM.

Rock, Mansfield and Weber viewed a presentation entitled *Board Members and the Media* from the 2019 OABH Resource DVD. The presentation was emailed to Patterson and Gaul for viewing at their convenience.

#### **Adjournment:**

The next BOH Meeting will take place on 09/08/20 at 5:00 PM in the conference room of the MCHD.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43PM with a motion by Rock.

Marc Barr, MS  
Health Commissioner

(Administrator Courtney C. Midkiff, BSC transcribed the 08/11/20 meeting minutes.)

