

**Minutes of the
Mahoning County Public Health
Board Meeting
January 17, 2024
8:00 a.m.**

The Mahoning County Public Health Board held its regular meeting on January 17, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. at the offices of Mahoning County Public Health, 50 Westchester Drive, Youngstown, Ohio 44515.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

Present

Mr. Len Perry
Mr. Joe Mistovich
Dr. Nancy Mosca

Present via GoToMeeting (not voting)

Dr. Michael Miladore

Absent

Mrs. Bev Fisher

Staff Present:

Ed Janik, Colton Masters, Cathy Hergenrother, Susan Kovach, Erica Horner, Daljeet Dhillon, Cynthia Grier, Thomas Hartzell, Seth Hill, Dr. Kravec, Julie Thompson, Ryan Tekac

Public Audience:

Tom Costello, Robert Santos

III. Minutes

MOTION

Mr. Perry motioned, Mr. Mistovich seconded to approve the minutes of the 12/13/23 Board meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Mr. Mistovich motioned, Mr. Perry seconded to approve the minutes of the 12/11/23 Personnel Committee meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Mr. Perry motioned, Mr. Mistovich seconded to approve the minutes of the 12/12/23 Finance Committee meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Special Requests/Subdivision Requests/Board Orders

A. Board Order #EH-BO-2024-01 – Tarver (Beaver Twp.)

Mr. Hartzell explained that this property is creating a public health nuisance and is a safety hazard because of the abandoned house and collapsed garage debris which serves as harborage of rodents and insects. The exterior of the property is unsecure which allows for pest and rodent access to the interior. The owner has failed to

comply with the abatement notice and did not appear at the Health Commissioner Hearing.

MOTION

Mr. Perry motioned, Mr. Mistovich seconded to approve the sanitarians recommendation for Board Order #EH-BO-2024-01 as presented:

In accordance with the Nuisance Abatement Code, Section 6.1, and O.R.C. §3707.01, declare the property a public nuisance and order the same:

- condemned as dangerous to life or health;
- placarded;
- abated within 5 days;
- to remain vacant until the nuisance is abated.

In accordance with the Nuisance Abatement Code, Section 6.2, declare the dwelling/dwelling unit unfit for human habitation and unsafe.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. New Business

A. 2024 Budget Changes for Board Approval

Mr. Janik explained that this is typical for January because we set up all the grants and we move funds from year to year. In addition, we are asking permission to move money back into the general fund from the end of the year when we had to ensure all grant funds had a positive balance.

MOTION

Mr. Perry motioned, Mr. Mistovich seconded to approve the 2024 Budget Changes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Mahoning County Child Fatality Review Policy & Procedure

Ms. Horner explained that every county in Ohio is required to have a Child Fatality Review team and we have had one in Mahoning County. This is the creation of a formal policy and procedure for the team to follow.

MOTION

Mr. Perry motioned, Mr. Mistovich seconded to approve the Mahoning County Child Fatality Review Policy & Procedure as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Reports

A. Committee

Dr. Mosca reported that the Personnel Committee met yesterday and reviewed positions to be approved later on the agenda.

Dr. Miladore reported that the Finance Committee met yesterday, reviewed the finances and under revenue line items, only two divisions did not meet their projected budgets. All other divisions were good on their revenues.

B. Division/Program

Ed Janik

The County Auditor had us up and running on January 2, 2024 which was fantastic. Ryan and I met with Amy Petrus last week and we will be scheduling a follow-up meeting with her to get answers to some questions. Kudos to the Fiscal Staff for all of their hard work – they are an awesome group!

Colton Masters

We are in the process of applying for the 2024 Mosquito Control Grant, through the EPA. We plan on asking for the full amount of \$25,000 again. The deadline for this application is at the end of January, and they expect to announce the winners in March or April.

I would like to thank Genevieve Bufano, Stefano Napolitano, Thomas Hartzell, Sharlene Shebeck and Kyle Gabrick. Together, these team members are working to ensure the sewage program stays up to date, as we search for replacements in the sewage division.

We have officially closed out the 2022 WPCLF grant, leaving less than \$20,000, which would not be enough for a full project to be bid out. We will now move onto the 2023 monies, and we are waiting to hear if we will be awarded any of the 2024 WPCLF monies.

