

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
Minutes  
March 14, 2023

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on March 14, 2023.

Members Present

Dr. Ken Patrick, DVM, President Pro Tem  
Jeff Bonnell  
Sally Kash, MS, RN  
Ruth Lolli  
Joseph Richmond  
Amy Sibcy  
Dr. Scott Zollett, MD

Health Department Staff Present

Jackie Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN  
Carla Ealy, BS, REHS  
Dr. Paul Jennewine, MD  
Amanda McDonald, Vital Statistics Registrar

Absent

Mayor, Nicole Condrey, BS, President

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ROLL CALL

**Motion:** Dr. Zollett moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to excuse absent members.  
**Roll call vote:** Yes-5 (Bonnell, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- February 2023

**Motion:** Mr. Richmond moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve the February 2023 Board of Health meeting minutes.  
**Roll call vote:** Yes-5 (Bonnell, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT-February 2023

**Motion:** Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Mr. Richmond to receive and file the February 2023 Financial Report.  
**Roll call vote:** Yes-5 (Bonnell, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

Dr. Patrick arrived at 7:36 AM

Education Presentation- Colorectal Cancer-Dr. Jennewine

Dr. Jennewine explained to the board that colorectal cancer is defined as cancer of the large intestine or rectum caused by mutations of the epithelial cells linking the colon. Most colorectal cancer is not genetically linked, however; two or more first degree relatives with a history of colon cancer more than doubles the risk. Colorectal cancer is the second most common cancer in females and the third most common in men. There were an estimated 152,000 new cases in 2022, resulting in 52,000 deaths.

The risk of colorectal cancer increases with age. It is more common in developed countries and among African Americans. Lifestyles composed of a high fat diet with red and processed meat, obesity, smoking and lack of physical activity also increase the risk of developing colorectal cancer. Lifetime risk is 1 in 23 for men and 1 in 26 for women. Genetics and

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) are also contributing risk factors. The risk in individuals 50 and over has been decreasing 1-2% per year since the 2000's, while the risk in those under 50 has been increasing 1-2% per year since the 1990's. As the rates of colorectal cancer in those 50 years or younger have steadily increased, so have the mortality rates. It is the leading cause of cancer death in men ages 20-49. The American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends screening to begin at age 45 for average risk patients and for physicians to be more individualized with decisions on screening.

Symptoms of colorectal cancer include: change in bowel habits, blood in stool, loss of appetite/nausea and weight loss. Half of all patients are completely asymptomatic at time of diagnosis. Colorectal cancer can be diagnosed by biopsy or by screening tests such as the Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT), Cologuard or a colonoscopy.

Treatments for colorectal cancer include prevention such as lifestyle modifications and screening tests, removal of polyps and precancerous lesions, surgery for tumors and chemotherapy and radiation for more advanced disease stages. The survival rate for local disease is 90-95%, it drops to 70-75% for regional disease and 10-20% for distant disease.

### Discussion

Ms. Kash asked if there was a certain age at which colonoscopies are discontinued.

Dr. Jennewine stated that the risk of perforating the bowel during colonoscopy increases after age 75, thus making colonoscopies an individualized decision between patients and their providers.

Dr. Zollett commented that colorectal cancer typically progresses rather slowly.

Dr. Jennewine added that colonoscopies are recommended at age 45 and then every ten years after. FIT tests are recommended at age 45 and are generally performed annually.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### PHAB

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the Community Health Assessment (CHA) survey is now available in multiple languages and encourages board members to share the survey with anyone and everyone they know that lives or works in Butler County.

#### Trap, Neuter & Release (TNR)

In a follow-up to last month's open topic discussion, Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that Ms. Corbin had provided TNR information as well as coyote and wildlife information in the board packet. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that there are no direct public health issues related to coyotes. Also included in the packet was a city ordinance stating, "No person shall feed or provide any form of food to any animal in the park other than a dog or service animal which is in their possession. No food of any kind shall be left behind in the park and all consumable items shall be removed from the park or deposited into a park waste receptacle."

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Travel Authorizations

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that Ms. Chaney will be attending the 2023 Ohio Environmental Health Conference (OEHA) in Dublin, Ohio in April.

**Motion:** Mr. Richmond moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve the travel request.

**Roll call vote:** Yes-6 (Bonnell, Kash, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. **Motion Passed.**

#### Public Health Week, April 3-9, 2023

Ms. Phillips Carter explained that Public Health Week is national and is celebrated annually. This year the focus will be on: community, violence prevention, reproductive and sexual health, mental health, rural health, accessibility and food and nutrition.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that through OHIZ, Middletown Connect will be inviting city leaders to participate in the "See My Neighborhood Bus Tour" on April 20<sup>th</sup> and "Walk and Talk" events are scheduled for

April 29<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup>. The three focus census tracts are the highest risk tracts in Middletown and are census tracts 130, 131 and 132. These census tracts have reduced life expectancy and few to no assets such as grocery stores, laundry mats and access to fresh foods.

