

DATE: September 8, 2023
TO: Board of Health Members
FROM: Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN - Secretary
SUBJECT: Agenda for September 12, 2023

City of Middletown Board of Health & Environment will meet in regular session **September 12, 2023** at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C at the City Building with the following agenda. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call 513-425-1818.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL- Motion to excuse absent members

CITIZEN COMMENTS

PUBLIC HEARING

1. MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-01-Food Fees
2. MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-02- Campground Licensing Fees

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -August 2023

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT -August 2023

EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Rabies-Sarah Chaney, REHS

OLD BUSINESS

1. PHAB
2. Tobacco21 (T21)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Travel Authorizations
2. 2nd Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-01 by Title Only- Food Fees
3. 2nd Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-02 by Title Only-Campground Fees
4. Board Member Topic-Open Discussion

REPORTS

Health Commissioner
Medical Director
Director of Nursing
Environmental Health Director

ADJOURNMENT

The Next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2023 at 7:30am

It is the policy of the City of Middletown to make all public hearings and meetings accessible to all persons, in accordance with state and/or federal laws. If you have a disability which requires accommodation in order for you to attend and/or participate in this meeting, please contact us at 425-7851 or 425-7705 (TDD) at least forty-eight hours prior to the time of the meeting to advise the need for accommodation, and reasonable efforts shall be made to provide the same.

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes
August 8, 2023

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on August 8, 2023.

Members Present

Mayor, Nicole Condrey, BS, President
Jeff Bonnell
Ruth Lolli
Joseph Richmond, MBA
Amy Sibcy
Dr. Scott Zollett, MD

Absent

Sally Kash, MS, RN

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

ROLL CALL

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to excuse Ms. Kash from the Board of Health meeting.
Roll call vote: Yes-5 (Bonnell, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. **Motion Passed.**

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 2023

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the July 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-July 2023

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

Education Presentation- Mosquito-Borne Illness-Dr. Jennewine

Dr. Jennewine provided the board with an overview of mosquito-borne illnesses. Mosquitos can carry parasites such as: protozoa, botflies, helminths and viruses. Viruses transmitted by mosquitos in the United States include: West Nile Virus, Zika Virus, Chikungunya Virus, Equine Encephalitis, St. Louis Encephalitis, Dengue Fever and La Crosse Encephalitis.

Malaria is an illness caused by a protozoa carried by mosquitos.

Mosquitos spread parasites by biting an infected animal, obtaining a parasite and then biting a human or another animal.

Symptoms of a mosquito-borne illnesses include: non-specific flu-like symptoms, headache/neck pain and confusion. The most common mosquito-borne illness in the United States is West Nile Virus. The virus can infect humans, horses and birds. Eighty percent of those infected are asymptomatic.

Equine Encephalitis is rare in the United States. The virus can infect humans, horses and birds. While this is the most serious mosquito-borne illness with the highest mortality rate, the outbreaks are usually infrequent and localized.

The Zika Virus is typically found in the Caribbean and Central/South America. Most cases found in the United States are among individuals that have traveled to one of those locations. Most cases have mild or no symptoms, however; the virus is transmitted from mother to fetus and can cause serious complications for the fetus.

Chikungunya and Dengue are very rare in the United States and when cases are diagnosed in the States, it is typically travel related. These viruses are commonly found in tropical and subtropics such as Africa and Asia.

Malaria is a parasite that can have up to a 20% mortality rate if left untreated. There are 600,000 deaths world-wide annually. Approximately 2,000 travel-related cases occur in the United States annually. In 2023, there have been 8 US contracted cases confirmed. Malaria requires urgent treatment.

Treatment for viruses includes supportive care and Malaria requires oral/IV medications. Preventative care includes draining standing water to prevent mosquito breeding grounds, covering doors and windows to keep mosquitos out of the home and repellants such as DEET or Picaridin.

OLD BUSINESS

PHAB

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the first edition of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) has been finished and is currently in the process of being edited. Once the CHA is completed it will be distributed to the public, community partners and published on all three (City of Middletown Health Department, Butler County General Health District and Hamilton City) health department websites. The three topics of focus in the CHA are mental illness, chronic disease and infant mortality.

Tobacco 21 (T21)

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that everything is on schedule for tobacco retail licenses to begin in January 2024. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she is moving forward with efforts to control the selling of tobacco to minors and considering "capping" tobacco retailers to the current number of stores now operating within the city. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that other surrounding areas are capping as a measure to impact the density of tobacco retailers.

Discussions

Mayor Condrey stated that Hamilton City does not have a cap on tobacco retailers.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated they have zoning restrictions in place restricting the proximity a shop can be in relation to schools or parks.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that an additional tobacco retailer has applied to open a store in Middletown.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that CMHD has requested funding from Interact for Health to help offset the costs of implementing the Tobacco Retail Program; licensing, education and enforcement.

BOH Vacant Position

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that City Council has approved Ms. Miller to serve the remainder of Dr. Patrick's term. Ms. Miller is an infectious disease nurse at Atrium Medical Center and will be joining the board at the September BOH meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorizations

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the AOHC Fall Conference will be held September 13-15th in Columbus, Ohio. ODH has not yet released the agenda for the conference so the travel request will be on the September BOH agenda.

Motion to Read MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-01 & 2023-02 by Title Only.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Mr. Richmond to read MBHE Ordinances No. 2023-01 & 2023-02 by title only.

Roll call vote: Yes-5 (Bonnell, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

First Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-01 An Ordinance Amending Fees for the Licensing of Food Service Operations, Mobile Food Service Operations, Temporary Food Service Operations, Vending Machine Locations, Retail Food Establishments, Mobile Retail Food Establishments, and Temporary Retail Food Establishments.

First Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-02 An Ordinance Amending the License Fees for Recreational Vehicle Parks, Recreational Camps, Combined and Temporary Park-Camps.

Board Member Topic-Open Discussion

Ms. Sibcy stated that the City Council meeting regarding the City purchasing Central Connections left a lot of questions to be answered.

Ms. Sibcy asked what the plan was moving forward.

Ms. Phillips Carter will be overseeing the daily operations of Central Connections in the interim. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the intent is to continue as many activities as accustomed and see if this organization can be sustainable on its own. Mayor Condrey stated that through a tax levy, Middletown citizens have already spent \$7 million on Central Connections. Citizens would like to keep the facility and services available for elderly residents.

Ms. Sibcy stated that many volunteers and citizens would be willing to step up and help.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she believed a meeting allowing people to meet and vent followed by meetings with community partners may help identify future funding or expertise opportunities and may be beneficial to the center.

Mayor Condrey stated that right now the thought is to use ARPA funds to purchase the building.

Mayor Condrey stated that most of the Central Connections staff has now filed for unemployment, the goal is to bring them back to work at the center.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the silver lining to this situation is seeing the community come together.

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter reminded board members that as of September 1st, the Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) will no longer be operating in Middletown. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the community can expect to see an uptick in infections, such as endocarditis and overdoses. Butler County has been approved for a needle exchange mobile unit that can be used.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that there will be a Spanish Heritage Festival held in Middletown and stated that there is a large growing Latina population.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that Middletown Connect will hold a press conference on August 31st providing a summary of the information and data collected by Phase 1 of OHIZ Grant.

Medical Director

Dr. Jennewine reported the July Communicable Disease cases.

Chlamydia infection	20
COVID-19	42
CP-CRE	3
Cryptosporidiosis	1
Gonococcal infection	7
Hepatitis B	3
Hepatitis C	5
Malaria	1
Streptococcal-Group A (invasive disease)	2
Syphilis	2
Varicella	1

Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the board that she is following up on the Malaria case that Dr. Jennewine reported on in his Communicable Disease report. Ms. Corbin stated that CMHD is preparing for flu season and still awaiting COVID vaccine guidance from ODH.

Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy informed the board that plans have been approved for Verity Lodge Head Start Program, plans for Rosa Parks Head Start Program are currently being reviewed. Plans for Yankee Drive Thru have been approved.

Ms. Ealy explained to the board that Ms. Chaney conducted an inspection of Runaway Taco. Upon inspection it was discovered that the restaurant installed a makeshift shower and bedroom in the facility which were a direct violation of the food safety code. Ms. Ealy instructed the owner to remove all items and she would follow up on Monday. She also requested that they not reopen until all items had been removed and the owner agreed to remain closed. Ms. Ealy returned to the facility with Ms. Chaney and the City of Middletown Building Department. The restaurant has removed all items in violation.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that she will possibly be revising the CMHD Animal Bite Policy after an inspector was bitten by two dogs in July and another inspector was bitten in April. Ms. Ealy stated that she would like a policy that would better protect CMHD employees as she has also been bitten twice while releasing dogs from quarantine.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel Discussion, under the authority of O.R.C. 121.22(G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to move to executive session at 8:49AM.

Roll call vote: Yes-5 (Bonnell, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

Executive Session Ended at 9:29AM

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29AM. The next meeting will be held on September 12, 2023 at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C.

