

**Minutes of the
Mahoning County Public Health
Board Meeting
September 20, 2023
8:00 a.m.**

The Mahoning County Public Health Board held its regular meeting on September 20, 2023, 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
Dr. Nancy Mosca
Dr. Michael Miladore
Mr. Joe Mistovich

Absent

Mrs. Bev Fisher

Staff Present:

Ed Janik, Colton Masters, Cathy Hergenrother, Susan Kovach, Erica Horner, Cynthia Grier, Scott Bolam, Briana Musolino, Cory Powell, Dr. Kravec, Julie Thompson, Ryan Tekac

Public Audience:

Tom Costello

III. Minutes

MOTION

Dr. Mosca motioned, Mr. Perry seconded to approve the minutes of the 8/16/23 Board meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Dr. Mosca motioned, Mr. Perry seconded to approve the minutes of the 8/14/23 Personnel Committee meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Dr. Miladore motioned, Dr. Mosca seconded to approve the minutes of the 8/15/23 Finance Committee meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Special Requests/Subdivision Requests/Board Orders

A. Board Order #EH-BO-2023-05 – Maynard (Berlin Twp.)

Ms. Musolino explained that this is a vacant property creating a public health nuisance as well as a safety hazard because the structures are in a condition that is

not weather-tight or rodent proof. The owners have also failed to dispose of both food waste and solid waste which shall attract disease vectors.

The owners failed to comply with multiple abatement notices and did not appear at the Health Commissioner's hearing.

MOTION

Mr. Perry motioned, Dr. Mosca seconded to approve the sanitarian's recommendation for Board Order #EH-BO-2023-05 as presented:

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

- Condemned as dangerous to life or health;
- Placarded;
- Abated within 5 days, and;
- 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. 2023 Budget Changes for Board Approval

Mr. Janik explained that these changes were all reviewed by the Finance Committee. There are eight additions and all but one are grant related. The other is an increase in the Lab supply budget.

MOTION

Mr. Mistovich motioned, Dr. Mosca seconded to approve the 2023 Budget Changes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Nursing Division – Creation of New Fee

Mr. Janik explained that Lisa Wogan stays on top of insurance reimbursement rates to insure we are getting what we are permitted to invoice for and that is why we are requesting the fee be set at \$355.00 for the new RSV vaccine called Abrysvo that we will be offering.

MOTION

Dr. Mosca motioned, Mr. Mistovich seconded to approve the creation of the fee for Abrysvo, the new RSV vaccine we will be carrying in the amount of \$355.00 in the Nursing Division as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Reports

A. Committee

Dr. Miladore reported that the Finance Committee met yesterday and discussed the eight contracts on the agenda. Also reviewed the budget and everything is on track for this year.

Dr. Mosca reported that the Personnel Committee met on Monday and reviewed three resignations. Also reviewed were three resumes for a Breastfeeding Peer Helper, an Environmental Specialist-in-Training and an Account Clerk II.

B. Division/Program

Ed Janik

Working with the managers on the 2024 expense budgets. The Point & Pay system for in-person credit card payments did not work out so we are going to switch and use the system that the county is using. Received our MAC payment for the May time study and it was \$46,833.65.

Colton Masters

We completed the 2023 Canfield Fair without any major issues, and I would like to thank Bev Fisher for her continued support throughout the Fair, and Cory Powell and Megan Nicholson, as well as the whole Environmental Health team who were onsite to help assure public health and safety during the Fair.

On that same note, our EH team is currently working with the Fair Board and Canfield Fire to transition our location at the Fair. We will be staying in the same building, but we will be switching ends with the Fire Department to help accommodate the need for paramedics/EMT's.

I would also like to congratulate the Food Safety team on the successful completion of our Ohio Department of Agriculture survey. The results were received from the department's visit in July, and these findings from the survey reported that we are in compliance with our program.

On September 10th, we held our first Rabies Clinic at Angels for Animals. We were able to provide 93 vaccinations to animals brought into the clinic, and I want to thank the staff at Angels for Animals and Dr. Jennifer Kotouch for donating this time to help us in our fight to protect our citizens and their pets.

