

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes
September 8, 2020

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in remote and regular session at 7:30 AM on September 8, 2020.

Members Present

Mayor Nicole Condrey, BS, President
Jeff Bonnell
Margie Davis, RN
Dr. Anita Scott Jones, Ed.D., MBA, BS
Sally Kash, MS, RN
Charlene Kurtz, BSN, RN
Dr. Ken Patrick, DVM
David Schul

Health Department Staff Present

Jackie Phillips, MPH, BSN, RN
Carla Ealy, RS
Chandra Corbin, BSN, RN
Amanda McDonald

Absent and Excused

All board members were present.

ROLL CALL

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Mr. Bonnell to excuse Ms. Davis and Dr. Patrick.
Roll call Vote: Yes-5 (Bonnell, Jones, Kash, Kurtz, Schul). No-0. **Motion passed.**

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-August 2020

Motion: Ms. Kurtz moved, seconded by Mr. Schul to approve the August 2020 Board of Health Meeting Minutes.
Roll call Vote: Yes-5 (Bonnell, Jones, Kash, Kurtz, Schul). No-0. **Motion passed.**

Ms. Davis joined the meeting via Zoom at 7:36 AM.

Dr. Patrick notified us of technical difficulties via email. He was present for the entirety of the meeting.

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT- July 2020

Motion: Dr. Jones moved, seconded by Ms. Kash to receive and file the August 2020 Financial Report.
Roll call Vote: Yes-7 (Bonnell, Davis, Jones, Kash, Kurtz, Patrick, Schul). No-0. **Motion passed.**

EDUCATION PRESENTATION- Mortality Trends

Ms. McDonald presented comparative mortality data from 2018-2020. The data compares city of Middletown resident's year-to-date causes of death totals from January-August. The two leading causes of death, heart disease and cancers, remain consistent throughout all three years. Data shows that death by lung disease has more than doubled in 2020 when compared to previous years. Dr. Jennewine stated that the rise in lung-related deaths are almost assuredly correlated to closer attention being paid to lung issues as a result of COVID and that deaths that would have previously been classified otherwise are instead being classified as lung-related in 2020. The data shows that while COVID 19 was non-existent in previous years, there have been ten deaths in 2020, with two of those deaths having been filed in just the last week.

While overdose deaths seem to be on par with previous years, the latest state and nation wide data indicates that there may be a spike in both overdoses and suicides. Ms. McDonald noted that in order for these deaths to be included in the mortality counts, the causes of death must first be determined by the coroner which may take several weeks.

OLD BUSINESS

PHAB

Ms. Phillips noted that City of Middletown Health Department remains focused on achieving accreditation. Ms. Phillips will be participating as a Clinton County Community Partner at their virtual PHAB site visit scheduled for September 18, 2020.

COVID Update

Ms. Phillips noted that throughout the COVID pandemic, mental health has remained both a concern and top priority for public health. With September being Suicide Prevention Month, it is an especially good time to focus on the mental health and mental strain that this pandemic has placed upon society. Ms. Phillips notes that throughout this pandemic and quarantine, many of our coping mechanisms have been stripped from us. While many individuals would once turn to things such as: concerts, movies, pedicures, spas, massages, or gathering at restaurants to relieve stress, many of these things are no longer available or have dramatically changed. Ms. Phillips reminds board members that while a pandemic can lead to depression and anxiety, it can be worse for those already suffering from depression or anxiety. Data is showing an increase in substance abuse and in partner or child abuse. Ms. Phillips notes that we should all remain mindful of others' personal and family concerns throughout this pandemic as well as trying to take care of ourselves during these uncertain times.

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorizations

None.

Budget Discussion

Ms. Phillips shared with the board that the city manager has asked all departments to decrease their 2021 budget. Ms. Phillips states that due to state and federal funds, the health department's budget will be fine. The finance director will offset any funds needed with the Care Act funds that will be received by the health department. Mayor Condrey asked about the possibility of health department staff being paid overtime with CARES Act dollars versus receiving comp time that eats into the city budget at a later date. Ms. Phillips stated that she will look into this.

