

FINDLAY CITY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

April 15, 2015

FINDLAY CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Members Attendance:

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

Staff Attendance:

- X 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
- A Mr. Chad Masters, Emergency Response

Call to Order: Mayor Mihalik called the meeting to order at 7:33 A.M.

Minutes: Mayor Mihalik called for a motion to approve the March 18, 2015 minutes. **Mr. Cline moved to accept the minutes from the March 18, 2015 Board of Health meeting as circulated.** Seconded by Mrs. Work. **Motion carried 3-0.** Filed

HEALTH COMMISSIONER REPORT

1. Dr. Mills updated the Board that he has met with Mike Reed from the University of Findlay and they are scheduling regular meetings regarding the Master Trail Plan. They are currently looking at properties along the river from east to west to begin connecting those trails that are not connected.
2. Plans for Walk With A Doc are proceeding well. Dr. Mills almost has all 12 doctors scheduled and will kick off with Cardiologist Pamela Reed at the first scheduled walk on May 5. The program will continue every Tuesday through July 21, 2015. The walks will take place at 5:30 pm at Emory Adams Park. Posters will be distributed with information. Health Educator Noah Stuby has been lining up sponsors for each walk and Dr. Mills noted his office, Blanchard Valley Medical Associates, will be sponsoring June 16th with Dr. Watson leading that talk.

DEPUTY HEALTH COMMISSIONER REPORT

1. ODH Director Hodges visited with the staff last Tuesday. He was in the area and wanted to stop in and visit the health department. He was accompanied by Robert Jennings from the Office of Government Affairs. Mr. Hodges is very personable and reviewed ODH's current priorities including infant mortality and anti-smoking efforts. ODH is committed to providing funding for smoking enforcement and other anti-smoking programs. He also described the reorganization process that ODH is currently undergoing. Mrs. Wilhelm noted that on the downside Mr. Hodges announced that Joe Mazzola will be moved to a new position from his

current job as local health department liaison. Mrs. Wilhelm explained that Mr. Mazzola has been very helpful and will be missed at this position. Mr. Hodges addressed questions from the staff and Mrs. Wilhelm inquired as to the grant funding process. She explained that last year our health department had applied for a Healthy Communities Grant and was not funded noting health departments who ranked poorly in the state health rankings were automatically given extra points. Because Hancock County ranks in the top percentile we received no additional points and she thought this represented an unfair advantage. Mr. Hodges noted that grants will be moving to a more regional approach. Mrs. Wilhelm informed the Board that she thinks regionalization will continue to occur in more than just the area of grants.

She also took the opportunity to ask if the state was planning any organized approach to the issue of legalized marijuana and was disappointed to learn that was not even on the radar for ODH. Mr. Hodges did make a note of the issue. On a local level Mrs. Wilhelm explained there is a group that is starting to meet to discuss the issue and form talking points to counter the issues that Responsible Ohio is presenting. Although there are about 4 groups trying to get the marijuana issue on the ballot, Responsible Ohio is the one that currently has the most momentum.

Mr. Alge inquired as to whether anything was asked about E-cigarettes but Mrs. Wilhelm noted it was not. He felt the trend for E-cigarettes and marijuana might fit together and could be another talking point.

2. There was a Help Me Grow Site visit completed in March. In addition to the state representative for Help Me Grow, Mrs. Wilhelm, Mrs. Bern and PHN Shannon Chamberlin participated in the review. The reviewer had no negative comments but did encourage us to expand our program and provided suggestions for reaching more families.
3. Mrs. Wilhelm advised the Board that at an Opiate Drug Abuse Task Force meeting on Monday there was again discussion regarding expanding access to the drug Naloxone. Mrs. Wilhelm reminded the Board that she had applied for a Project DAWN grant a couple of years ago that was not funded. At Monday's meeting another grant opportunity was discussed and she was asked to "dust off" the previous application to apply again. There is a short turnaround time for the grant which is due May 4. We would again work with the University of Findlay's Pharmacy Program to make the kits available. Since the two health departments will be combined by the end of the year Mrs. Wilhelm asked the Board if she should take this to the newly formed combined board. Mr. Cline asked when the grant would begin and Mrs. Wilhelm noted that the state's fiscal year starts July 1 but the grant would likely go beyond January 1, 2015. Mr. Alge thought any existing projects, functions, contracts of the city health department would transfer to the new health district. Mrs. Wilhelm noted that when Joe Mazzola from ODH visited last fall he did not anticipate any problem switching grants over to a new health district. The Board concurred that Mrs. Wilhelm should proceed.