We have started distribution on a new set of WPCLF packets. These packets of a combined five properties were available starting this past Friday for septic contractors to come and pick up. These bids will close prior to the next Board meeting, and we are intending to utilize some of the left-over funding from our 2022 WPCLF grant. We have also submitted an application for the 2024 WPCLF grant, but we will not receive word on that grant until later in the year.

I have been working with Ed, Dianna Nutt and Kylie Knight to prepare the property assessments for any unpaid O&M fees from last year. At final count, we had around 87% compliance in the payment of fees, which far exceeded expectation for the first year of the program.

Cathy Hergenrother

For the HUB year to date there have been 722 total referrals, 501 assigned referrals and 285 total enrollments which is a 39.5% total enrollment and a 56.9% assigned enrollment.

Mahoning Valley Pathways HUB is excited to announce an official collaboration with YSU at the direction of Dr. Nicolette Powe. Dr. Powe notified the HUB two weeks ago that the REACH grant, referred to as Guin Fit, was awarded to YSU. The HUB was instrumental in planning this grant and will be responsible for the onboarding and continued education and training of two Community Health Workers. Dr. Powe will be presenting this to the Board in October.

Work in Jefferson County has begun as the HUB has received its initial two referrals. One of our CHWs has made a connection with the Urban Rescue Mission in Steubenville and is working to connect its residents to our CHW in Columbiana County, that was originally from the Steubenville area.

The Ohio Network of HUBs is forming a 501c3 and 501c6 and all Ohio HUBs will become members to help with funding and lobbying opportunities. A formalized network will help legitimize the important work being done by the CHWs and provide the necessary direction and guidance necessary to expand services and funding sources. This coincides with the Ohio Department of Health passing and funding the Center for CHW Excellence.

The highlights of this piece of legislation are as follows:

- *The deployment of CHWs in disaster relief, non-Medicaid (in-kind) payments for work done by Community Health Workers, and funding statewide CHW events.*
- *The implementation of statewide, diverse, multi-sector technology and enhancements (such as referral platforms, the Ohio equity mapping tool, HUB technology, etc.), which support CHWs' role in serving clients.*
- *The Center will commission and publish a workforce/evaluation report on the state of the Ohio CHW workforce including the total number of CHWs employed in Ohio, work settings, certification status and any barriers/challenges, average, hourly wages, annual salaries, and employment, funding sources, including state and federal grants and reimbursement sources.*
- *The Center for CHW Excellence would commission a website and/or create other electronic tools that synthesize resources (social media, etc.) for CHWs, CHW certification, recertification, job postings, continuing education, workforce guidelines, and other pertinent information for current or potential CHWs across Ohio. Site resources would have diverse partners and highlight other funded projects such as:*
 - *Those providing CHW support via self-care management and training for CHWs in Ohio to reduce burnout and increase workforce effectiveness*
 - *CHW Supervisor Certificate Class*
 - *Appalachian CHW recruitment*
 - *The Statewide CHW Mentorship Program*
 - *The Center will facilitate a single point of contact continuing education for CHWs as approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing and offer at least the minimum necessary amount of CEU hours each two years for free statewide to certified CHWs.*

A link to an article about this center is listed below:

<https://www.healthimpactohio.org/blog/center-for-chw-excellence-secures-funding-in-state-budget>

This is an exciting and transformational time to be associated with the HUB as there are many opportunities for expansion of services and collaboration with other care coordination agencies.

Susan Kovach

We received \$10,000 from the opioid settlement dollars to continue our surveillance and the overdose fatality review team. I mentioned before, we were losing the federal and state dollars that we received for drug overdose prevention because they changed the way that they are distributing those funds. So, we worked with the Mental Health and Recovery Board to get some funds so that we can cover it because they thought it was important for us to continue those activities. Jennifer Patrick is taking that on, and this will pay part of her salary. The other thing that is going to end up paying part of it is we applied for the healthy eating active living grant through the Department of Health. The first year is \$10,000 to do an assessment of a community with a high SVI and work with community partners to create programming in that community. We chose Sebring and we were awarded that yesterday. So once that happens, we will have a year to be able to work with the community and bring some programming, decide from the community what kind of program they'd like to see. And then the following year, there's additional funding we can apply for to continue those programs in that community.