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips informed the board that on August 24, 2020, schools voted to allow sports to continue per state protocol. Ms. Phillips and Ms. Ealy have worked to update sports plans and distribute to all Middletown schools. Each school must submit a plan to be approved by the local health department.

On September 4, 2020, Governor DeWine released an order that mandates that all schools report any positive students and/or staff members and a COVID reopening plan to their local health departments. The local health departments will then report these positive cases to Ohio Department of Health. Schools must also notify parents of the positive test results within twenty-four hours of receiving them.

Ms. Phillips states that she is meeting with the city manager bi-weekly to provide COVID updates.

Medical Director

Dr. Jennewine reported on August communicable disease numbers.

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| Chlamydia | 30 |
| COVID 19 | 187 |
| Gonococcal infection | 25 |
| Hepatitis B | 2 |
| Hepatitis C | 9 |
| Streptococcal-Group A- invasive | 1 |
| Tuberculosis | 1 |

Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the board that there have been 533 confirmed and 2 probable cases of COVID 19 amongst Middletown residents. The total number of cases in Butler County is 4,799. There have been 80 deaths county-wide, with 10 of those deaths being Middletown residents. Ms. Corbin states that we are seeing clusters of cases show up, meaning those that have been in close proximity with a positive case are also testing positive.

Ms. Corbin notes that a Middletown long term care facility had been experiencing an influx in positive cases. By locking down the memory care unit where the positive cases were located, they were able to contain the outbreak.

Ms. Corbin informed the board that Middletown businesses have done an exceptional job in communicating with the health department by notifying nursing staff of positive cases as they come in and following the recommended guidelines.

Ms. Phillips notes that any time a business is “shut down” due to COVID, it is voluntary and not due to a direct order by the health department. The board of health would be involved in a decision to shut down a business, these businesses are voluntarily closing in order to properly sanitize and/or quarantine.

Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy informed the board that due to non-payment of 2019 5-year septic fees, 109 properties were sent to Butler County Auditor and nine were sent to Warren County Auditor to have fees assessed to property taxes.

Ms. Ealy states that there are still nine homes that have not complied with the order to connect to sanitary sewer. Two of these homeowners have entered pleas with the prosecutor’s office, three are scheduled for court, and one will be refiled with the court. The prosecutor’s office informed Ms. Ealy that this is a misdemeanor four charge and could carry possible jail time if homeowners refuse to comply.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that there is a resident on Lefferson Road that continues to make complaints that there are two property owners that should have connected to sanitary sewer, but have not yet connected. Ms. Ealy states that one of those homeowners is already in the court process, and the other property has an outbuilding that no one is living in and does not possess a bathroom or running water. Ms. Ealy states that Mr. Tuttle with Building Inspection is aware of this resident’s complaints and is working with the homeowner to resolve this issue.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that Brent’s Smokin Butts will be opening on Central Avenue. Hook Fish and Chicken is now open on Verity Parkway.

In 2019 Governor Dewine directed Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio Department of Health to analyze the prevalence of per-and polyflouroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water and to develop an action plan to address the threat in drinking water supplies. Ms. Ealy explained to the board that PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals applied to many consumer goods to make them waterproof, stain resistant, or nonstick. Exposure to these chemical residuals may cause adverse health effects. Ohio Department of Health contacted local health departments where PFAS had been identified in the drinking water. Middletown municipal raw water supply was sampled and indicated a PFAS level of 5.2 parts per trillion. This is a very small amount, the advisory level is 70 parts per trillion.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42AM. The next meeting will be held on October 13, 2020 at 7:30 AM.


Jacquelyn D. Phillips, MPH, BSN, RN
Secretary
Nicole Condrey, President
City of Middletown Board of Health