NURSING REPORT

1. ODH has stopped funding for the Hepatitis C tests that we have been performing in our office. Mrs. Bern has been looking into the cost for these tests which are currently \$50 per kit. She is especially concerned that individuals coming out of drug rehab have tested positive and have partners that should be screened. Another complication is that the currently used \$50 kits will soon be phased out and replaced. She is not sure how much the new testing system will cost but will continue to monitor the situation.

2. Mrs. Bern shared that there was a staff meeting last night regarding the upcoming merger. She noted that her nursing staff is getting more nervous regarding issues like insurance and what their job might look like. She realized that many issues have not been addressed by the new board yet. Mrs. Work inquired whether the staff's nervousness was based on benefits. Mrs. Bern confirmed that benefits play a big part with insurance being a big concern. One staff member is concerned about her part time status. Mrs. Bern noted there are many rumors and you can reassure the staff about hanging on until some decisions are made but that does not mean that employees will not go out and look for something more secure in the meantime. Mr. Niese confirmed a big problem is the unknown. At the meeting Dr. Mills thought there was indication that the two staffs are working together and that was not the issue but rather the fact that details have not been worked out. Mrs. Work asked if there is anyone on the upcoming board that could provide reassurance. Both Mrs. Bern and Dr. Mills noted that the new board is just starting to work on answers. Mr. Cline advised there needs to be some patience and the new board has the best interest of the employees at heart and fears are likely unfounded at this point. Mrs. Bern noted that Mr. Stuby has done a great job at starting to look to the future and has the City Auditor's office looking at insurance information. One of the concerns however has been whether the employees will be forced to move to the county's high deductible insurance plan. The rumor has been the high deductible is \$12,000 for a family plan. Mrs. Work noted we can't forget that many employees are young people with families. Mayor Mihalik doubted the deductible is that high and Mr. Cline noted that could possibly be the stop loss total. Mr. Alge asked if Mr. Stuby could look at this and Mrs. Bern confirmed that he is working on getting answers. Mr. Niese encouraged Mr. Alge as a new combined board member to put personnel issues and benefits on the priority list of decisions to be made to help ease the fears of the employees.

Mrs. Work noted that if you are always rehiring and retraining employees you are not making a profit. Mr. Alge stated that without polling the members of the new board, he still feels the intention is continuity. Dr. Mills noted the city health department does more volume in service. Mr. Alge pointed out the Hancock County Board of Health is inviting new combined board members to their regular monthly board meetings and perhaps the city should do the same. Mrs. Bern shared that what has been said is reassuring and it will be helpful for the staff to hear this and Mr. Stuby has set up a meeting for staff to meet the new board. He has also been working on a priority list of issues with each department. He has formed teams consisting of city and county divisions who can begin meeting to identify and address issues within their areas so that things do not wait until the last minute. Operations differ

between the two departments and decisions will need to be made as to which to follow. Mr. Alge noted the combined board is supportive of the two health departments beginning to work together and he is open to listening to all concerns of the department. Mayor Mihalik stated it was the job of the leaders of their divisions to not induce panic and try to get answers. She added Mr. Stuby has just been put in place as Implementation Coordinator and she feels the combined board is now moving quickly. She noted she had just texted three county officials to ask what the deductible is for the high deductible health plan. She added information should be derived directly from members of the board, Noah Stuby, Paul Schmelzer or Greg Arnette.

In a text that Mayor Mihalik received she read that the county has a \$4500 deductible on a high deductible health plan and \$6500 for the family plan. The county contributes \$55 per month to the HSA and matches up to \$132 per month contribution.

Mrs. Work commented that the people making the decisions are not the ones doing the everyday work and there is a gap and therefore questions will arise. She commented that is wonderful that these discussions are coming up. Mr. Cline suggested that everyone get answers from the new board and not the rumor mill. If you want the answers then you need to ask the questions. Dr. Mills stressed that the Findlay City Health Department has a really good team and he would not want any team members to be lost.