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

Nicole Condrey, President
City of Middletown Board of Health



City of Middletown Health Department

August 2023 Financial Notes

Vital Statistics

- \$8,624 Revenue Earned
- 717 Certificates Sold
- 52 Burial permits Sold

Environmental

- \$1,622 Revenue Earned

Grants/Agreements Reimbursements

- 4th Qtr. Smoke Free Contract payment – \$125
- 2ND Qtr. Paternity Affidavit payment - \$25
- PHEP payment \$4,715
- Interact for Health Tobacco21 Grant payment \$30,000

Indigent Services

- \$20,000.00 budgeted for 2023
- 24 Applications approved to date
 - 3 OD's
 - 3 COD'S pending
 - \$2,033 Indigent Services Budget Remaining

Current Grants

- Workforce Development (WF-23) 7/01/2023-11/30/2027 - \$445,000
 - Multi-year project to support the development of current and future public health workforce
 - Original award granted to CMHD \$435,000
 - \$10,000 awarded to all LHD's in Ohio for equity specific training.
- Tobacco21 (T21) 8/01/2023-7/31/2025 - \$86,415
 - Two year grant through Interact for Health to support T21 program
 - Payments will be awarded twice a year
 - 8/29/2023-\$30,000
 - 12/30/2023-\$16,415
 - 6/30/2024-\$20,000
 - 9/30/2024-\$20,000

City of Middletown Budgetary Control Report

Period Ending September 6, 2023

Health & Environmental Fund	Current Year Appropriation	Supplements & Transfers	Carryover & Encumbrance	Total Appropriated	Month-to-Date Expenses	Year-to-Date Expenses	Balance	Encumbrance	Combined Encumbrance	Remaining Budget Percent
Personnel Services										
228.450.51110 Salaries & Wages	\$565,079.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$565,079.00	\$43,241.72	\$366,360.34	\$198,718.66	\$0.00	\$198,718.66	35.2%
228.450.51211 Pers	\$79,111.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$79,111.00	\$6,053.84	\$51,190.72	\$27,920.28	\$0.00	\$27,920.28	35.3%
228.450.51220 Worker's Compensation	\$22,603.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,603.00	\$0.00	\$947.18	\$21,655.82	\$21,655.82	\$0.00	0.0%
228.450.51230 Group Health Insurance	\$103,148.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$103,148.00	\$8,595.65	\$68,765.20	\$34,382.80	\$8,595.65	\$25,787.15	25.0%
228.450.51270 Medicare City Share	\$8,194.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,194.00	\$604.89	\$5,137.83	\$3,056.17	\$0.00	\$3,056.17	37.3%
228.450.51275 Life Insurance	\$1,899.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,899.00	\$152.10	\$1,368.90	\$530.10	\$0.00	\$530.10	27.9%
Personnel Services Totals	\$780,034.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$780,034.00	\$58,648.20	\$493,770.17	\$286,263.83	\$30,251.47	\$256,012.36	32.8%
Contractual Services										
228.450.52110 Travel & Training	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$1,202.25	\$2,313.10	\$1,686.90	\$0.00	\$1,686.90	42.2%
228.450.52111 Mandatory Training (Finance Chg.)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	-\$50.00	\$0.00	-\$50.00	0.0%
228.450.52120 Employee Mileage	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$293.76	\$1,596.39	\$1,403.61	\$0.00	\$1,403.61	46.8%
228.450.52222 Telephone Line Charges	\$5,640.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,640.00	\$43.98	\$3,190.11	\$2,449.89	\$0.00	\$2,449.89	43.4%
228.450.52310 Municipal Garage Charges	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$165.40	\$2,349.31	\$1,150.69	\$0.00	\$1,150.69	32.9%
228.450.52480 Other Professional Services	\$41,085.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41,085.00	\$710.89	\$9,282.37	\$31,802.63	\$0.00	\$31,802.63	69.2%
228.450.52481 Workforce Development Grant	\$33,398.00	\$0.00	\$8,086.69	\$41,484.69	\$2,120.00	\$19,173.01	\$22,311.68	\$18,967.95	\$3,343.73	4.7%
228.450.52488 Health Department COVID	\$121,000.00	\$0.00	\$14,625.00	\$135,625.00	\$3,249.96	\$10,623.06	\$125,001.94	\$19,385.00	\$105,616.94	77.9%
228.450.52490 Outside Printing	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$378.45	\$1,621.55	\$0.00	\$1,621.55	81.1%
228.450.52510 Maintenance of Equipment	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$1,889.08	\$5,083.64	\$2,916.36	\$0.00	\$2,916.36	36.5%
228.450.52820 Licenses & Permits	\$11,340.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,340.00	\$5,781.50	\$9,806.50	\$1,533.50	\$0.00	\$1,533.50	13.5%
228.450.52920 Memberships, Books & Periodicals	\$1,587.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,587.00	\$217.26	\$605.26	\$981.74	\$0.00	\$981.74	61.9%
Contractual Services Total	\$234,550.00	\$0.00	\$22,711.69	\$257,261.69	\$15,674.08	\$64,451.20	\$192,810.49	\$38,352.95	\$154,457.54	53.0%
Commodities										
228.450.53100 Office Supplies	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,577.61	\$922.39	\$0.00	\$922.39	36.9%
228.450.53210 Food	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$32.50	\$160.25	\$39.75	\$0.00	\$39.75	19.9%
228.450.53610 Small Tools & Equipment	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$182.08	\$17.92	\$0.00	\$17.92	9.0%
228.450.53710 Chemicals & Labs	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$5.95	\$81.67	\$418.33	\$0.00	\$418.33	83.7%
Commodities Total	\$3,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,400.00	\$38.45	\$2,001.61	\$1,398.39	\$0.00	\$1,398.39	41.1%
Capital Expenses										
228.450.54310 Auto Depreciation	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	\$436.00	\$3,488.00	\$1,312.00	\$0.00	\$1,312.00	27.3%
Capital Expenses Total	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	\$436.00	\$3,488.00	\$1,312.00	\$0.00	\$1,312.00	27.3%
Health Fund Year-to-Date Totals	\$1,022,784.00	\$0.00	\$22,711.69	\$1,045,495.69	\$74,796.73	\$563,710.98	\$481,784.71	\$68,604.42	\$413,180.29	38.3%

*Some Charges have not been loaded by Finance for this month. Expenses incurred in these areas will not be seen on this report and/or amounts represented may be from the previous month.

006 SEP 2023

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT
HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT ADMINISTRATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED September 06, 2023

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	CURRENT YEAR APPROP'S	SUPP. APP'S & TRANSFERS	CARRY-OVER ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL APPROPRIATED	MTD-EXPENSE	YTD-EXPENSE	UNEXP-BALANCE	ENCUMBRANCE	Combined Unencumbered Amount	REM-%
HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT ADMINISTRATION										
228.450.51110 SALARIES & WAGES	\$ 565,079.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 565,079.00	\$ 43,241.72	\$ 366,360.34	\$ 198,718.66	\$ 0.00	\$ 198,718.66	35.2%
228.450.51120 OVERTIME WAGES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.51211 PERS	79,111.00	0.00	0.00	79,111.00	6,053.84	51,190.72	27,920.28	0.00	27,920.28	35.3%
228.450.51220 WORKERS COMPENSATION	22,603.00	0.00	0.00	22,603.00	0.00	947.18	21,655.82	21,655.82	0.00	0.0%
228.450.51230 GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE	103,148.00	0.00	0.00	103,148.00	8,595.65	68,765.20	34,382.80	8,595.65	25,787.15	25.0%
228.450.51240 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.51270 MEDICARE-CITY SHARE	8,194.00	0.00	0.00	8,194.00	604.89	5,137.83	3,056.17	0.00	3,056.17	37.3%
228.450.51275 LIFE INSURANCE	1,899.00	0.00	0.00	1,899.00	152.10	1,368.90	530.10	0.00	530.10	27.9%
228.450.51290 EMPLOYEE AWARDS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
PERSONAL SERVICES	780,034.00	0.00	0.00	780,034.00	58,648.20	493,770.17	286,263.83	30,251.47	256,012.36	32.8%
228.450.52110 TRAVEL & TRAINING	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	1,202.25	2,313.10	1,686.90	0.00	1,686.90	42.2%
228.450.52111 MANDATORY TRAINING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	<50.00>	0.00	<50.00>	0.0%
228.450.52120 EMPLOYEE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	293.76	1,596.39	1,403.61	0.00	1,403.61	46.8%
228.450.52222 TELEPHONE LINE CHARGES - HEALTH A	5,640.00	0.00	0.00	5,640.00	43.98	3,190.11	2,449.89	0.00	2,449.89	43.4%
228.450.52230 POSTAGE AND POSTAL CHARGES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52310 MUNICIPAL GARAGE CHARGES	3,500.00	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	165.40	2,349.31	1,150.69	0.00	1,150.69	32.9%
228.450.52340 EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE RENTAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52410 LEGAL SERVICES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52420 MEDICAL SERVICE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52480 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	41,085.00	0.00	0.00	41,085.00	710.89	9,282.37	31,802.63	0.00	31,802.63	69.2%
228.450.52481 WORKFORCE GRANT CONTRACTUAL SERVI	33,398.00	0.00	8,086.69	41,484.69	2,120.00	19,173.01	22,311.68	18,967.95	3,343.73	4.7%
228.450.52482 SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52488 HEALTH DEPT COVID-19 EXPENSES	121,000.00	0.00	14,625.00	135,625.00	3,249.96	10,623.06	125,001.94	19,385.00	105,616.94	77.9%
228.450.52490 OUTSIDE PRINTING	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	378.45	1,621.55	0.00	1,621.55	81.1%
228.450.52510 MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT	8,000.00	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	1,889.08	5,083.64	2,916.36	0.00	2,916.36	36.5%
228.450.52680 MEDICAL LIABILITY INSURANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52820 LICENSES AND PERMITS	11,340.00	0.00	0.00	11,340.00	5,781.50	9,806.50	1,533.50	0.00	1,533.50	13.5%
228.450.52920 MEMBERSHIPS, BOOKS, PERIODICAL	1,587.00	0.00	0.00	1,587.00	217.26	605.26	981.74	0.00	981.74	61.9%
228.450.52930 PHOTO SUPPLIES & PROCESSING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52940 INDIGENT BURIALS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	234,550.00	0.00	22,711.69	257,261.69	15,674.08	64,451.20	192,810.49	38,352.95	154,457.54	53.0%
228.450.53100 OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00	1,577.61	922.39	0.00	922.39	36.9%
228.450.53101 SUPPLIES FOR HIV GRANT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.53102 HARM REDUCTION SUPPLIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.53210 FOOD	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	32.50	160.25	39.75	0.00	39.75	19.9%

[illegible]

06 SEP 2023

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT
HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT ADMINISTRATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED September 06, 2023

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	CURRENT YEAR	SUPP. APP'S	CARRY-OVER	TOTAL					Combined	
	APPROP'S	& TRANSFERS	ENCUMBRANCES	APPROPRIATED	MTD-EXPENSE	YTD-EXPENSE	UNEXP-BALANCE	ENCUMBRANCE	Unencumbered	REM-%
									Amount	
228.450.54310 AUTO & TRUCK DEPRECIATION	4,800.00	0.00	0.00	4,800.00	436.00	3,488.00	1,312.00	0.00	1,312.00	27.3%
228.450.54320 OFFICE MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.54360 OTHER EQUIPMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.54370 COMPUTER SOFTWARE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
CAPITAL	4,800.00	0.00	0.00	4,800.00	436.00	3,488.00	1,312.00	0.00	1,312.00	27.3%
TOTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION	1,022,784.00	0.00	22,711.69	1,045,495.69	74,796.73	563,710.98	481,784.71	68,604.42	413,180.29	38.3%
GRAND TOTAL FUND 228	1,022,784.00	0.00	22,711.69	1,045,495.69	74,796.73	563,710.98	481,784.71	68,604.42	413,180.29	38.3%