Erica Horner

On August 21, the FDA approved the Pfizer RSV vaccine, Abrysvo for use in pregnant individuals to prevent lower respiratory tract disease and severe lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV in infants from birth through 6 months of age. Abrysvo is approved for use at 32-36 weeks gestation. Next step: CDC to review and finalize clinical guidance.

CDC released their annual recommendations of ACIP on the prevention and control of seasonal influenza with vaccines on 08/25/2023. Primary updates for 2023-2024 influenza season: vaccine composition updated for 2 influenza A and influenza B; ACIP recommends that all persons aged 6 months and older with an egg allergy should receive the influenza vaccine, any influenza vaccine (egg based or nonegg based) that is otherwise appropriate for the recipient's age and health status can be used. It is no longer recommended that persons who have had an allergic reaction to egg involving symptoms other than urticaria should be vaccinated in an inpatient or outpatient medical setting supervised by an HCP who is able to manage severe allergic reactions if an egg-based vaccine is used. CDC released on 09/08/2023 the Interim Effectiveness Estimates of 2023 Southern Hemisphere Influenza vaccines in Preventing Influenza Associated Hospitalizations. This report indicated the 2023 Southern Hemisphere seasonal influenza vaccine reduced the risk for hospitalizations by 52%; circulating flu viruses were genetically similar to those targeted by the 2023-2024 Northern Hemisphere vaccine formulation.

We applied to continue our work with ODH's Breastfeeding in the Workplace, \$6,000 is the maximum for 10/01/2023-09/29/2024. Activities include outreach to Mahoning County businesses to provide education and toolkits with the overall goal of improving lactation accommodations to support employees through policy development, adoption or improving the businesses existing policies.

The OEI RFP has been significantly delayed-originally should have been posted 06/28/2023. ODH announced at the end of August they are extending the current OEI

program year through June 30, 2024. This program is expected to transition to the new Ohio Department of Children & Youth. We will not need to reapply for the 6-month extension.

Daljeet Dhillon

WIC Caseload 2023

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
3609	3630	3684	3750	3833	3856	3908	3928

WIC caseload is consistently increasing.

WIC in collaboration with ACTION held two Farmers Market events on Austintown and Boardman WIC clinic premises. The opportunity was used to maximize the redemption rate of Farmers Market vouchers and to promote breastfeeding. The markets were well attended, additionally participants appreciated getting SNAP double up benefits. MCPH nurses educated participants about the maternal and child health services provided by the nursing division.

August was Breastfeeding Awareness Month.

MCPH WIC program celebrated BAM by hosting following events:

8/2/2023 Farmers Market and breastfeeding promotion at Austintown

8/9/2023 Farmers Market and breastfeeding promotion at Boardman

8/10/2023 Breastfeeding Workshop for professionals and participants

8/18/2023 Breastfeeding Open House at OCCHA

8/31/2023 – 9/4/2023 Breastfeeding trailer at the Canfield Fair

The MCPH WIC Breastfeeding trailer successfully served 49 breastfeeding and pumping families at this year's Canfield Fair. Informal feedback was collected from participating families and staff to gain insight into what worked and what could be improved for next year. The feedback is divided into two sections:

Positive Feedback:

The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive, many families commented that they were very excited to have a private space where they could nurse their babies. Several families commented that they were not aware the Fair had a breastfeeding space but would spread the word. Families who used the space also appreciated the privacy and the air conditioning. Some other notable comments included a woman who was excited to have a space available with electricity so that she could pump her breastmilk while she was away from her baby. The space also provided an opportunity to educate and promote WIC and breastfeeding, additionally MCPH maternal and child health programs.

