

FINDLAY CITY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

January 21, 2015

FINDLAY CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Members Attendance:

- A Mayor Lydia Mihalik, *President Ex Officio*
- X Dr. Stephen Mills, Health Commissioner/Board Secretary
- A Mr. Gregory Cline, *President Pro Tempore*
- X Mr. William Alge
- X Dr. Robert McEvoy
- X Mrs. Joan Work
- A Licensing Council Rep Vacant

Staff Attendance:

- A Mrs. Barbara Wilhelm, Deputy Health Commissioner
- X Mr. Craig Niese, Environmental Health Director
- X Mrs. Becky Bern, Nursing Director
- X Mr. Eric Helms, Plumbing Inspector
- X Mr. Chad Masters, Emergency Response
- X Guest: Paul Schmelzer

Call to Order: In the absence of both the Mayor and Board President Cline, Health Commissioner Stephen Mills called the meeting to order at 7:38 A.M.

Minutes: Dr. Mills called for a motion to approve the December 18, 2014 minutes. Dr. McEvoy moved to accept the minutes from the December 18, 2014 Board of Health meeting as circulated. Seconded by Mrs. Work. Motion carried 3-0. Filed

HEALTH COMMISSIONER REPORT

1. Dr. Mills explained Mrs. Wilhelm's absence as she is attending a county mapping meeting sponsored by the United Way this morning.
2. Both Dr. Mills and Mrs. Wilhelm have been completing employee evaluations over the last several weeks and it was noted that employees with the health department exceed city standards in most areas. Employee development is being emphasized with short and long term goals being identified with each individual employee and strategies for meeting these goals established. Dr. Mills feels each division has chosen excellent employees and feels our staff is even better than last year. The nursing staff, in particular, has seen a great deal of transition but are functioning very well. Dr. Mills thanked the employees for the great job that they do.
3. There will be another article in the paper soon highlighting the initiative to put the *No Smoking including E-Cigarettes* signs in restaurants and businesses in Findlay. There are several hundred signs available and they come with a letter signed by Dr. Watson, both City and County Health Commissioners and the president of the Hancock Medical Society.
4. A contract was recently signed with the Walk With A Doc Program. This program will start the first Tuesday of Spring and will be held at Emory Adams Park. Dr. Mills is working on getting several other doctors to volunteer. Each one hour walk is proceeded with a short 4 to 5 minute educational talk by the doctor.

DEPUTY HEALTH COMMISSIONER REPORT

1. No report due to Mrs. Wilhelm's absence.

NURSING REPORT

1. Mrs. Bern distributed a schedule of current vaccine cost and the fee schedule being used for immunization clinic. She noted there have been some recent increases in the cost of vaccine with Prevnar alone going up 12% since the first of the year. She noted that the nursing division evaluated the cost and reimbursement rates frequently to make sure we are at least getting reimbursed for the cost of the vaccine. Some vaccines are reimbursed at better rates than others. The fee schedule is set based on the highest reimbursement rate but different insurance companies, including Medicaid, reimburse at varying levels. Currently our insurance contracts are set so we at least break even. Paul Schmelzer asked if the individual then has to make up the difference and Mrs. Bern clarified that when you have a contract with an insurer you agree to accept the contract reimbursement rate. Because our health department contracted early as part of the Ohio Billables Project we were able to get good contracts for reimbursement with many companies. It was also noted that health departments used to get better government pricing for purchase of vaccine but in many instances that is no longer the case.

Dr. Mills asked if Mrs. Bern was worried that our reimbursements would change with a combination. Mrs. Bern replied that was true. Dr. McEvoy inquired as to what happens if someone came in to the clinic that was low income and Mrs. Bern replied that for adults a sliding fee could be applied but no child goes without vaccine based on inability to pay.

Much discussion was held regarding how the insurance system works and what gaps in service may occur. Mrs. Bern noted that there can be difficulty with college students who need vaccine and may have a problem with the cost and insurance coverage. Dr. McEvoy thanked Mrs. Bern for the efforts made to make sure everyone can be vaccinated and Mrs. Bern shared that Dawn Wallen works very hard on this and much time can be spent verifying insurance coverage. Dr. McEvoy remarked that this cost is not included in the fee schedule and Mrs. Bern stated that a separate administration fee that is charged can help cover this cost along with the cost of the actual immunization supplies.

Mr. Alge asked if all vaccines went up this year but Mrs. Bern noted that some went up beginning in 2014. Mrs. Bern noted she verifies vaccine cost every time vaccine is ordered. Mr. Alge asked if the fee schedule changes every time the vaccine cost goes up and Mrs. Bern replied that it is only done periodically if needed.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT

1. The third and final reading for 2015 FSO and RFE fees was given. There was no additional discussion. **Dr. McEvoy made a motion to approve the new Food Service Operation and Retail Food Establishment 2015 Fee Schedule established in Resolution 2015-01, to become effective February 1, 2015.** Seconded by Mr. Alge. **Roll Call Vote Dr. McEvoy; aye, Mr. Alge; aye, Mrs. Work; aye, Mr. Cline; absent, Licensing Council Rep; vacant.**