0

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44210

Account	Year	Month	Total Month	Total YTD
VITAL STATISTICS	2023	JANUARY	8211.78	8211.78
	2023	FEBRUARY	6931.82	15143.60
	2023	MARCH	15077.02	30220.62
	2023	APRIL	7890.19	38110.81
	2023	MAY	6572.04	44682.85
	2023	JUNE	7422.40	52105.25
	2023	JULY	7393.48	59498.73
	2023	AUGUST	7340.40	66839.13
	2022	JANUARY	9943.78	9943.78
	2022	FEBRUARY	12804.90	22748.68
	2022	MARCH	9988.38	32737.06
	2022	APRIL	7246.66	39983.72
	2022	MAY	12784.71	52768.43
	2022	JUNE	8441.08	61209.51
	2022	JULY	7882.86	69092.37
	2022	AUGUST	11438.70	80531.07
	2022	SEPTEMBER	7582.86	88113.93
	2022	OCTOBER	9745.86	97859.79
	2022	NOVEMBER	7424.42	105284.21
	2022	DECEMBER	8203.78	113487.99
	2021	JANUARY	10859.20	10859.20
	2021	FEBRUARY	8137.22	18996.42
	2021	MARCH	11431.46	30427.88
	2021	APRIL	13803.40	44231.28
	2021	MAY	8012.54	52243.82
	2021	JUNE	10141.38	62385.20
	2021	JULY	9711.26	72096.46
	2021	AUGUST	10607.62	82704.08
	2021	SEPTEMBER	8905.68	91609.76
	2021	OCTOBER	9698.06	101307.82
	2021	NOVEMBER	8431.80	109739.62
	2021	DECEMBER	9935.12	119674.74
	2020	JANUARY	10015.20	10015.20
	2020	FEBRUARY	9483.04	19498.24
	2020	MARCH	12877.27	32375.51
	2020	APRIL	4432.06	36807.57
	2020	MAY	5381.40	42188.97
	2020	JUNE	9390.42	51579.39
	2020	JULY	6208.34	57787.73
	2020	AUGUST	10881.84	68669.57
	2020	SEPTEMBER	9347.00	78016.57
	2020	OCTOBER	9432.98	87449.55
	2020	NOVEMBER	9382.42	96831.97
	2020	DECEMBER	9515.10	106347.07
	2019	JANUARY	8291.04	8291.04
	2019	FEBRUARY	8104.16	16395.20
	2019	MARCH	10480.58	26875.78
	2019	APRIL	8680.02	35555.80
	2019	MAY	8659.81	44215.61
	2019	JUNE	11201.45	55417.06
	2019	JULY	9050.64	64467.70

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44211

Account	Year	Month	Date 06 Sep 2023 Total Month	Total YTD
VITAL STATISTICS SHIPPING CHAR	2023	JANUARY	134.35	134.35
	2023	FEBRUARY	-203.92	-69.57
	2023	MARCH	173.00	103.43
	2023	APRIL	-124.85	-21.42
	2023	MAY	-134.30	-155.72
	2023	JUNE	38.30	-117.42
	2023	JULY	77.00	-40.42
	2023	AUGUST	-48.25	-88.67
	2022	JANUARY	53.60	53.60
	2022	FEBRUARY	138.15	191.75
	2022	MARCH	-27.05	164.70
	2022	APRIL	89.50	254.20
	2022	MAY	-134.45	119.75
	2022	JUNE	223.70	343.45
	2022	JULY	-184.21	159.24
	2022	AUGUST	-62.85	96.39
	2022	SEPTEMBER	45.05	141.44
	2022	OCTOBER	391.55	532.99
	2022	NOVEMBER	-316.50	216.49
	2022	DECEMBER	93.60	310.09
	2021	JANUARY	-3.10	-3.10
	2021	FEBRUARY	-49.80	-52.90
	2021	MARCH	43.60	-9.30
	2021	APRIL	107.90	98.60
	2021	MAY	-123.80	-25.20
	2021	JUNE	126.75	101.55
	2021	JULY	0.45	102.00
	2021	AUGUST	-103.75	-1.75
	2021	SEPTEMBER	58.15	56.40
	2021	OCTOBER	-90.20	-33.80
	2021	NOVEMBER	98.45	64.65
	2021	DECEMBER	6.70	71.35
	2020	JANUARY	80.10	80.10
	2020	FEBRUARY	43.55	123.65
	2020	MARCH	-3.10	120.55
	2020	APRIL	204.60	325.15
	2020	MAY	-260.40	64.75
	2020	JUNE	-131.75	-67.00
	2020	JULY	86.80	19.80
	2020	AUGUST	-68.20	-48.40
	2020	SEPTEMBER	15.50	-32.90
	2020	OCTOBER	35.85	2.95
	2020	NOVEMBER	-18.60	-15.65
	2020	DECEMBER	-94.55	-110.20
	2019	JANUARY	41.40	41.40
	2019	FEBRUARY	51.75	93.15
	2019	MARCH	-43.65	49.50
	2019	APRIL	25.50	75.00
	2019	MAY	-12.94	62.06
	2019	JUNE	116.25	178.31
	2019	JULY	44.10	222.41

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44215

Account	Year	Month	Total Month	Total YTD
PATERNITY AFFIDAVITS	2023	FEBRUARY	120.00	120.00
	2023	MAY	60.00	180.00
	2022	MARCH	80.00	80.00
	2022	JUNE	60.00	140.00
	2022	AUGUST	160.00	300.00
	2022	NOVEMBER	120.00	420.00
	2022	DECEMBER	20.00	440.00
	2021	FEBRUARY	160.00	160.00
	2021	MAY	40.00	200.00
	2021	DECEMBER	20.00	220.00
	2019	FEBRUARY	80.00	80.00
	2019	MAY	80.00	160.00
Total			1000.00	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44281

Account	Year	Month	Total Month	Total YTD
FSO RESTAURANT LICENSE	2023	JANUARY	848.00	848.00
	2023	FEBRUARY	35233.00	36081.00
	2023	MARCH	24797.19	60878.19
	2023	APRIL	1072.50	61950.69
	2023	MAY	863.00	62813.69
	2023	JUNE	2054.50	64868.19
	2023	JULY	3261.50	68129.69
	2023	AUGUST	736.50	68866.19
	2022	JANUARY	323.00	323.00
	2022	FEBRUARY	20502.50	20825.50
	2022	MARCH	15041.50	35867.00
	2022	APRIL	1560.25	37427.25
	2022	MAY	70.50	37497.75
	2022	JUNE	1211.50	38709.25
	2022	JULY	1972.50	40681.75
	2022	AUGUST	639.00	41320.75
	2022	SEPTEMBER	643.50	41964.25
	2022	OCTOBER	842.00	42806.25
	2022	NOVEMBER	405.00	43211.25
	2022	DECEMBER	900.00	44111.25
	2021	JANUARY	199.36	199.36
	2021	FEBRUARY	28067.00	28266.36
	2021	MARCH	23096.00	51362.36
	2021	APRIL	3939.50	55301.86
	2021	MAY	1834.50	57136.36
	2021	JUNE	1677.00	58813.36
	2021	JULY	3537.50	62350.86
	2021	AUGUST	1640.00	63990.86
	2021	SEPTEMBER	946.00	64936.86
	2021	OCTOBER	545.00	65481.86
	2021	NOVEMBER	674.00	66155.86
	2021	DECEMBER	567.00	66722.86
	2020	JANUARY	795.00	795.00
	2020	FEBRUARY	40896.32	41691.32
	2020	MARCH	17632.75	59324.07
	2020	APRIL	983.50	60307.57
	2020	MAY	542.50	60850.07
	2020	JUNE	507.00	61357.07
	2020	JULY	1367.00	62724.07
	2020	AUGUST	1470.00	64194.07
	2020	SEPTEMBER	806.00	65000.07
	2020	OCTOBER	-570.00	64430.07
	2020	NOVEMBER	934.00	65364.07
	2020	DECEMBER	1249.64	66613.71
	2019	JANUARY	1179.00	1179.00
	2019	FEBRUARY	36346.50	37525.50
	2019	MARCH	23426.25	60951.75
	2019	APRIL	817.50	61769.25
	2019	MAY	1609.50	63378.75
	2019	JUNE	1004.00	64382.75
	2019	JULY	1029.50	65412.25

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44282

Account	Year	Month	Total Month	Total YTD
FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE	2023	JANUARY	300.00	300.00
	2023	FEBRUARY	13216.00	13516.00
	2023	MARCH	8676.75	22192.75
	2023	APRIL	482.50	22675.25
	2023	MAY	1302.00	23977.25
	2023	JUNE	2586.00	26563.25
	2023	JULY	592.00	27155.25
	2023	AUGUST	723.00	27878.25
	2022	FEBRUARY	12010.00	12010.00
	2022	MARCH	3381.00	15391.00
	2022	APRIL	166.00	15557.00
	2022	MAY	300.00	15857.00
	2022	SEPTEMBER	84.00	15941.00
	2022	NOVEMBER	300.00	16241.00
	2022	DECEMBER	471.00	16712.00
	2021	FEBRUARY	12292.00	12292.00
	2021	MARCH	11461.00	23753.00
	2021	APRIL	391.00	24144.00
	2021	JUNE	421.50	24565.50
	2021	JULY	531.25	25096.75
	2021	AUGUST	717.00	25813.75
	2021	SEPTEMBER	185.00	25998.75
	2021	OCTOBER	370.00	26368.75
	2021	DECEMBER	323.00	26691.75
	2020	JANUARY	234.00	234.00
	2020	FEBRUARY	16938.00	17172.00
	2020	MARCH	7535.00	24707.00
	2020	APRIL	991.00	25698.00
	2020	JUNE	95.00	25793.00
	2020	SEPTEMBER	767.00	26560.00
	2020	OCTOBER	673.00	27233.00
	2020	NOVEMBER	580.00	27813.00
2020	DECEMBER	185.00	27998.00	
2019	FEBRUARY	17873.00	17873.00	
2019	MARCH	6261.75	24134.75	
2019	APRIL	300.00	24434.75	
2019	MAY	185.00	24619.75	
2019	JULY	150.00	24769.75	
2019	SEPTEMBER	452.00	25221.75	
2019	OCTOBER	374.00	25595.75	
2019	NOVEMBER	335.00	25930.75	
Total			125210.75	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44280