There is a meeting set up between both health department staffs and the new board of health members for April 28, 2015.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT

1. **Mr. Cline motioned to approve the plans for Speedway, 752 W. Trenton Ave.** Seconded by Mrs. Work. **Motion carried 3-0.** Filed.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE / EPI REPORT

1. Mrs. Wilhelm explained that Mr. Masters is attending a national emergency preparedness conference in Atlanta this week. Money for this trip was provided by the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant. She did report that Mr. Masters and the nursing division are just finishing up a 21 day monitoring period for a local individual who had traveled to one of the Ebola affected African countries. ODH has instituted a procedure for monitoring any travelers from one of the Ebola countries which includes twice daily temperatures. One temperature can be self-reported by phone and the second must be visually confirmed by a health department employee. This is being done via a video chat app, which is acceptable to ODH. The individual was traveling on business and was low risk. The individual did not display any symptoms. ODH has informed us that at the end of the current state fiscal year

we will receive some type of reimbursement for this but we do not know the amount as of yet.

2. The health department participated in a regional functional exercise on April 8, 2015. The scenario was a tornado event that destroyed our health department. This allowed us to test our Continuity of Operations Plan. Tim Murphy from the University of Findlay acted as our evaluator. Mr. Murphy has evaluated our exercises a number of times in the past and he felt we have definitely improved with our response and understanding of our individual roles. We will continue to exercise our response plans on a regular basis.

PLUMBING REPORT

1. Mr. Helms is currently scheduling his plumbing classes for journeymen and apprentices and these will take place over the next couple months. He is working on updating his curriculum to make it more interesting.
2. Mr. Helms will be testing city backflow systems throughout the summer as time allows. He is also looking at how the merger will affect the plumbing department and what information will be needed for the new board.

MEETING REQUESTS

Mrs. Work moved to approve the travel requests:

1. April 29, 2015: Barb Wilhelm to Health Policy Institute of Ohio's "Navigating Partnerships in Population Health Planning" Columbus, OH. No Cost.
2. May 19-20, 2015: Health Commissioner or designee to Spring Public Health Combined Conference Columbus Ohio. Cost: Registration \$195 Meals and Lodging \$150

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

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Alge asked for further clarification and distribution information regarding the Naloxone grant. Mrs. Wilhelm explained that naloxone is the antagonist for an opiate overdose. Recent changes in the law have made it easier to obtain but the problem we are seeing is that it really has not become available in the community. We are trying to find a way to make the overdose kits more available; similar to what would happen with an Epipen. The pharmacies that we have

been talking to are not stocking the drug for a variety of reasons. We are also concerned that there be an education piece that would go with the drug. We want individuals obtaining the kits to know what treatment options are available for substance abuse, to know how to properly use the kit and follow up with 9-1-1. The drug is administered via a nasal inhaler. Mr. Alge asked if it would be appropriate to have a video and Mrs. Wilhelm noted that ODH already has a video available. Education could be done in the office/pharmacy and the video could be sent home with the individual. Dr. Mills asked if the drug can be freely given out but Mrs. Wilhelm noted that currently the drug must be prescribed. There is additional legislation being considered that would make this even easier so that a pharmacist could dispense the medication without a doctor's prescription. A grant opportunity would allow the health department to purchase the kits and begin distributing them without worrying about the reimbursement which Mrs. Wilhelm felt may be part of the reason the pharmacists are not stocking the drug. Dr. Mills noted he has seen the medication work firsthand. In the hospital it is given IM or IV so the result is rapid. Mrs. Wilhelm said it is actually a very safe drug and if given to someone who is not experiencing an opiate overdose basically nothing will happen. She also noted that we have just not ever been to a point in our society before where we felt the need to look at this. Mayor Mihalik shared that the local police and fire department have been asked if they would carry the drug but there is hesitation because of fear of potential combativeness of the patient. So far the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department is the only one she is aware of that are carrying the drug. Mr. Cline asked if the cost was keeping fire and police from carrying the drug but Mayor Mihalik said it was the outcome of a combative patient. Mr. Cline advised that time was crucial and delay could result in a dead individual. Mrs. Wilhelm shared that Portsmouth City Health Department was the first Project DAWN location in Ohio with multiple overdose reversals achieved. She will try to get some data regarding what experience they have seen regarding combativeness in individuals receiving the drug. Mayor Mihalik advised speaking with the Hospital regarding engaging Hanco in the use of Naloxone.

NEW BUSINESS


None

EXPENSES

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 A.M.

 , President

 , Secretary (Health Commissioner)