EMERGENCY RESPONSE / EPI REPORT

1. Mr. Masters reported to the Board on the status of influenza in the area. Mr. Masters recently communicated with Colleen Abrams at Blanchard Valley Hospital and was told that the hospital was still seeing an increase in influenza activity, but less than what was experienced in December. Mr. Masters stated that there have been 16 confirmed influenza hospitalizations of Findlay residents, with many of the cases being over 65 years of age. Mr. Masters commented that he was contacted by The Courier at the end of December regarding the influenza, and he provided information for an article on how the public can protect itself by receiving a vaccination, staying home when sick, and observing good hand hygiene.
2. Mr. Masters also informed the Board of his involvement with four (4) outbreaks in long-term care facilities beginning December 22nd through January 6th. Two (2) of the outbreaks were influenza-related, with several residents and employees testing positive. The other two (2) outbreaks were gastrointestinal in nature, whereby stool samples collected from both facilities confirmed that the agent was Norwalk (Noro) virus. Mr. Masters kept in frequent contact with each of the facilities to ensure they had what they needed to inform their employees, visitors, and residents of the situation and to make sure that steps were being taken to limit the spread of illness within the facilities. Each location did a nice job in quickly recognizing they had an unusual increase in illnesses, contacted the health department in the appropriate timeframe, and implemented environmental controls to minimize spread to others. Mr. Masters noted that prophylaxis was ordered for other residents in the influenza outbreaks to which Dr. McEvoy inquired as to how many people were put on prophylaxis. He would be interested to see the effectiveness of the Tamiflu nationwide. Mr. Masters responded that there would have been a potential for at least 77 individuals to be put on prophylaxis. The cost of the medication is approximately \$130 per person. Dr. McEvoy noted that influenza outbreaks are expensive and this is made even worse when the vaccine is a poor match. Dr. McEvoy and Mr. Masters both stressed that vaccine is still important and discussion surrounded the effect of media reports on vaccination rates. It was indeed a bad year for influenza with many people experiencing illness. The worst cases did seem to be among the elderly.

3. Mr. Masters updated the Board that the Hancock County Medical Reserve Corps (based in the Findlay City Health Department) again received a \$3,500 Capacity Building Award from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). This funding is used to provide supplies and training to local medical professionals who are volunteers in the MRC to prepare them for emergency responses. Since 2008, the Hancock County MRC has received over \$30,000 in funding.

PLUMBING REPORT

1. No report from plumbing.

MEETING REQUESTS

Mrs. Work moved to approve the travel requests:

1. March 2-4, 2015: Eric Helms to annual Ohio Association of Plumbing Inspectors Conference Dublin Ohio. Cost Registration \$250, Lodging \$236.
2. Reoccurring Monthly Meeting: Barb Wilhelm to Monthly Association of Ohio Health Commissioner's Northwest District meetings in Bowling Green, Ohio for 2014. No Cost.

Seconded by Mr. Alge. **Motion carried 3-0.** Filed.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Schmelzer reported that council had a second reading on a draft contract for combination. There are some things that still need to be fine-tuned including some personnel and board language so some changes will likely be made. It is hoped that a final vote by council will occur in the next 2 weeks and then it will be in the DAC's court. They are currently planning an informational meeting for the DAC and then a vote would take place at the DAC's March meeting with Board appointments made at the same meeting.

Regarding insurance contracts, Mr. Schmelzer noted that these contracts are negotiated and he has had discussion regarding this with both Don Rasmussen and Steve Wermuth. He expressed that both assure him we will be able to take advantage of language we currently have and there may also be some things we could negotiate to make even better. Mr. Wermuth sees a tremendous opportunity in regards to how the county contracts with insurance companies. Mr. Schmelzer is not a contract expert but based on information he has been given he feels comfortable regarding where we sit with this.

City HR Director Don Essex has been in contact with the county in order to begin putting together an employee transition plan. It will be designed so that each employee understands where they are and what their compensation will look like, particularly vacation and sick time. The Board will have an opportunity to look at how that will be handled.

Mr. Alge asked when the DAC informational meeting will be held but Mr. Schmelzer did not have the date. Mr. Schmelzer has received a proposal from Steve Wermuth as a contract consultant to start looking at the city and county insurance contracts right now to identify opportunities for both the city and county so that we would have a summary of where we stand with insurance companies. Mr. Schmelzer feels it would be helpful to have that info as soon as possible. He also remarked that he felt the process was moving in the right direction but there is still a lot of work to do.

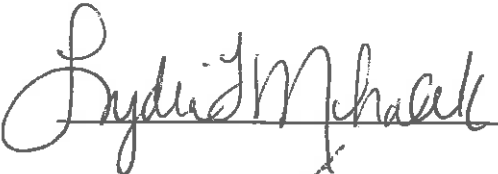
NEW BUSINESS

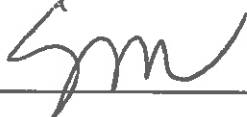
None

EXPENSES

Dr. McEvoy moved to approve the expenses, as circulated, for payment by the City Auditor. Seconded by Mrs. Work. Motion carried 3 – 0. Filed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 A.M.

 _____, President

 _____, Secretary (Health Commissioner)