Areas for improvement:

Consider finding a bigger space that can accommodate multiple breastfeeding or pumping parents at a time. Additional dividers or curtains would provide better privacy as well. Other suggestions included staying open later in the day until 8 or 9 pm for parents attending the Fair in the evening, easier to identify colors or signs for the outside of the space, and having a separate space just for changing diapers would be helpful to families who are not breastfeeding but would like a more private space for changing their children.

The WIC Program is very grateful to:

MCPH Nursing Division for their assistance in covering the breastfeeding trailer hours on the weekend and holiday.

Melinda Mondok and Heather Richardson of the WIC Program for their assistance with covering the time slots on the weekend and holiday.

Ryan Tekac, Julie Thompson, Colton Masters and Jason McNally with their assistance with setting up the breastfeeding trailer and moving items.

Bev Fisher, Canfield Fair Manger for securing the trailer. Thank you, Bev, for supporting breastfeeding at the Canfield Fair.

Cynthia Grier

Attended the MY Baby's 1st and Infant Mortality Summit. Presented to the Executive Board of the Youngstown NAACP. Was able to attend Older Adults Day Out to continue gathering information and surveys related to our Mahoning County Community Health Improvement Plan. The Health Equity team has been working to create an annual staff assessment. The assessment will be going out towards the end of the year. I have continued to work with area partners as the Health Equity representative on CHIP Access to Care, Mental Health and Substance Abuse and Community Safety committees.

Scott Bolam

The Lab continues to provide our routine testing services to the community.

We have received 394 location samples from the Mahoning County O&M program.

For the groundwater monitoring program, we have sampled everything except the BFI Carbon Limestone landfill, which is getting done next week.

Dr. Kravec

Continuing to work with Erica on COVID and RSV protocols. COVID is in the community; there have been few hospitalizations, but outpatient numbers are increasing. Attended Medical Directors University last week at AOHC in Columbus.

Ryan Tekac

Traci Hostetler, who is the superintendent of The Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio has invited us to be a partner for the development of their 2022-2023 Business Advisory Council Plan. The mission is to empower Mahoning Valley educators in delivering instruction and experiences students need to develop relevant in-demand employment skills and academic preparation for college and careers. I see this as an opportunity to assure public health is at the table to expose and educate superintendents and students on the various opportunities and programs to work in the field of public health. I can't recall that we have sat on this in the past and the previous plans do not mention us as a partner, but I believe it's through the relationships we have built over the last several years with our leadership team being a conduit on relevant and timely information to assist the schools during the years of COVID.

As you are aware, we have developed several videos on important programs we have to offer at the Board of Health which have been used and boosted on our social media pages. The Austintown Local School District has agreed to run our videos on the Austintown Channel of Armstrong Cable, and they are posting them to their Falcon Media YouTube page.

September is Suicide Prevention Month and in 2022 we experienced the sad and unfortunate loss of 44 men to suicide in the Mahoning Valley. As Co-chair of the suicide fatality review committee alongside Executive Director Duane Piccirilli, Mahoning County has suffered twenty-five suicide deaths up through August 1, 2023. A disparity is being observed whereas twenty-four of the twenty-five fatal suicides or 96% have occurred in males, with 84% being males who are white. You will see on the agenda a contract with 898 Marketing that relates to media buys for promoting a video content commercial that has been filmed and will be shown through various media outlets that will target the disparity being seen. I need to thank Rachels Restaurant who allowed 898 to come into their facility to film the video which will reflect that there is help no matter what and there is light to be seen even when everything seems dark around you. The focus will be on dialing 988 the suicide and crisis lifeline. We need to thank the Board of County Commissioners who have graciously funded our request for the media blitz on this important topic.

I want to thank the leadership team and Julie for taking over some of my duties in my absence while we welcomed in our second son a bit sooner than expected. Monday was my first day back and I am finally getting caught up on emails that were placed on the back burner in my absence.

