



Fairfield County Health Department

R. Joseph Ebel RS, MS, MBA
Health Commissioner

BOARD OF HEALTH RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Fairfield County Health Department
Minutes of the Board of Health
February 14, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION: Fairfield County Health Department, 1550 Sheridan Drive, Lancaster

The meeting was called to order by Brian Oliver at 4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

Tina Childers
Dr. Teresa Wood
Dr. Michele Morrone
Brian Oliver

Board Members Absent

A quorum was established. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

STAFF PRESENT

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner; Rachel Moresea, Environmental Health Director; Gale Neville, Nursing Director; Mary Smith, WIC Director; Baylie Blevins, Health Promotion Director; Jamie Ehorn, Administrative Services Director; Dr. Steven Kapetansky, Medical Director; Riley Ernst, PHEP Planner

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes from the board meeting on January 10, 2024, were presented for approval. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

FEATURED PROGRAM:

Rachel Moresea, Environmental Health Director, presented on the Gold Medal Food Safety Award program. The program started in 2023 and a list of gold medal awardees was presented to the Board.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Riley Ernst was introduced as the new Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Ms. Ernst has a master's degree in public health from the University of Cincinnati.

HEARINGS & VARIANCES

Mrs. Moresea presented resolution 2024-04 authorizing her to apply for, accept, and enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Agreement on behalf of the Fairfield County Health Department for the repair and replacement of home sewage treatment systems.

Tina Childers made a motion to approve resolution 2024-04. Dr. Morrone seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

STAFF REPORTS

Environmental Health Report

Rachel Moresea, Environmental Health Director provided a written report to the Board. The Ohio Department of Agriculture created a low-risk mobile fee that only applies to retail food establishments. The fee will be 50% of the current mobile fee. This will decrease the fee paid by the vendor and decrease the revenue received by the health department.

High Risk Mobile RFE - \$130.00

Low Risk Mobile RFE - \$65.00

Tina Childers made a motion to approve the creation of a low-risk mobile fee for retail food establishments. The fee will be 50% of the current mobile fee and will be adopted as an emergency fee and effective immediately. Teresa Wood seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The County Commissioners approved the Healthy Aging grant which provides financial assistance, for those that qualify, with the repair or replacement of septic systems. There are currently three households on our list that qualify.

Nursing Report

Gale Neville, Nursing Director provided a written report to the Board. We are close to starting the Newborn Home Visitation Program. Since the report was prepared, we have an additional referral, bringing the total to three. The goal for the program is to identify issues before they become a problem. We have applied for an additional grant to assist in covering costs for the program. We are down a nurse; the position has been posted. The CDC is in discussion regarding eliminating the Covid-19 five-day isolation period for those whose symptoms are resolving and they do not have a fever.

WIC Report

Mary Smith, WIC Director, provided a written report to the Board. Our breastfeeding peer helper will go out on newborn home visits, if requested. On March 21st, we will be celebrating WIC's 50th year anniversary by providing fruits, vegetables, and other goodies to WIC participants.

Teresa Wood commended the nursing and WIC divisions for doing an outstanding job. Dr. Kapetansky also commended Ms. Smith for her help and quick response with a patient in need of assistance.

Planning and Promotion Report

Baylie Blevins, Health Promotion Director, provided a written report to the Board. The scrap tire grant started. We were awarded the MRC ORA grant, MRC Regional grant and the Regional Linkages grant. Mackenzie Kaminski has been hired for the Epidemiologist position and she starts on February 26th. Twenty-five NaloxBoxes have been distributed and we have twenty-five more to distribute. We are trying to get them in each township and village, and we are working to put a map together showing all the box locations. The re-accreditation application will open in March of 2025 and will be due in mid-2025.

Health Commissioner's Report

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner provided a written report to the Board. Remaining funds from the South-Central Ohio Insurance Consortium (SCOIC) were returned in February. The savings from switching to the County Insurance Plan are approximately \$126k. Mrs. Blevins and her team completed the draft 2023 annual report. Jeff Porter, Deputy County Administrator, requested Mr. Ebel's presence at the Lancaster City Council meeting on March 11th. Mr. Ebel plans to meet next week with Carrie Woody and the new Mayor of Lancaster to discuss the 2025 contract for health department services. There is confusion regarding the jurisdiction coverage for the Get Vaccinated grant. Mr. Ebel is currently in discussions with the Ohio Department of Health and Franklin County for a resolution for the next grant year. A graph was provided in the written report that shows employee age, race/ethnicity, and gender for the department. Part of our strategic plan is to create a diverse and inclusive workforce that reflects the communities it is serving. The house of representatives approved a \$2M spending bill related to the purchase of our building by the County Commissioners. The next step is approval from the senate. Most of the water-stained ceiling tiles were replaced in our offices this week.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND BILLS

Jamie Ehorn, Administrative Services Director provided financial reports and a bill list to the Board for approval.

Teresa Wood made a motion to approve the financial report and bill list. Tina Childers seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Ehorn presented resolution 2024-03: 2025 Annual Appropriation to the Board for approval.

Teresa Wood made a motion to approve resolution 2024-03. Dr. Morrone seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Ehorn requested approval of out-of-state travel for Baylie Blevins and Riley Ernst for the MRC National Summit on May 22-24 in Chicago, IL.

Dr. Morrone made a motion to approve the out-of-state travel. Teresa Wood seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL

End of Probation, Gale Neville for her new role as a nursing director.

Mr. Ebel requested the approval to hire two environmental health summer interns for mosquito spraying and mosquito grant work.

Tina Childers made a motion to approve the hiring of two environmental health summer interns. Teresa Wood seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

A proposed Health Commissioner Evaluation Form was prepared by Dr. Morrone and was presented to the board for review. Dr. Morrone will add a n/a column and make it a fillable form. This form can evolve over the years, when necessary.

One application has been received for the open board member position that must be filled by a doctor.

OTHER

The Board was presented with information on the Ohio Association of Boards of Health. The fee of \$125 covers the entire board.

The board discussed the location and date of the next offsite board of health meeting. Mrs. Childers will reach out to Berne Union School to see if that location is available for the next meeting on March 13th. The meeting time will be determined later.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: March 13, 2024, at to be determined

LOCATION: To be determined

NEXT DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING: March 28th at 7:00 p.m. at the Records Center.

ADJOURN The Board of Health Meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m. on a motion by Tina Childers. Teresa Wood seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Approved:

Signature and date on file _____ Date: _____ Brian Oliver, Board President

Signature and date on file _____ Date: _____ R. Joseph Ebel, Health Commissioner