Account	Year	Month	Total Month	Total YTD
VENDING LICENSE	2023	FEBRUARY	611.49	611.49
	2023	MARCH	37.06	648.55
	2023	JUNE	37.06	685.61
	2022	FEBRUARY	51.96	51.96
	2022	MARCH	571.56	623.52
	2021	JANUARY	34.64	34.64
	2021	FEBRUARY	17.32	51.96
	2021	MARCH	629.52	681.48
	2021	APRIL	-23.32	658.16
	2020	FEBRUARY	617.52	617.52
	2020	MARCH	17.32	634.84
	2019	FEBRUARY	629.00	629.00
	2019	MARCH	106.25	735.25
Total			3337.38	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44284

Account	Year	Month	Total Month	Total YTD
FOOD SAFETY CLASSES	2023	MARCH	210.00	210.00
	2021	OCTOBER	60.00	60.00
	2020	MARCH	150.00	150.00
	2019	JANUARY	300.00	300.00
	2019	MARCH	120.00	420.00
	2019	MAY	90.00	510.00
	2019	JULY	30.00	540.00
	2019	AUGUST	30.00	570.00
Total			990.00	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44283

Account	Year	Month	Date 06 Sep 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE	2023	JANUARY	2337.50	2337.50
	2023	FEBRUARY	205.00	2542.50
	2023	MARCH	155.00	2697.50
	2023	APRIL	47.23	2744.73
	2022	JANUARY	1361.25	1361.25
	2022	MARCH	802.98	2164.23
	2022	MAY	130.00	2294.23
	2022	JUNE	120.00	2414.23
	2022	SEPTEMBER	287.05	2701.28
	2022	OCTOBER	100.00	2801.28
	2022	DECEMBER	1940.00	4741.28
	2021	JANUARY	1730.00	1730.00
	2021	FEBRUARY	1180.00	2910.00
	2021	MARCH	295.00	3205.00
	2021	APRIL	2742.56	5947.56
	2021	MAY	15.00	5962.56
	2021	JULY	65.00	6027.56
	2021	AUGUST	180.00	6207.56
	2021	SEPTEMBER	3324.45	9532.01
	2021	OCTOBER	-74.00	9458.01
	2021	NOVEMBER	406.00	9864.01
	2021	DECEMBER	1750.00	11614.01
	2020	JANUARY	6583.25	6583.25
	2020	FEBRUARY	3840.00	10423.25
	2020	MARCH	3190.28	13613.53
	2020	APRIL	2075.00	15688.53
	2020	MAY	340.00	16028.53
	2020	JUNE	1315.00	17343.53
	2020	JULY	180.00	17523.53
	2020	AUGUST	140.00	17663.53
	2020	SEPTEMBER	156.62	17820.15
	2020	DECEMBER	1340.00	19160.15
	2019	JANUARY	2530.25	2530.25
	2019	FEBRUARY	476.25	3006.50
	2019	APRIL	188.75	3195.25
	2019	MAY	15.00	3210.25
	2019	JUNE	45.00	3255.25
	2019	AUGUST	240.00	3495.25
	2019	SEPTEMBER	208.25	3703.50
	2019	OCTOBER	2450.00	6153.50
	2019	NOVEMBER	4995.00	11148.50
	2019	DECEMBER	8935.00	20083.50
Total			58343.67	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44285

Account	Year	Month	Date 06 Sep 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
SWIMMING POOL/SPA	2023	APRIL	3160.00	3160.00
	2023	MAY	2560.00	5720.00
	2023	JULY	-220.00	5500.00
	2022	APRIL	3920.00	3920.00
	2022	MAY	1829.00	5749.00
	2022	JUNE	275.00	6024.00
	2022	JULY	283.00	6307.00
	2021	APRIL	3700.00	3700.00
	2021	MAY	1945.00	5645.00
	2020	APRIL	2320.00	2320.00
	2020	MAY	660.00	2980.00
	2020	JUNE	1985.00	4965.00
	2020	JULY	440.00	5405.00
	2020	AUGUST	220.00	5625.00
	2019	APRIL	4440.00	4440.00
	2019	MAY	1545.00	5985.00
Total			29062.00	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44286

Account	Year	Month	Total Month	Total YTD
TATTOO LICENSE	2023	JANUARY	562.50	562.50
	2022	JANUARY	562.50	562.50
	2022	JUNE	250.00	812.50
	2022	DECEMBER	1500.00	2312.50
	2021	JANUARY	1000.00	1000.00
	2021	JULY	250.00	1250.00
	2021	NOVEMBER	500.00	1750.00
	2021	DECEMBER	750.00	2500.00
	2020	JANUARY	812.50	812.50
	2020	AUGUST	250.00	1062.50
	2020	DECEMBER	500.00	1562.50
	2019	JANUARY	1250.00	1250.00
	2019	DECEMBER	750.00	2000.00
Total			8937.50	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44287

Account	Year	Month	Date 06 Sep 2023 Total Month	Total YTD
PARK/CAMPS LICENSE FEES	2023	APRIL	163.00	163.00
	2022	MARCH	100.00	100.00
	2022	APRIL	113.00	213.00
	2021	APRIL	213.00	213.00
	2020	APRIL	100.00	100.00
	2020	MAY	113.00	213.00
	2019	APRIL	100.00	100.00
Total			902.00	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44225

Account	Year	Month	Total Month	Total YTD
IMMUNIZATION CLINICS	2022	MARCH	1200.00	1200.00
	2022	DECEMBER	3000.00	4200.00
	2021	DECEMBER	3000.00	3000.00
	2020	DECEMBER	3000.00	3000.00
	2019	JANUARY	40.00	40.00
	2019	FEBRUARY	150.00	190.00
	2019	MARCH	300.00	490.00
	2019	APRIL	20.00	510.00
	2019	JULY	40.00	550.00
	2019	OCTOBER	3000.00	3550.00
Total			13750.00	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.43370

Account	Year	Month	Date 06 Sep 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEV GR	2023	MARCH	35650.42	35650.42
	2023	JULY	39310.05	74960.47
	2022	JUNE	47808.32	47808.32
	2022	SEPTEMBER	26792.77	74601.09
	2022	DECEMBER	30438.44	105039.53

Total

180000.00

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.43368

Account	Year	Month	Total Month	Total YTD
COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING GRANT	2023	MARCH	6538.40	6538.40
	2023	JULY	22002.50	28540.90
	2022	JANUARY	98050.00	98050.00
	2022	MAY	52157.10	150207.10
	2021	OCTOBER	9282.75	9282.75
	2020	AUGUST	19071.07	19071.07
	2020	OCTOBER	66715.14	85786.21
	2020	NOVEMBER	49304.97	135091.18
	2020	DECEMBER	32856.00	167947.18
	Total			355977.93

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.43367

Account	Year	Month	Total Month	Total YTD
COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE GRANT	2023	MAY	65649.94	65649.94
	2023	JUNE	49788.45	115438.39
	2023	JULY	9561.61	125000.00
	2022	MARCH	24022.00	24022.00
	2021	JANUARY	8990.39	8990.39
	2021	FEBRUARY	20000.00	28990.39
	2021	MARCH	5000.00	33990.39
	2021	AUGUST	18459.61	52450.00
	2021	SEPTEMBER	229857.75	282307.75
	2021	OCTOBER	-9282.75	273025.00
	2021	NOVEMBER	98382.00	371407.00
	2020	AUGUST	14903.27	14903.27
	2020	SEPTEMBER	10268.82	25172.09
	2020	OCTOBER	37951.91	63124.00
	2020	DECEMBER	235997.00	299121.00
	Total			819550.00

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.43330

Account	Year	Month	Date 06 Sep 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
STATE HEALTH SUBSIDY	2023	FEBRUARY	20100.36	20100.36
	2023	MARCH	9329.20	29429.56
	2022	MAY	9333.70	9333.70
	2021	APRIL	9135.25	9135.25
	2020	MARCH	9135.25	9135.25
	2019	JULY	9135.25	9135.25
Total			66169.01	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.49100

Account	Year	Month	Date 06 Sep 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
REIMBURSEMENTS	2023	JANUARY	7756.78	7756.78
	2023	MARCH	3314.59	11071.37
	2023	APRIL	3622.37	14693.74
	2023	MAY	8046.96	22740.70
	2023	JUNE	18195.00	40935.70
	2023	JULY	11.74	40947.44
	2023	AUGUST	288.59	41236.03
	2022	JANUARY	451.92	451.92
	2022	FEBRUARY	775.00	1226.92
	2022	MARCH	12263.09	13490.01
	2022	APRIL	56288.07	69778.08
	2022	MAY	4509.89	74287.97
	2022	JUNE	22525.43	96813.40
	2022	SEPTEMBER	20564.64	117378.04
	2022	OCTOBER	3964.75	121342.79
	2022	DECEMBER	15386.55	136729.34
	2021	JANUARY	250.00	250.00
	2021	FEBRUARY	1667.10	1917.10
	2021	MARCH	11270.58	13187.68
	2021	APRIL	134.34	13322.02
	2021	MAY	3685.00	17007.02
	2021	JUNE	46169.56	63176.58
	2021	JULY	2325.00	65501.58
	2021	AUGUST	8990.39	74491.97
	2021	SEPTEMBER	19569.42	94061.39
	2021	OCTOBER	1935.97	95997.36
	2021	NOVEMBER	1800.00	97797.36
	2021	DECEMBER	69141.70	166939.06
	2020	FEBRUARY	9708.10	9708.10
	2020	MARCH	33887.93	43596.03
	2020	MAY	8285.37	51881.40
	2020	JULY	10493.82	62375.22
	2020	AUGUST	6512.59	68887.81
	2020	SEPTEMBER	26994.04	95881.85
	2020	OCTOBER	3943.65	99825.50
	2020	NOVEMBER	8662.57	108488.07
	2020	DECEMBER	25465.01	133953.08
	2019	JANUARY	580.00	580.00
	2019	FEBRUARY	1515.48	2095.48
	2019	MAY	1578.76	3674.24
	2019	JULY	24524.57	28198.81
	2019	AUGUST	1336.04	29534.85
	2019	OCTOBER	43347.25	72882.10
	2019	NOVEMBER	348.39	73230.49
	2019	DECEMBER	3241.04	76471.53

Total

555329.04

INTERACT FOR HEALTH GRANT AGREEMENT

1. Grant Award and Purpose:

Interact for Health ("Grantor") looks forward to working with City of Middletown Health Department ("Grantee"), which is operating under Federal Tax Identification Number: 31-6000139, on the project Tobacco21 to implement and enforce the state of Ohio Tobacco 21 policy through a Tobacco Retailer License program in the City of Middletown ("Grant Purpose"). Subject to the terms and restrictions listed below, Grantor wishes to award the Grantee \$86,415 over a 24-month period from 08/01/2023 to 07/31/2025. As outlined in the application, the funding will be used for the following objectives and outcomes:

Objectives:

- Develop tobacco retailer licensing (TRL) program in the City of Middletown.
- Implement TRL program in the City of Middletown.
- Educate all tobacco retailers in the City of Middletown about the TRL program.
- Educate youth and the public on the TRL Program in the City of Middletown.
- Gather data to assess and track TRL policy compliance.