I would like to thank Jason McNally and Julie Thompson for their hard work in helping EH with the remodel. They have put in many hours with this project and the changes in the EH department would not be possible without them.

I would also like to thank Amy Holibaugh and Kristy Boyles for working to review Solid Waste Documents and prep them for digitization. We have sent many of our records in for scanning and digitizing and this is a massive undertaking, with the amount of paper documents and information stored in EH.

Cathy Hergenrother

For the HUB 2023 year there were 1,104 total referrals, 786 assigned referrals and 470 total enrollments which is a 59.8% enrollment.

The Mahoning Valley Pathways HUB would like to introduce Seth Hill, HUB Operations Coordinator, who began employment on January 2, 2024. We welcome him and look forward to Seth helping to enhance HUB services.

Ms. Angela Dawson, Executive Director of OCMH (Ohio Commission on Minority Health), requested that I share with “Mr. Commissioner” and the Board that the HUB enrollment goals for pregnant and pregnant minority women *had never* been met until 2023. Given the quick shift of leadership, Mahoning Valley Pathways HUB (MVPH) managed to achieve 75% of its goal by Quarter 3. By the year end 2023, MVPH not only met the enrollment goals but exceeded those goals and other goals across multiple categories. She stated the MCPH should be very proud of these accomplishments. This enabled MVPH to qualify to more than double its funding for the 2024 year.

I would like to thank the team Lori Keller, Megan Stacy, Sharon Veneskey and Ryan Seiple for their hard work to meet these goals and dedication to serving our community and the other MVPH partner agencies that made this possible:

Alta Baby Bump Program	ESC of Eastern Ohio
Akron Children’s Hospital- Mahoning Valley	Evolve
Direction Home	Family and Community Services (Access Health Care)
OCCHA	Mercy Health-Resource Mothers and Fatherhood Program
Utica Shale Academy	PEACC (AME Zion Church)
T-CAP	Help Network -211
YWCA	YHIZ (Youngstown Health Improvement Zones)
Andrea Mahone Foundation	Sacred Calling Births
Engage4Health	Susan E. Horne, Evaluator
Queens Village	Susan Larwin, Evaluator
MKC (Making Kids Count)	

Susan Kovach

We will be applying for the 2025 PHEP grant next week. We received level funding this year for the PHEP grant. Environmental response will be a very strong focus of the 2025 PHEP activities. Week 1 was the highest for flu hospitalizations, week 2 is down. Bharat Chaturvedi, Braden Froomkin and Jennifer Patrick created an overdose dashboard which will be on our website. An OEI dashboard will be next. Special thanks to Braden Froomkin for doing OEI data in the interim.

Erica Horner

Our annual ODH Vaccines for Children Program Compliance Site Visit was completed on 12/19/2023. Our ODH VFC Consultant marked our visit as complete and meeting requirements, no further follow-up needed. Typically, site visits are conducted every 2 years which would make our next one due near the end of 2025.

Bill McMahan, ACH’s Safe Kids Mahoning Valley coordinator received grant funds through the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund to supply convertible car seats, highchairs, strollers, and baby gates to a total of 10 families. He reached out to our PHN and CFK Program Coordinator, Rachel Jackson to coordinate a joint event that combined the additional infant safety measure of safe sleep education and cribette distribution. Individuals and families referred to the CFK program were screened for additional criteria to meet the OCTF’s requirements which were TANF eligibility, women in the 3rd trimester of pregnancy or parent of a child less than 2 years of age. Families were also screened regarding their need for the additional items. On 12/14/2023, Mahoning County Public Health’s CFK Program and Akron Children’s Safe Kids Mahoning Valley held a collaborative event at our main office for families providing infant safe sleep education, infant/child safety education including car seat installation, and falls prevention- 10 total scheduled; 7 attended. We have identified 3 other families for the remaining items scheduled this month.

MCPH administered 1,235 flu immunizations from September through December 2023.

MCPH final data on administered COVID vaccines for September through December 2023: 278 immunizations ages 12 and older; 6 immunizations for infants/pediatric who were between six months of age and four years old.