VII. Approval of Monthly Expenses

A. Monthly Expenses

MOTION

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Contracts

- 1) Holiday Inn - Boardman, All Staff Meeting, \$4,532.30
- 2) Lockett Enterprises, Inc., Boardman WIC Rent, \$18,000.00
- 3) Sylvester Patton, Janitorial Services for Boardman WIC, \$8,580.00
- 4) Sylvester Patton, Janitorial Services for Youngstown WIC, \$8,580.00
- 5) Storage & More of Canfield, Inc., Rental of Three Storage Units, \$3,630.00
- 6) 898 Marketing, Crisis Text Line Media Plan, \$60,000.00

MOTION

Mr. Mistovich motioned, Dr. Mosca seconded to approve contracts number one through six as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Travel

A. Official Travel and B. Continuing Education

MOTION

Mr. Perry motioned, Mr. Mistovich seconded to approve the official travel and continuing education as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

IX. Personnel Actions

- A. Appoint – Part-Time Breastfeeding Peer Helper
- B. Appoint – Full-Time Environmental Health Specialist-In-Training
- C. Appoint – Full-Time Account Clerk II

MOTION

Mr. Perry motioned, Dr. Mosca seconded to appoint the following as presented:

Sacleta Penny, Part-Time Breastfeeding Peer Helper, starting at year two pay rate
Dakota Morgan, Full-Time Environmental Health Specialist-In-Training, starting at entry level rate
Lisa Williams, Full-Time Account Clerk II, starting at year two pay rate

Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Resignation – C. Robich
- E. Resignation – A. Elliott
- F. Resignation – A. Brenner

MOTION

Mr. Perry motioned, Dr. Mosca seconded to accept the following resignations with regrets as presented:

Casiera Robich, REHS
Amanda Elliott, REHS
April Brenner, RN

Motion carried unanimously.

- G. Permission to Post/Advertise and Hire a Full-Time REHS/EHSIT
- H. Permission to Post/Advertise and Hire a Full-Time and/or Part-Time Public Health Nurse

MOTION

Mr. Perry motioned, Dr. Mosca seconded to give permission to post/advertise and hire a full-time REHS or EHSIT as well as a full-time and/or a part-time Public Health Nurse should the opportunity present itself before the next Board meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

- I. Executive Session

MOTION

Mr. Mistovich motioned, Dr. Mosca seconded to enter into Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, discipline or compensation of public employees at 9:01 a.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

- F. Exit Executive Session

MOTION

Mr. Mistovich motioned, Dr. Mosca seconded to exit Executive Session at 9:46 a.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

X. Adjournment
MOTION

Mr. Mistovich motioned, Mr. Perry seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

MAHONING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING

September 18, 2023

4:00 P.M.

Mahoning County Public Health

50 Westchester Drive

Youngstown, Ohio 44515

MINUTES

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

Staff present: Ryan Tekac
 Ed Janik

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

At 4:05 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. Mistovich.

Mr. Perry made a motion to leave executive session at 4:28 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mistovich.

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 September 20, 2023.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Mistovich, seconded by Dr. Mosca at 4:30 p.m.

MAHONING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 19, 2023

8:30 A.M.

Canfield Fairgrounds Administration Building

7265 Columbiana-Canfield Road

Canfield, Ohio 44406

MINUTES

Board members present: Mrs. Bev Fisher
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, the creation of a new fee in the Nursing Division, and the monthly financial reports as presented.

The Finance Committee will recommend approval of the following contracts at the next regularly scheduled MCPH meeting September 20, 2023:

- Holiday Inn - Boardman, All Staff Meeting, \$4,532.30
- Lockett Enterprises, Inc., Boardman WIC Rent, \$18,000.00
- Sylvester Patton, Janitorial Services for Boardman WIC, \$8,580.00
- Sylvester Patton, Janitorial Services for Youngstown WIC, \$8,580.00
- Storage & More of Canfield, Inc., Rental of Three Storage Units, \$3,630.00
- 898 Marketing, Crisis Text Line Media Plan, \$60,000.00

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.