### Syringe Exchange Program (SEP)

Ms. Phillips Carter explained that SEP first came to Middletown in 2017 when the Board of Health concluded that something must be done to address the increasing rates of HIV and Hepatitis C. There is currently only one other SEP located in Butler County and that is in the Mercy Fairfield Hospital location.

Ms. Phillips Carter encourages board members to consider if this is a program that we want to keep in Middletown. She states that she has heard concerns that the program is bringing people to our city, that we are enabling these people and that some do not want the program in our city. Past locations of the SEP were Crawford Street and The Gathering. SEP is currently located at the parking lot of Access Counseling on Dixie Highway, Access Counseling would now like for SEP to use a new location or move to a less busy day, Friday.

### Discussion

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the board may decide to hold an official vote to see where we are.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that it is beneficial from a public health standpoint to have a program that gathers high risk individuals in one place and she strongly supports Harm Reduction programs.

Dr. Zollett asked if we know where the clients of SEP come from.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that they are from Franklin, Hamilton, Fairfield, Preble and Warren Counties. She also explained that while we do have information about clients' addresses, it may be inaccurate addresses that are reported.

Dr. Jennewine stated that he recalls the board approving a SEP in Middletown in hopes that Hamilton would follow suit and provide an exchange program as well, stating that roughly a quarter of SEP clients come from Hamilton.

Dr. Zollett stated that while we must care for Middletown residents, we seem to be taking on other city's residents as well.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that there is a Harm Reduction meeting coming up on the 30<sup>th</sup> which will allow challenges to be reported to the committee.

Ms. Lolli added that Clark county has a SEP that operates three days a week in three different locations within the county.

Ms. Lolli states that it seems to benefit clients having the program operate on three separate days within a fairly close proximity of one another.

The board requested history and status of the benefits of the program, Ms. Phillips Carter stated she will provide information at the next BOH meeting.

### Board of Health Member Topic-Open Discussion

No topics were raised for further discussion.

### REPORTS

#### Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter asked Ms. Kash to report on the mental health action circle she participated in. Ms. Kash explained that while there haven't been any conclusions made at this time, a lot of valuable information and ideas have been shared. Ms. Phillips Carter explained that the action circles were created to address the concerns of citizens dealing with homelessness and mental health.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that CMHD is currently working on Tobacco 21 (T21), and will be licensing all stores that sell tobacco, tobacco products, vapes and paraphernalia beginning in January 2024.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that CMHD is looking into the possibility of contracting with grant writers, a T21 task force and possible summer interns under the Workforce Development Grant.

**Medical Director**

Dr. Jennewine reported the February Communicable Disease numbers.

Chlamydia infection	18
COVID-19	208
Gonococcal infection	3
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	1
Hepatitis B	2
Hepatitis C	8
HIV	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae-invasive	1

**Director of Nursing**

In Ms. Corbin's absence, Ms. Phillips Carter provided the board with the Director of Nursing report. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that COVID cases continue to decline. CMHD continues to offer the bivalent vaccine at bimonthly clinics.

Dr. Jennewine added that the vaccine will likely become an annual vaccination recommended in the fall.

**Environmental Director**

Ms. Ealy stated that she and Ms. Phillips Carter met with Envision and Interact for Health regarding T21 in hopes that Interact for Health will assist with the funding of the implementation of T21. CMHD will begin sending out education material to retailers in summer 2023 and applications will be sent out in late fall for licensing to begin in January 2024. There are roughly 70 facilities that sell tobacco, tobacco products and paraphernalia in Middletown. T21 seeks compliance by ensuring products are not sold to anyone under the age of 21. Ms. Ealy informed the board that Hamilton City began their T21 program in March.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that CMHD has received payment and issued licenses to all but 12 food service operations and retail food establishments.

Ms. Ealy stated that Billy T's Bar is now facing a \$5,000 fine for failure to comply with smoking regulations.

**Discussions**

Dr. Patrick asked if there were any more updates available for the houses located on Jefferson Road that had failed to comply with city sewer connection orders.

Ms. Ealy stated that there are three homes that have failed to comply and all three cases have been turned over to the city prosecutor.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 AM. The next meeting will be held on April 11, 2023 at 7:30 AM.



Jacquelyn D. Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN  
Secretary

Nicole Condrey, President  
City of Middletown Board of Health