Daljeet Dhillon

December caseload 3,761 which is lower than the previous month, though still 108.7% of the 2024 assigned caseload ceiling (3,461). Likely reasons for the dropped caseload include holidays, personnel taking time off and intermittent issues with ODH Gateway system (ODH WIC is aware of the issue). WIC caseload is down statewide.

Total number of women on the program 790
Total number of infants on the program 891
Total number of children on the program 2080

Women exclusively breastfeeding 69

Women partially breastfeeding 219

Breastfeeding rates continue to stay low. There is a critical need to develop peer and professional support in the in the community for breastfeeding women.

Two Community Health Worker's from the Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio visited the Goshen WIC clinic on December 21, 2023, to promote their program to WIC eligible participants.

I want to thank all the WIC staff for their commitment to the WIC program. Despite all the uncontrollable components WIC staff provide excellent customer service to WIC participants and work effectively with limited staff to maintain the caseload. A special thank you to Melinda Mondok and Melissa Rogers for being flexible and covering evening WIC clinics.

Cynthia Grier

Met with Mayor Catherine Cercone Miller and other officials of Struthers to discuss Health Equity and how we can all work together. It was a very positive meeting and I look forward to working with them.

Thank you to Cathy Hergenrother and the HUB for the opportunity to present to the HUB Community Health Worker's and others in attendance at their recent meeting.

Working with Trumbull/Mahoning DEI Collaborative on a Poverty Simulation – Equity Awareness Experience to be held on March 15th at the Metroplex.

Scott Bolam (reported by R. Tekac)

The laboratory continues to provide its' routine testing services as usual. We are back from the holidays and ready for 2024.

2024 is an audit year for the laboratory. Every two years our lead program is audited by A2LA (American Association for Laboratory Accreditation) for compliance. The lab has started reviewing documentation and procedures, and internal auditing to be ready for this year's compliance audit. Our Ohio EPA drinking water audit renewal will be in 2025.

Dr. Kravec

Health and cold weather, hypothermia and frostbite questions have been the majority of conversations lately. As Susan mentioned, flu numbers are dropping in hospitalizations which hopefully will continue. However, vaccination numbers are down as well. COVID hospitalizations were up but are now flat and dropping.

Ryan Tekac

Last month I provided some kudos to everyone for their work on our PHAB annual report that was submitted in December. We have received our feedback from our submission, and we were provided with feedback that is considered both positive and constructive that we will use to adjust before our next reaccreditation:

1. Constructive criticism – We uploaded our MCPH EPI Response Annex. PHAB said we need to have clarity in how our department maintains 24/7 access to resources related to environmental public health hazards. The intent of this element is to ensure that our department has the capacity in place to respond either in-house or through agreements. If there are agreements with other entities like the state health department, providing those agreements may be helpful in demonstrating the resources that we can access.
2. Positive comments-
 - a. We provided our Maternal and Child Health work and PHAB commended us on the development of our M&CH brochure along with our focus through MY Baby 1st to work with community partners, and county and city leadership to provide a commitment to secure funding to address infant mortality.
 - b. Commended MCPH on the long-term initiative to design and implement the O&M program. It was evident the health department took a thoughtful approach to incorporate feedback, data and community engagement.
3. PHAB also provided us with several learning opportunities and resources which we will review and take advantage of.

Since I am on the Topic of PHAB I am going to wear it out now.

Julie and I will be attending a PHAB focus group for Local Health Departments. PHAB has awarded the Health Policy Institute of Ohio a contract to conduct a study of accreditation in Ohio. The focus groups will address the accreditation process and timeline, reasons for pursuing or not pursuing accreditation and lessons learned from Ohio's experience.

In December the Mental Health and Recovery Board hosted a press conference to bring awareness to our suicide rate and the disparities in suicides. Prior to the holidays there was the unfortunate deaths of individuals who were 70 and older. Duane from the Mental Health Board along with Joe Rossi from Direction Home will be sitting down here soon to devise a plan on outreach and education through our agencies.