Outcomes:

- Increased knowledge of TRL policy by businesses impacted and/or tobacco retailers.
- Increased public knowledge of the TRL policy.
- Increased compliance by tobacco retailers.
- Decreased access to tobacco by youth and young adults.

Changes to the Grant Purpose must be submitted as a grant variance and approved in advance (details in Section 6).

2. Financial Information

Payments

The first Grant installment will be paid on a date requested by Grantee after submission to the Grantor of an executed and fully completed copy of this Grant Agreement. Subject to the terms of this Grant Agreement, subsequent quarterly installments will be paid according to the schedule below. This grant is unconditional but must be spent in accordance with the restrictions outlined in Section 1. The outlined restrictions are not meant to create barriers for the grantee to overcome to receive grant funds. Payment of subsequent Grant installments will be contingent upon the Grantor's sole satisfaction that Grantee is in compliance with the terms of this Grant Agreement. Payments will be made on the following schedule:

Date	Amount
8/29/2023	\$30,000
12/30/2023	\$16,415
6/30/2024	\$20,000
9/30/2024	\$20,000

Changes to the payment schedule must be submitted as a grant variance and approved in advance (details in Section 6).

Budget

The following budget has been agreed to:

Expense	Amount
Salaries and Benefits	\$47,000
Consultants	
Equipment and Supplies	\$14,800
Project-Related Travel	\$500
Project-Related Meeting Costs	
Other (compliance check costs)	\$20,000
Indirect	\$4,115
Total	\$86,415

Adjustments of budget under \$13,000 may be made by Grantee without Grantor's approval. Other changes must be submitted as a grant variance and approved in advance (details in Section 6).

Should there be any unused funds over \$5,000 following fulfillment of the Grant Purpose, these unused funds will be promptly returned to Grantor. Any credit interest or earnings from grant funds may be directly applied to the grant project.

Although the grant funds need not be physically segregated into a separate bank account, Grantee will keep the financial records with respect to the grant for at least four years following the year in which all grant funds are fully expended and provide this information to Grantor upon request.

3. Grant Conditions

To continue receiving payments, Grantee must:

- Maintain its status as an organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 ("Code") and classified as a public charity under Code Section 509(a)(1), (2) or (3) and have no issues before the IRS regarding proposed changes to this status.
- Confirm that accepting Grant funds from the Grantor will not jeopardize Grantee's classification under Code Section 509(a)(1) or (2).
- Acknowledge that Interact for Health is exempt from federal income tax under Code Section 501(c)(4). Thus, it is possible that the Grant from the Grantor can adversely affect the Grantee's classification under Code Section 509(a)(1) or (2). More information can be found [here](#).
- Agree **not** to use the funds for the following activities:
 - To attempt to influence the outcome of any election for public office.
 - To be directed to, or earmarked for, voter registration, lobbying activities, or other attempts to influence legislation.
 - To make grants to individuals or to other organizations that do not comply with the requirements of Section 4945(d)(3) or (4) of the Code.
 - To undertake any activities other than a charitable, educational or scientific purpose as those terms are used within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.
 - To recruit into a religious denomination or congregation.
 - To engage in terrorism, violence, or the destruction of any state, nor will it make sub-grants to any person or entity that engages in these activities, per the USA Patriot Act and various executive orders.

- Not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or religious affiliation, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, disability, or genetic information.
- Protect any personal health information reviewed or collected as part of the Grant, in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and Institutional Review Board requirements.
- Comply with all provisions of this Grant Agreement.

4. Learning, Reporting and Other Requirements

Learning and evaluation help us to keep a line of sight on our big goals while assessing the impact of our work, testing hypotheses and evolving plans along the way. We value learning alongside our grantees.

Grantee agrees to the following:

- At the beginning of the grant, partner with the Grantor to discuss learning and evaluation plans and thought partnership/technical assistance needs, if any.
- Submit a final report at the end of the grant.
- Participate in periodic learning meetings (annual at minimum) with Grantor staff and/or external consultants.
- Participate in shared learning and evaluation activities (e.g., learning networks, grantee groups or third-party external evaluations commissioned by Grantor).
- Obtain Human Subjects Review for the project, if applicable.
- Provide any other information reasonably requested by the Grantor.

5. Required Notifications

Grantee will immediately notify Grantor in writing of the following:

- Any changes to its status as recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.
- Its inability to expend the grant funds for the purposes described in section 1.
- Any expenditure from this grant made for any purpose other than those described in section 1.
- Change of the following personnel:
 - Chief Executive Officer, Jackie Carter
 - Grant Project Officer, currently Carla Ealy
- If any staff support or sources of funding are withdrawn from the project for which the grant was awarded, or if sources of revenue anticipated by the grant objectives are not pursued.

6. Communications

Interact for Health will work with your organization to share news of the grant award, results and other communications activities. Grantee will recognize Grantor's support of this project in all communication related to this project. Specific guidelines and contacts can be found [here](#).

7. If You Find Need to Change the Terms of the Project:

If you find the need to adjust the purpose of the grant or length of the grant (section 1) or budget or payment schedule (section 2), written agreement is required. Please contact Megan Folkerth, who will initiate a form in the grants portal for you to provide the details of your request.

8. The Fine Print:

Other considerations for the project:

- Intellectual Property: Any materials, including intellectual property, created from this project will be owned by the Grantee. However, Grantor has a license to use products developed from the

grant. Grantor does not grant to Grantee any ownership in, or license to, any pre-existing work product or intellectual property provided to Grantee by Grantor.

- Direct Services: Grantee will not use grant funds for the payment of direct services (i.e. to replace health insurance) for individuals.
- Data Dissemination: In order to maximize the dissemination of useful data and information, Grantee will work with Grantor to make any data and information resulting from the grant and evaluations available to the public.

9. Term and Termination

This grant agreement will continue until 07/31/2025 and may be extended by written agreement of the parties, unless terminated under any of the following circumstances:

- The insolvency, receivership, bankruptcy filing, or dissolution of Grantee.
- A breach of this grant agreement by the Grantee, unless such breach is waived in writing.
- Upon Grantee providing written notice to Grantor.

10. Miscellaneous

- This Agreement and any attachments constitute the entire Grant Agreement and understanding of the parties with respect to the Grant, and supersede all prior agreements, arrangements and understandings.
- This Grant Agreement may be amended only in writing and signed by both parties.
- This Grant Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio without reference to conflict-of-laws principles. Any action or proceeding related to this Grant Agreement must be brought in the federal, state or local courts, as applicable, in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Any of the terms and conditions of this Grant Agreement may be waived from time to time, in writing, by the benefited party, without affecting any other terms and conditions of this Grant Agreement. The waiver by either party of a breach of any provision of this Grant Agreement will not operate as a waiver of any subsequent breach.
- The invalidity or unenforceability of any term or provision of this Grant Agreement will not affect the validity or enforceability of any of the remaining terms or provisions.
- This Grant Agreement will be binding upon, inure to the benefit of, and be enforceable by, the respective successors and permitted assignees of the parties.
- This Grant Agreement may not be assigned by Grantee, whether by operation of law or otherwise, without the written consent of the Grantor.
- Nothing contained in this Grant Agreement will create or be deemed to create a partnership, joint venture, agency or any relationship other than independent contractors between the Grantor and the Grantee. The Grantor will neither have nor exercise any control over the means or method by which the Grantee accomplishes the purposes of the Grant or carries out its duties under this Grant Agreement.
- All notices to the parties will, unless otherwise notified in writing be sent to the following addresses:

If to the Grantor: Interact for Health
 ATTN: Kate Schroder
 8230 Montgomery Rd Ste 300
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

If to the Grantee:

City of Middletown Health Department
ATTN: Jackie Carter
1 Donham Plaza
Middletown, OH 45042

11. Signatures

INTERACT FOR HEALTH

By: 

Title: President & CEO

Date: 08/18/2023

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT

By: 

Title: Health Commissioner

Date: 08/25/2023



From the City of Middletown Health Department
Middletown, Ohio

A Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

Memorandum

Date: August 28, 2023

To: Tobacco Retail Establishments

From: City of Middletown Health Department

Subject: Tobacco21 Retail Licensing

Please see the enclosed FAQ for the Tobacco Retail Licensing Program. All tobacco retailers must obtain a valid retail license by January 1, 2024. If you have questions or concerns, please contact our office at 513-425-1818

Thank you,
Carla R. Ealy, REHS
carlae@cityofmiddletown.org
513-425-1818

City of Middletown Tobacco Retail License

Frequently Asked Questions for Retailers

1. What is a Tobacco Retail License (TRL)? When does Tobacco 21 enforcement start in The City of Middletown
 - On November 8, 2022 the City of Middletown Board of Health adopted the TRL Ordinance. Enforcement begins on January 1, 2024. Prior to this date, all tobacco retailers operating within the City of Middletown are required to have obtained a TRL through the City of Middletown Health Department to continue selling tobacco products and/or tobacco paraphernalia.
2. How much is the license fee for the City of Middletown?
 - The *annual* cost is \$250.00
3. What is the license year?
 - The TRL year is January 1ST - December 31st. The license renewal period begins in November and extends through December 31st each year.
4. Are there any specific requirements or standards for the signage (color, poster size, font size, location of postage; etc.)? If so, will you provide any signage for posting?
 - After your application is approved and all licensing fees are paid, the health department will mail you your license and appropriate signage.
 - Licenses must be posted and displayed in a conspicuous location at all times in plain view of the general public.
 - Every tobacco retailer is required to display the provided signage within six feet of each register where tobacco products are available for purchase.
5. What can I expect during a Compliance Check/Inspection?
 - Both the Tobacco Retail License and Tobacco 21 signage must always be clearly visible and signage within six feet at the location where tobacco products are being sold or distributed. Two compliance checks may be conducted each year; one Underage Buy Attempt and one signage check at each tobacco retail location. Noncompliant vendors are subject to enforcement measures, which may include an advisory letter, retailer education, fines and license revocation.

