

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
Minutes  
June 14, 2022

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on June 14, 2022.

Members Present

David Schul, President Pro Tem  
Jeff Bonnell  
Margie Davis, RN  
Sally Kash, MS, RN  
Ruth Lolli

Health Department Staff Present

Jackie Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN  
Carla Ealy, BS, REHS  
Chandra Corbin, BSN, RN  
Dr. Paul Jennewine, MD  
Amanda McDonald, Vital Statistics Registrar  
Sarah Chaney, BS, EHS-IT  
Laura Brown, Deputy Vital Statistics Registrar

Absent and Excused

Mayor Nicole Condrey, BS, President  
Charlene Kurtz, BSN, RN  
Dr. Ken Patrick, DVM

Legal Counsel

Carly Sherman, Assistant Law Director

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ROLL CALL

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Davis to excuse absent board members.

Roll call vote: Yes-4 (Bonnell, Davis, Kash, Lolli). No-0. Motion Passed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

Ms. Ealy introduced Sarah Chaney, Environmental Health Specialist In Training, to the board. Sarah is a recent graduate of Miami University and began working with City of Middletown Health Department June 6, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- May 2022

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve the May 2022 Board of Health Meeting Minutes.

Roll call vote: Yes-4 (Bonnell, Davis, Kash, Lolli). No-0. Motion Passed.

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT-May 2022

Ms. Phillips Carter noted that CMHD is still receiving grant money. Vital Statistic sales were up slightly in May when compared to April.

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Davis to receive and file the May 2022 Financial Report.

Roll call vote: Yes-4 (Bonnell, Davis, Kash, Lolli). No-0. Motion Passed.

Education Presentation- Monkeypox

Dr. Jennewine presented the board of health with an overview of the monkeypox virus (MPV). MPV is a rare disease caused by the monkeypox virus. It is similar to the smallpox virus and disease, but less severe. MPV causes a flu-like illness with a rash. Symptoms typically present 5-21 days after exposure and are typically self-limited in 2-4 weeks. MPV

is endemic to parts of Africa and is rare in the rest of the world. MPV is no longer spread by monkeys, it is thought to be spread by rodents and squirrels of Africa.

Signs and symptoms of MPV include: fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, lymphadenopathy and rash. The rash usually appears 1-3 days after illness onset. The rash consists of flat, red bumps that progress into pustules and usually begins on the face and then spreads to other areas, particularly the palms and soles of the feet.

MPV is spread from animal to person usually through exposure such as broken skin (bites or scratches). Person to person spread is much less common.

MPV is often first suspected to be measles or chickenpox. Tissue samples from a pustule or a blood sample to test for the virus are used to determine if it is MPV. There is no proven, effective treatment for MPV. Mortality is described between 0 and 10% of all infected people. Others should avoid contact with infected people and personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn when caring for infected persons.

Outbreaks are much more common in children, though adults can also contract the virus. 90% of cases in Africa are in children under the age of 15. The first outbreak in the US occurred in 2003 when pet prairie dogs were brought in to Texas, 47 people were infected with the virus. All 47 people had direct contact with the prairie dogs and there were no deaths or community transmission associated with the outbreak.

The most recent outbreak first appeared in the UK in May of 2022. The index patient had travelled to Nigeria and brought back the West African strain. There has been community transmission with close contact, mostly contact during sexual activities. Most cases have been in young and middle-aged men, and men having sex with men. As of June 10, 2022, there have been 1600 cases of MPV reported outside of Africa (UK-470, Spain-275, Portugal-209, Germany-189, US-65).

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Indigent Services

Ms. Phillips Carter introduced Carly Sherman from the legal department to the board. Ms. Sherman attended the meeting to discuss with the board the city's responsibilities when dealing with indigent services.

Ms. Sherman stated that six months of residency within the city is not technically a requirement. Realistically, the city claims responsibility for any homeless person that expires within city limits. Ms. Sherman stated that indigency is determined strictly by income level, not by assessing assets owned by the decedent. The only persons who may be required by law to claim a body are the spouse of a decedent or the parent of a minor decedent. However, if both the decedent and claimant are deemed indigent as a matter of law, the decedent is eligible for the City's indigent burial program. Ms. Sherman stated that if the cremains are buried, the city is responsible to provide a grave marker, however; once the city claims responsibility for the decedent's disposition, the city is not required to follow the wishes of the decedent or decedent's family. Ms. Sherman continued that the city is not able to seize property or assets of indigent decedents, but may file as a creditor against the decedent if the case goes through probate court.