VII. Approval of Monthly Expenses

A. Monthly Expenses

MOTION

Mr. Perry motioned, Mr. Mistovich seconded to approve the monthly expenses as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Contracts

- 1) ECMSI, Inc., Three-year Warranty Extension for Four (4) Routers, \$7,025.48

- 2) James F. Kravec, Medical Director Services (Two-year contract), \$48,000.00
- 3) Jensen Lock & Alarm, Install Electronic Card Reader System on 2nd Floor, \$6,336.00
- 4) 898 Marketing, Newsletters, Videos and Account Management, \$19,600.00
- 5) Cavalier Mobile X-Ray, Contract Addendum Increasing from \$4,500.00 to \$4,800.00 (\$300.00 increase)

MOTION

Mr. Mistovich motioned, Mr. Perry seconded to approve contracts number one through five as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Travel

- A. Official Travel
 - 1) C. Masters, Northeast Ohio EH Directors Meeting, Akron, 4/15 & 10/21 \$0

IX. Personnel Actions

- A. Appoint – Full-Time HUB Operations Coordinator
- B. Appoint – Full-Time WIC Health Assistant

MOTION

Mr. Mistovich motioned, Mr. Perry seconded to appoint Seth Hill as a full-time HUB Operations Coordinator and Marlynn Schell as a full-time WIC Health Assistant both at the grade 1 pay level as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Executive Session

MOTION

Mr. Perry motioned, Mr. Mistovich seconded to enter into Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, discipline or compensation of public employees at 9:11 a.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Exit Executive Session

MOTION

Mr. Perry motioned, Mr. Mistovich seconded to exit Executive Session at 10:26 a.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

- E. Post/Advertise – Director of Finance

MOTION

Mr. Perry motioned, Mr. Mistovich seconded to post/advertise the Director of Finance position as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

- F. Appoint – Full-Time Public Health Nurse

MOTION

Mr. Perry motioned, Mr. Mistovich seconded to allow the Health Commissioner to hire a full time Public Health Nurse upon review and confirmation of the Public Health Workforce funds and other related funding to support one full-time employee as a Public Health Nurse.

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Approve – Health Commissioner Contract

MOTION

Mr. Mistovich motioned, Mr. Perry seconded to approve the Health Commissioner contract as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

X. **Adjournment**

MOTION

Mr. Mistovich motioned, Mr. Perry seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

MAHONING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 16, 2024

8:30 A.M.

Mahoning County Public Health

50 Westchester Drive

Youngstown, Ohio 44515

MINUTES

Board member present via telephone: Dr. Michael Miladore

Staff present: Ryan Tekac
Ed Janik

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m.

The Finance Committee reviewed the budget changes for Board approval, and the monthly financial reports as presented.

The Finance Committee will recommend approval of the following contracts at the next regularly scheduled MCPH meeting January 17, 2024:

- ECMSI, Inc., Three-year Warranty Extension for Four (4) Routers, \$7,025.48
- James F. Kravec, Medical Director Services (Two-year contract), \$48,000.00
- Jensen Lock & Alarm, Install Electronic Card Reader System on 2nd Floor, \$6,336.00
- 898 Marketing, Newsletters, Videos and Account Management, \$19,600.00
- Cavalier Mobile X-Ray, Contract Addendum Increasing from \$4,500.00 to \$4,800.00 (\$300.00 increase)

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

MAHONING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING

January 16, 2024

4:00 P.M.

Mahoning County Public Health

50 Westchester Drive

Youngstown, Ohio 44515

MINUTES

Board members present: Dr. Nancy Mosca
 Mr. Len Perry

Board member present via GoToMeeting: Mr. Joe Mistovich

Staff present: Ryan Tekac
 Ed Janik

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

At 4:01 p.m. Dr. Mosca made a motion to enter executive session to consider the appointment, employment, discipline, or compensation of public employees, or to discuss pending or imminent court action, collective bargaining matters, or security matters.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Perry.

Dr. Mosca made a motion to leave executive session at 5:03 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Perry.

Upon leaving executive session the Personnel committee stated that they would make recommendations related to the appointment, employment, discipline, and compensation of public employees during the next regular meeting of the Board of Health on January 17, 2024.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Mosca, seconded by Mr. Perry at 5:05 p.m.