6. Do I need to purchase both the “Cigarette Dealer’s License” and the City of Middletown Tobacco Retail License?
- You will need to pay for both the state tobacco license through the Ohio Department of Taxation and a Tobacco Retailer License from the City of Middletown Health Department. These are two separate licenses that you will have to purchase if you want to continue to sell tobacco products in Ohio and Middletown.
7. What is the difference between Ohio’s T21policy and Middletown’s T21Policy?
- As of October 17, 2019, it is illegal to give, sell, or otherwise distribute cigarettes, other tobacco products, or alternative nicotine products like e-cigarette/vaping products to any person under the age of 21. Additional details can be found at: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/tobacco-use-prevention-and-cessation/tobacco-21>
 - City of Middletown's policy took effect on November 08, 2022. Enforcement will begin on January 1, 2024, through regular compliance checks.
8. How can I get more information?
- Call the City of Middletown Health Department at (513) 425-1818
 - Send an email to carlae@cityofmiddletown.org
 - information on how to apply will be posted on the Health Department’s web site in November

How to reduce tobacco retailer density and why

Distributed by:
City of Middletown Health
Department

These policy solutions can be implemented in most communities through local regulation, such as tobacco retailer licensing or changes to zoning restrictions.



HEALTH: When more tobacco retailers are located in a given area, residents' health suffers. Youth are more likely to start smoking. People who smoke consume more cigarettes per day and have a harder time quitting.



EQUITY: Tobacco retailers cluster in neighborhoods with a high percentage of low-income residents or residents of color. These communities are targeted by tobacco companies, and they disproportionately suffer the health harms caused by tobacco use.

Local Tobacco Retailers



Cap the number of retailers in a geographic area

Example: There can be no more than 15 stores* per district.



Cap the number of retailers relative to population size

Example: There can be no more than 1 store* per 1,000 residents.



Require a minimum distance between retailers

Example: Stores cannot locate within 1,000 ft of an existing store.



Prohibit retailers from locating near schools and other youth-sensitive areas

Example: Stores cannot locate within 1,000 ft of a school or playground.



Prohibit sales of tobacco products at pharmacies or other types of retailers

Example: Pharmacies cannot be licensed to sell tobacco products.

* Numbers will vary by community.

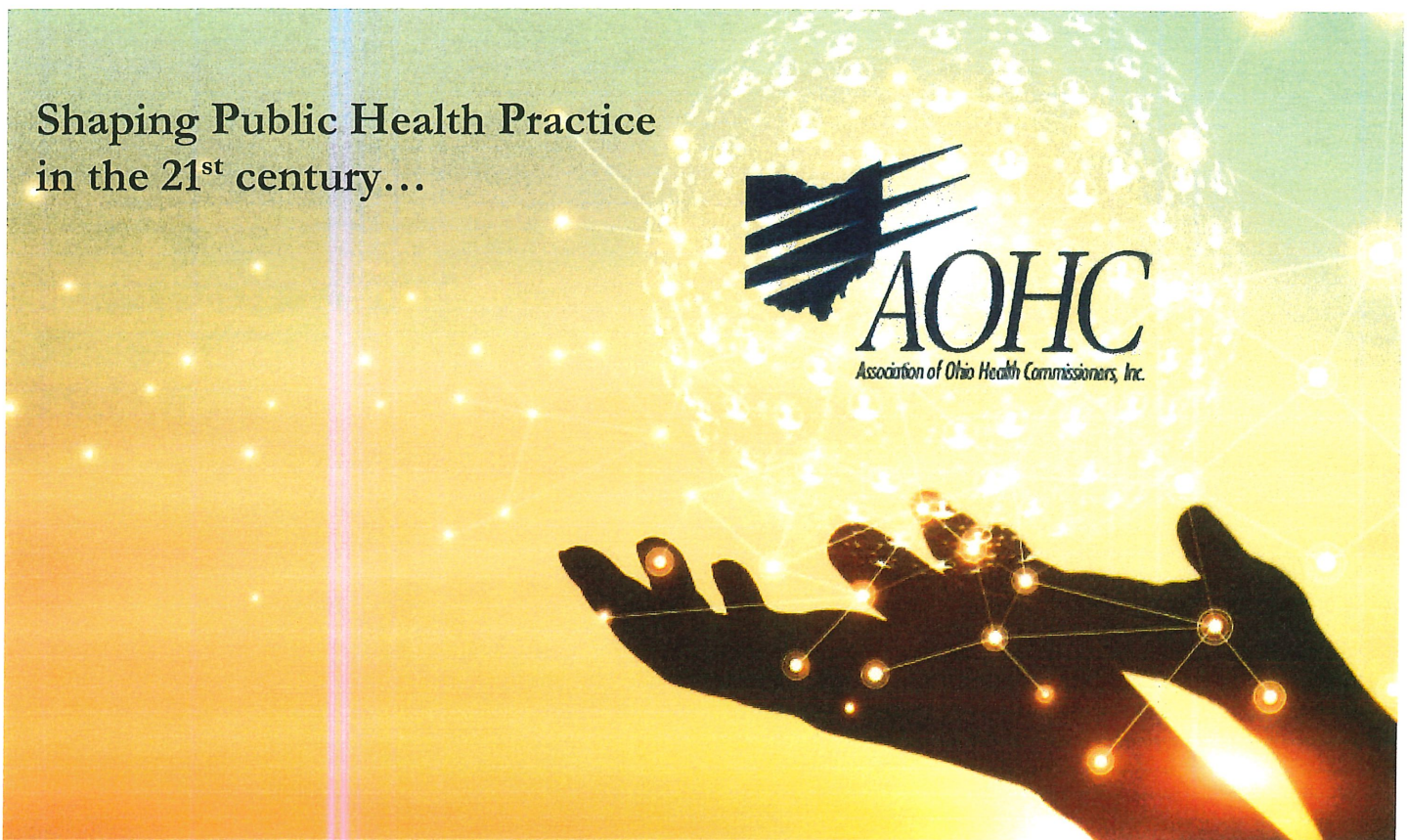
City of Middletown Health Department

Travel Request

2023 AOHC Fall Conference

Jackie Phillips Carter, Carla Ealy and Dr. Jennewine will be attending the AOHC Fall Conference. The conference is September 13th-15th in Dublin, Ohio. The overall objective of this conference is to update Ohio's public health professionals on current and potential future challenges to the practice of public health, including workforce trends, climate change, changing population demographics and changing public and political expectations and support.

Total budgeted costs for all three attendees: \$2,011 (*see breakdown on attachments*)



[2023 Per Diem Rates | GSA](#)

City of Middletown
Request for Business Related Travel

Request No.....: 16470
Date Submitted.....: 08-15-23
Official or Employee Name...: DR. PAUL JENNEWINE
Title or Position.....: MEDICAL DIRECTOR
Department.....: HEALTH
Meeting Sponsored by.....: AOHC
Purpose of Meeting or Trip..: TRAINING
(M)andatory/(D)iscretionary.: M
City Where Meeting Held.....: DUBLIN
State Where Meeting Held....: OHIO
Dates of Meeting - From: 09-13-23 to 09-15-23
Dates Leave Requested - From: 09-13-23 to 09-15-23

VEHICLE INFORMATION (if City vehicle is to be used)

Number of Vehicle.....: 0
Vehicle to be Occupied by...: 0

ESTIMATED COSTS OF TRIP:

Registration...:	200.00
Transportation:	128.25
Lodging.....:	284.00
Rental Car.....:	0.00
Meals.....:	58.00
Miscellaneous.:	0.00
Amount of Advance Requested:	186.25

===== ACCOUNTS TO BE CHARGED =====

Account Code	Description	Available	Amount
228.450.52110	TRAVEL & TRAINING	2889.15	670.25

APPROVAL:

=====

User	Title	Date Approved
Jackie Phillips	Health Commissioner	

COMMENTS:

City of Middletown
Request for Business Related Travel

Request No.....: 16469
Date Submitted.....: 08-15-23
Official or Employee Name...: CARLA EALY
Title or Position.....: ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR
Department.....: HEALTH
Meeting Sponsored by.....: AOHC
Purpose of Meeting or Trip..: TRAINING
(M)andatory/(D)iscretionary.: M
City Where Meeting Held.....: DUBLIN
State Where Meeting Held....: OHIO
Dates of Meeting - From: 09-13-23 to 09-15-23
Dates Leave Requested - From: 09-13-23 to 09-15-23

VEHICLE INFORMATION (if City vehicle is to be used)

Number of Vehicle.....: 0
Vehicle to be Occupied by....: 0

ESTIMATED COSTS OF TRIP:

Registration...:	200.00
Transportation:	128.25
Lodging.....:	284.00
Rental Car.....:	0.00
Meals.....:	58.00
Miscellaneous.:	0.00
Amount of Advance Requested:	58.00

===== ACCOUNTS TO BE CHARGED =====

Account Code	Description	Available	Amount
228.450.52110	TRAVEL & TRAINING	2889.15	670.25

APPROVAL:

User	Title	Date Approved
Jackie Phillips	Health Commissioner	

COMMENTS:

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
Request for Business Related Travel