Mr. Bonnell stated that when an indigent decedent expires at a long-term nursing facility, any money that is left in the decedent's account is typically sent to the funeral home. The funeral home then takes that amount off of what they bill the city for the indigent cremation. Mr. Bonnell stated that Ms. Phillips Carter had requested the money be sent directly to the city instead of the funeral home, the city would then pay the funeral home the total amount of indigent cremation. Mr. Bonnell asked if that was lawful.

Ms. Carter Phillips stated that she did not remember requesting funds be sent directly to the city versus the funeral home, but that it would not make a difference since the funeral home is required to use those funds to cover disposition.

Ms. Sherman stated that it was not unlawful to have funds sent directly to the city.

Ms. Phillips Carter clarified that when the term "city" is used, it is referring to the municipality, not the health department.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she would like for it to be clear that the contracts are between the City of Middletown and the funeral homes, not the Health Department and the funeral homes.

Ms. Sherman reiterated that the determination of indigency is based solely on income level, not assets. The city is required to pay only for cremation, but the family can pay for any extra services that they would like such as an obituary.

If the family pays for an obituary or any extra services, they have technically claimed the body and the city can deny the indigency application.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that it may be easier to use a request for proposal (RFP).

Ms. Brown added that though the indigent application is branded by City of Middletown Health Department, that is done to meet a PHAB requirement, and the application originated with the law department.

Mr. Bonnell stated that in 2019 the indigent application was 4 pages, in 2021 the application increased and is now 7 pages.

Ms. Brown replied that a description, poverty guidelines and an affidavit of indigency was added to the packet, the application itself did not change.

Ms. Sherman stated that there is nothing inherently wrong with the current application, she is confident it would stand up in any court. It is however more stringent than what is required by the Ohio Revised Code (ORC).

Ms. Phillips Carter asked Ms. Sherman for clarification, is the household income taken into consideration or just that of the decedent.

Ms. Sherman replied that only the income of the decedent and spouse/parent of a minor child could be taken into consideration when determining indigency.

Mr. Bonnell stated that there have been times Breitenbach Funeral Home has had to hold bodies in the cooler for over a month waiting on families to provide paperwork to the health department to determine indigency and states that this is a health hazard.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that nothing is preventing or delaying the funeral home from completing cremation, however; if the decedent is determined to not qualify for indigency, the funeral home may not be reimbursed.

Ms. Sherman stated that the funeral home is technically acting at the direction of the city and believes the RFP will be useful.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she would like a clear application and policy for the health department to follow. She states that the health department is not trying to keep any funeral home from being paid or deny indigent applications, the health department is simply acting at the direction of the city and the law department and trying to adhere to the process that has been developed.

Ms. Brown asked if signing the cremation authorization is considered claiming the body.

Ms. Sherman states that it is not.

Mr. Bonnell stated that as the funeral director for Breitenbach Funeral Home, he is required to have the next of kin sign cremation authorizations, and asked how someone claims a body.

Ms. Sherman states that if someone sets up services, it is considered claiming the body. Even if services are set up, the person can still qualify as indigent, though the city may not cover the cost since the body has been claimed.

Mr. Bonnell asked Ms. Phillips Carter if she had ever gotten back with John Herr and Lois Arnold with Herr Riggs Funeral Home.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she had months ago. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she had forwarded their questions directly to the law department and the law department had issued a memo in response.

Mr. Bonnell asked Ms. Phillips if she had interpreted the memo for them and then called them back.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she believed that she had sent the memo directly to John Herr and Lois Arnold at Herr Riggs Funeral Home.

Mr. Bonnell stated that Herr Riggs is still unclear that the family can set up arrangements for indigent decedents.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that CMHD will approve all indigent applications until the RFP is established.