Request No.....: 16468
Date Submitted.....: 08-15-23
Official or Employee Name...: JACKIE PHILLIPS CARTER
Title or Position.....: HEALTH COMMISSIONER
Department.....: HEALTH
Meeting Sponsored by.....: AOHC
Purpose of Meeting or Trip...: TRAINING
(M)andatory/(D)iscretionary.: M
City Where Meeting Held.....: DUBLIN
State Where Meeting Held.....: OHIO
Dates of Meeting - From: 09-13-23 to 09-15-23
Dates Leave Requested - From: 09-13-23 to 09-15-23

VEHICLE INFORMATION (if City vehicle is to be used)

Number of Vehicle.....: 0
Vehicle to be Occupied by....: 0

ESTIMATED COSTS OF TRIP:

Registration...	200.00	
Transportation:	128.25	
Lodging.....:	284.00	
Rental Car.....:	0.00	
Meals.....:	58.00	
Miscellaneous..:	0.00	
Amount of Advance Requested:		58.00

===== ACCOUNTS TO BE CHARGED =====

Account Code	Description	Available	Amount
228.450.52110	TRAVEL & TRAINING	2889.15	670.25

APPROVAL:

User	Title	Date Approved
Jackie Phillips	Health Commissioner	

COMMENTS:

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Shaping Public Health Practice in the 21st Century

Overall conference objective: To update Ohio's public health professionals on current and potential future challenges to the practice of public health in the 21st century, including workforce trends, climate change, changing population demographics, and changing public and political expectations and support.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

4:00 - 7:00 PM	Registration
5:30 - 6:45 PM	Opening Night Reception
5:45 - 7:00 PM	AOHC Board Meeting
7:00 - 8:30 PM	Epidemiology and Emergency Response Night: <u>2022 Central Ohio Measles Outbreak</u> - Elizabeth Tiller, PA-C, MPH, CIC, Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at Columbus Public Health <u>Public Health Response to East Palestine Train Derailment</u> - Wes Vins, DPA, REHS, Health Commissioner, and Gretchen Nickell, DO, Medical Director, Columbiana County General Health District
8:30 - 8:45 PM	Evaluation
8:45 PM	Adjourn

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

7:30 AM	Registration
9:00 - 10:10 AM	AOHC Business Meeting Ballots Open at the end of this session.
10:10 - 10:15 AM	Welcome Melissa Howell, MS, MBA, MPH, RN, REHS, President, AOHC
10:15 - 10:45 AM	Update from the Ohio Department of Health Bruce Vanderhoff, MD, MBA, Director of Health, Ohio Department of Health
10:45 AM - 11:30 AM	Supporting the Public Health Workforce in the 21st Century Sara Patterson, MSW, Senior Advisor for Strategy and Programs, National Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Public Health Infrastructure and Workforce at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
11:30 AM - 12:15 PM	Meeting Ohio's Workforce Needs in the 21st Century Nichole Fifer, PhD, Director, Center for Regional Development, Bowling Green State University; Lauri White, Ed.D., Associate Vice Chancellor, Workforce Engagement, Ohio Department of Higher Education
12:15 - 12:30 PM	Break or View Exhibits
12:30 - 1:15 PM	Lunch New Health Commissioners Luncheon (Health Commissioners with less than 2 years of experience are encouraged to attend) Local Public Health Services Collaborative Board of Managers Meeting/Lunch Medical Directors Luncheon
1:15 PM - 1:45 PM	Break or View Exhibits

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

1:45 - 3:00 PM **Concurrent Sessions**

A. Public Health System Transformation - 21st Century Learning Community (21C) Update

Reena Chudgar, MPH, Director, Public Health Systems and Services; Melissa Sever, MPH, Senior Advisor, Public Health Systems and Services, Public Health Accreditation Board

B. Best Practices in Ohio's Opioid Battle- Past, Present, and Future

Panel: Sara Morman, Violence Injury Prevention Section Chief, Ohio Department of Health; Mahjida Steffin, Supervisor of Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction, Toledo Lucas County Health Department; Abby Spears, , Executive Director, Scioto Connect

C. An Environmental Public Health Smorgasbord

W. Gene Phillips, MPH, MBA, REHS, Chief, Bureau of Environmental Health & Radiation Protection, Ohio Department of Health

3:00 - 3:30 PM **Break or View Exhibits**

3:30 - 4:45 PM **Concurrent Sessions**

D. Fostering Employees' Professional Development

Moriah Robins, MPH, Research Officer, de Beaumont Foundation

E. Impacts of Climate Change on Ohioan's Health

Robyn Wilson, Environmental Health, OSU College of Food; Risa R. Pesapane, PhD, MS, Assistant Professor, OSU Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, CVM School of Environment and Natural Resources, CFAES

F. The Effect of Agriculture on Harmful Algal Blooms

Laura Johnson, PhD, Director, National Center for Water Quality Research, Heidelberg University

MEDICAL DIRECTOR UNIVERSITY

All Medical Directors are invited to attend

12:15 - 1:15 PM **Lunch and Networking**

1:15 - 2:30 PM Syphilis is Bigger Than Ever! – Clinical Panel Discussion

Panel: Mary McNeill, MPH, Bureau of HIV/STIs/ Viral Hepatitis, Ohio Department Of Health; Charles (Chuck) Miller, Bs Ed, Program Manager II, Sexual Health Promotion Wellness Services; Todd Rademaker, HIV/STD Program Supervisor, Hamilton County Public Health; Karla Imbus, PA-C, Physician Assistant at Health & Hospital Corp., Marion County Health Department

2:30 - 3:15 PM STD Prevention Communication and Involvement

Audrey South, PhD, MPP, Director, Sexual Health Promotion; Myles Bell, MA, Public Relations Specialist, Columbus Public Health

3:15 - 3:30 PM **Break**

3:30 - 4:15 PM Candida Auris Update

Stephen (Steve) Feagins, MD, MBA, FACP, Medical Director, Hamilton County Public Health; James (JP) Canner, PhD, Chief Scientific Officer, Laboratory Director, Gravity Diagnostics

4:15– 4:45 PM Creating Professional Networks as a Medical Director

Panel: Glen Seaman, MD, Medical Director, Williams County Health Department; Erika Sobolewski, DO, FAAFP, Medical Director, Summit County Public Health; Gerald E. Vallee, MD, Health Commissioner, Gallia County General Health District

4:45 - 5:00 PM **Evaluation**

5:30 - 6:45 PM **President's Reception (all registrants welcome!)**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

7:00 AM	Registration
7:20—8:50 AM	AOHC District Breakfast Concurrent Meetings <i>Northwest District - James Watkins, MPH, REHS (Williams); Northeast District - Krista Wasowski, MPH, MSW (Medina); Southeast District - Jack Pepper, REHS (Athens); Southwest District Charles Patterson, MPH, REHS (Clark); Central District - Chad Brown, MPH, REHS (Licking)</i>
9:05 - 10:20 AM	Public Health Implications of Ohio's Changing Demographics (TED Talks) Moderator - Teresa Long MD, MPH, Special Advisor for Community Engagement and Partnerships, College of Public Health, The Ohio State University The Aging Population and How It Will Be Changing with the Future <i>Ursel McElroy, MPA, Director, Ohio Department of Aging</i> Promoting Understanding and Action for Health Equity in Ohio: The Importance of Community Research Partnerships <i>Juliana Nemeth PhD, College of Public Health, Health Behavior and Health Promotion, The Ohio State University</i> Translating Public Health Data Analytics Into Practice: Examples From Community Health Workers, Schools And Local/State PH Partners <i>Ayaz Hyder PHD, College of Public Health, Environmental Health Sciences, The Ohio State University</i> Gun Violence: Linking Administrative And Community Data To Reduce Violence And Increase Successful Community Intervention <i>Gia Barboza-Salerno, JD PhD, College of Public Health, Health Behavior and Health Promotion, The Ohio State University</i>
10:20 - 10:30 AM	Break or View Exhibits
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	The Impact of Trauma and How Increasing Our Capacity to Mourn Supports Healing <i>Paige Hector, LMSW, Paige Ahead Healthcare Education & Consulting, LLC</i>
12:00 - 12:30 PM	View Exhibits Ballots Closed
12:30 - 1:30 PM	Lunch and Awards Ceremony Business Session
1:30 - 2:00 PM	AOHC Legislative Update <i>Melissa Howell, MS, MBA, MPH, RN, REHS, Health Commissioner, Greene County Public Health; Aaron Ockerman, BA, President, Ockerman Consulting</i>
2:00 - 3:30 PM	Health Policy Institute of Ohio Update and Dashboard <i>Amy Rohling McGee, MSW, President, Health Policy Institute of Ohio</i>
3:30 - 3:45 PM	Evaluation
3:45 PM	Adjourn

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Medical: This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint providership of the University of Cincinnati and the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners. The University of Cincinnati is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The University of Cincinnati designates this live activity for a maximum of **13.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™**. Physicians should claim only the credits commensurate with the extent of their participation.

The University of Cincinnati is committed to resolving all conflicts of interest issues that could arise as a result of prospective faculty members' relevant relationships with drug or device manufacturers. The University of Cincinnati is committed to maintaining only those speakers with financial interest that can be reconciled with the goals and educational integrity of the CME program.

Nursing: *AMA PRA Category Credit™* can be submitted to satisfy the nursing CE contact hours requirements.

Registered Environmental Health Specialists: Continuing education is being sought for Registered Environmental Health Specialists.

Licensed Dietician: Continuing education is being sought for Licensed Dieticians.

Certified Health Education Specialists: Continuing education is being sought for Certified Health Education Specialists.

ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SPONSORS

AOHC gratefully acknowledges the support of the following conference exhibitors and sponsors (confirmed at time of printing):

AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio—Sponsor
Burnham & Flower Insurance Group—Sponsor
Baldwin Wallace University
KUBRA
OH Insurance Services Agency, Inc.
The PublicHealthApp
Walden and Chamberlain Universities
Vector Disease Control International (VDCI)

COVID-19 ADVISORY

AOHC hopes to assure a safe environment for all conference participants. Masks will be available onsite at the conference. AOHC will continue to follow the recommendations from Franklin County Public Health as indicated.