Ms. Sherman stated that it will take time to get the RFP established and that in the meantime something easier to use will be developed.

Mr. Schul stated that he believes the board has spent enough time talking about indigent burials and cremations. This is something that should be worked out between the funeral homes and city administration, and does not involve the board of health.

#### Travel Authorizations

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the per diem chart along with the city's travel policy was included in the board packet. The AOHC covered the cost of one night's hotel fees for each health department. The total amount requested dropped from \$779 to \$353.

#### OneOhio

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that OneOhio ensures a settlement for Ohio that recognizes that every corner of the state has been hit hard by the opioid crises. OneOhio provides a mechanism for the distribution of any opioid settlement funds and outlines how the funds can be used. Butler County is one of seven counties which make up region 14 (Butler, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Green, Madison and Warren). Ohio is estimated to receive 808 million, and Region 14 to receive 54 million of that, with allotments coming directly to cities, townships and municipalities over an 18-year time frame. Nationally the settlements are approximately 26 billion dollars. Butler County is finalizing the structure and will soon be actively requesting and receiving projects to be submitted to the State Foundation Board for consideration. Projects that are currently being discussed are the mental health crisis center and K-12 prevention programming.

#### OHIZ/SVI Grant

Safety Council of South West Ohio, in partnership with CMHD, embarked on a project which led to the submission of an ODH grant titled "Together We Will." The focus is on three contiguous census tracts that have high social vulnerability indexes (SVI's), tracts 130, 131 and 132. The intent is to gather data, identify gaps and barriers, align activities, interventions, programming, etc., leverage resources and reduce or eliminate duplications.

#### PHAB

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the health department is holding PHAB meetings bimonthly and will be resubmitting to PHAB in August 2022.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Travel Authorizations

None.

#### REPORTS

##### Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that Mayor Condrey had sent out information regarding "Never Give Up Day," a global celebration day focused on cultivating a mindset of resilience and determination. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she believes Mayor Condrey will be issuing a proclamation to celebrate the community's resiliency.

### Medical Director

Dr. Jennewine presented the board with May communicable disease numbers.

Chlamydia infection	43
COVID-19	191
CP-CRE	1
Gonococcal infection	21
Hemophilus influenzae	1
Hepatitis B	1
Hepatitis C	9
HIV	1
Influenza-associated hospitalization	3
Meningitis-aseptic/viral	1
Meningitis-bacterial (Not N. meningitidis)	1
Shigellosis	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae	2

### Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the board that two new employees will be added to the nursing division under the Workforce Development Grant. Both will be part-time contracted positions. Cathi Culbreath will be a public health worker and Sara Neu will be the Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH)nurse.

Ms. Corbin informed the board that CMHD is still offering COVID vaccines the first and third Thursday of each month. There were 75 vaccines given in May. CMHD is vaccinating individuals ages five and older. Ms. Corbin stated that infant vaccine approval is currently being discussed and CMHD will order infant vaccines as soon as they are available.

### Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy informed the board that all but one pool has been inspected and opened for the season.

Ice Cream Dreams on Dixie Highway has reopened with a new owner. CMHD has received and approved plans for two new tattoo studios located on Central Avenue, Inkspiration Tattoo and She Aesthetics. There will be a new charter school located on Union Road that is licensed for up to 100 students.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that the law department had asked the health department to reevaluate six homes mandated to connect to city sewer before moving forward with court proceedings. Of those six homes, two were removed due to challenges connecting. There are now four homes that must still connect to city sewer, the board of health must decide if these homeowners will face criminal or civil charges.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that a heat advisory was issued yesterday (June 13, 2022) and because of the widespread power outages faced by Middletown residents and businesses due to the recent storm, the health department has issued food safety information to each business and posted on our website and social media for residents. Environmental health specialists will be checking on local businesses to provide information and education on food safety.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that Acting City Manager, Paul Lolli, has asked her to serve as acting city manager in his and Assistant City Manager, Nathan Cahall's, absence from June 24-July 3, 2022.



City of Middletown Health Department  
Middletown, Ohio

*A Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play*

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 AM. The next meeting will be held on July 12, 2022 at 7:30 AM.

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

Nicole Condrey, President  
City of Middletown Board of Health