AOHC Fall Conference Hotel Information

*****Room Block Deadline is: **August 23, 2023*******

Conference Hotel: Embassy Suites
5100 Upper Metro Place
Dublin, OH 43017

Conference Room Rate: \$142 Single/Double occupancy (plus applicable state and local taxes)

To make reservations: Call 1-800-220-9219 Group Code: AO2
or reserve your room through the AOHC/Embassy Suites website. Copy and paste this link into your browser:
<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/aohcannualconf23-ao2/>

Effective April 9, 2019, Embassy Suites Columbus-Dublin implemented a \$10.00 per night parking charge for our overnight guests. For all of our group room blocks we will be **WAIVING** the parking fee. Please note any guest that is not booked directly in the group's special rate plan code, the \$10.00 nightly parking fee will apply. All guests checking in to the hotel will receive a nightly parking pass.

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY! Travel assistance is provided by the CDC Workforce Development Grant. A maximum of \$200 per paying registrant is available for overnight stay OR mileage. To receive the hotel grant assistance your room must be booked at the Embassy Suite Dublin in the room block by August 23, 2023.

If you are not staying overnight in the hotel provided, mileage reimbursement is available 65.5 cents per mile. An expense form with mileage documentation will need to be submitted to AOHC. You may obtain the expense form at the registration desk.

DEADLINE FOR ROOM RATE IS MONDAY, AUGUST 23.

Directions to Embassy Suites Columbus-Dublin

From East:

Take I-70 West to I-270 North (toward Cleveland) to exit 17A. Go to first light (Frantz Road) and turn right. Take your first right onto Upper Metro Place. Hotel will be on your right.

From West:

Take I-70 East to I-270 North (toward Cleveland) to exit 17A. Go to first light (Frantz Road) and turn right. Take first right onto Upper Metro Place. Hotel will be on your right.

From South:

Take I-270 West (toward Dublin) to exit 17A. Go to first light (Frantz Road) and turn right. Take first right onto Upper Metro Place. Hotel will be on your right.

From North:

Take I-71 South to I-270 West (toward Dublin) to exit 17A. Go to first light (Frantz Road) and turn right. Take first right onto Upper Metro Place. Hotel will be on your right.



AOHC Fall Conference Registration Information

****Advance Registration Deadline is September 8, 2023****

Participant Information:

Name (as you want it to appear on badge): _____

Licensure/Certification (for CE purposes only): DO DVM LD MD RN RS CHES

Credentials & Title: _____

Organization Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email for registration confirmation: _____

Attendee email for evaluation link: _____

Special needs and/or dietary requirements: _____

Registration Fees (circle your choice):

	Advance Member*	Non-Member	After September 8 and Onsite Member*	Non-Member
Full Conference	\$200*	\$260	\$235*	\$295
One Day Only:				
Thurs only (9/14)	\$110*	\$170	\$145*	\$205
Fri only (9/15)	\$110*	\$170	\$145*	\$205

*The Member rate is applicable to all health commissioners and staff of AOHC member health districts, and state agency staff.

Total Amount Due: _____

Payment Method:

Check # _____ made payable to AOHC.

Purchase Order # _____ please attach.

I will attend the Opening Night Reception Wednesday evening: Yes ____ No ____

I will attend Medical Director University (MDU) on Thursday (Medical Directors only please): Yes ____ No ____

I will attend New Health Commissioner Lunch on Thursday (New HCs only please): Yes ____ No ____

I will attend the President's Reception Thursday evening: Yes ____ No ____

Check here if you want to share your contact information with sponsors and exhibitors. ☐

Please indicate if you have special needs and/or dietary concerns. Please be specific so we can best accommodate your preferences.

Concurrent Sessions: Please make a selection:

Thursday 1:45-3:00 PM (A-C) Circle first choice: A B C (not applicable if attending MDU)

Thursday 3:30-4:45 PM (D-F) Circle first choice: D E F (not applicable if attending MDU)

Cancellation Policy: To qualify for a full refund of the registration fees, a written cancellation must be received by AOHC no later than **September 8, 2023.**

Register online at www.aohc.net or send completed registration and payment to:

AOHC
110A Northwoods Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43235
Fax: (614) 781-9558

Questions? Call (614) 781-9556 or
email aohc_2@aohc.net
AOHC's tax ID number is 31-0668711

City of Middletown Health Department Travel Request

2023 OEHA Fall Conference

Carla Ealy, Janay Mourer and Sarah Chaney will be attending the OEHA Fall Educational Conference. The conference is October 5th and October 6th in Dayton, Ohio. Janay and Carla will attend on the 5th and Sarah will attend on the 6th. The overall objective of this conference is to update Southwest Ohio's Environmental Professionals on a variety of topics to increase awareness and skills in Environmental Health, including a sessions on Cultural Diversity in Food Service Operations, Service Dog Awareness and the Middletown Connect OHIZ Project.

Total budgeted costs all attendees: \$332.23 (*Registration fees & mileage*)

SAVE THE DATE





SOUTHWEST OEHA

2023 Fall Educational Conference

Thursday, October 5th
Friday, October 6th
Sinclair Community College Ponitz Center
Dayton, OH

[2023 Per Diem Rates | GSA](#)

City of Middletown
Request for Business Related Travel

Request No.....: 16479
Date Submitted.....: 08-23-23
Official or Employee Name...: CARLA EALY
Title or Position.....: ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR
Department.....: HEALTH
Meeting Sponsored by.....: OEHA
Purpose of Meeting or Trip...: TRAINING
(M)andatory/(D)iscretionary..: M
City Where Meeting Held.....: DAYTON
State Where Meeting Held.....: OHIO
Dates of Meeting - From: 10-05-23 to 10-05-23
Dates Leave Requested - From: 10-05-23 to 10-05-23

VEHICLE INFORMATION (if City vehicle is to be used)

Number of Vehicle.....: 0
Vehicle to be Occupied by...: 0

ESTIMATED COSTS OF TRIP:

Registration...:	100.00
Transportation:	32.23
Lodging.....:	0.00
Rental Car.....:	0.00
Meals.....:	0.00
Miscellaneous..:	0.00
Amount of Advance Requested:	0.00

===== ACCOUNTS TO BE CHARGED =====

Account Code	Description	Available	Amount
228.450.52110	TRAVEL & TRAINING	1986.90	132.23

APPROVAL:

=====

User	Title	Date Approved
Jackie Phillips	Health Commissioner	

COMMENTS:

City of Middletown
Request for Business Related Travel

Request No.....: 16471
Date Submitted.....: 08-21-23
Official or Employee Name....: SARAH CHANEY
Title or Position.....: ENV. HEALTH SPECIALIST IN TRAINING
Department.....: HEALTH
Meeting Sponsored by.....: OEHA
Purpose of Meeting or Trip...: TRAINING
(M)andatory/ (D)iscretionary.: M
City Where Meeting Held.....: DAYTON
State Where Meeting Held.....: OHIO
Dates of Meeting - From: 10-06-23 to 10-06-23
Dates Leave Requested - From: 10-06-23 to 10-06-23

VEHICLE INFORMATION (if City vehicle is to be used)

Number of Vehicle.....: 8812
Vehicle to be Occupied by....: SARAH

ESTIMATED COSTS OF TRIP:

Registration...:	100.00
Transportation:	0.00
Lodging.....:	0.00
Rental Car.....:	0.00
Meals.....:	0.00
Miscellaneous.:	0.00
Amount of Advance Requested:	0.00

===== ACCOUNTS TO BE CHARGED =====

Account Code	Description	Available	Amount
228.450.52110	TRAVEL & TRAINING	2889.15	100.00

APPROVAL:

=====

User	Title	Date Approved
Jackie Phillips	Health Commissioner	

COMMENTS:

City of Middletown
Request for Business Related Travel

Request No.....: 16472
Date Submitted.....: 08-21-23
Official or Employee Name...: JANAY MOURER
Title or Position.....: REG. ENV. HEALTH SPECIALIST
Department.....: HEALTH
Meeting Sponsored by.....: OEHA
Purpose of Meeting or Trip...: TRAINING
(M)andatory/ (D)iscretionary.: M
City Where Meeting Held.....: DAYTON
State Where Meeting Held.....: OHIO
Dates of Meeting - From: 10-05-23 to 10-05-23
Dates Leave Requested - From: 10-05-23 to 10-05-23

VEHICLE INFORMATION (if City vehicle is to be used)

Number of Vehicle.....: 4314
Vehicle to be Occupied by...: JANAY MOURER

ESTIMATED COSTS OF TRIP:

Registration...	100.00
Transportation:	0.00
Lodging.....:	0.00
Rental Car.....:	0.00
Meals.....:	0.00
Miscellaneous..:	0.00
Amount of Advance Requested:	0.00

===== ACCOUNTS TO BE CHARGED =====

Account Code	Description	Available	Amount
228.450.52110	TRAVEL & TRAINING	2889.15	100.00

APPROVAL:

=====

User	Title	Date Approved
Jackie Phillips	Health Commissioner	

COMMENTS:

MBHE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-01

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FEES FOR THE LICENSING OF FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS, MOBILE FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS, TEMPORARY FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS, VENDING MACHINE LOCATIONS, RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS, MOBILE RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS, AND TEMPORARY RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Middletown Board of Health, Butler and Warren Counties, Ohio:

Section 1

The following fees are hereby amended:

A. The annual City license fee for Food Service Operations and Retail Food Establishments, as defined in Section 3717.01 of the Ohio Revised Code, classified by risk and size as provided by the Regulations promulgated by the Public Health Council and Director of Agriculture, shall be:

	Commercial Less than 25,000 sq. ft.	Non-Commercial Less than 25,000 sq. ft.	Commercial 25,000 sq. ft. or More	Non-Commercial 25,000 sq. ft. or More
Level 1	\$146.00	\$73.00	\$225.00	\$112.50
Level 2	\$168.00	\$84.00	\$238.00	\$119.00
Level 3	\$351.00	\$175.50	\$925.00	\$462.50
Level 4	\$453.00	\$226.50	\$983.00	\$491.50

B. The annual City license fee for Mobile Food Service Operations and Mobile Retail Food Establishments as defined in the Ohio Revised Code, shall be ~~\$95.00~~ **\$110.00**.

C. The annual City license fee for Temporary Commercial Food Service Operations and Temporary Commercial Retail Food Establishments, as defined in the Ohio Revised Code, shall be \$39.00 per day of the event. The City license fee for Non-Commercial Temporary Food Service Operations and Non-Commercial Temporary Retail Food Establishments shall be \$19.50 per day of the event.

D. The annual City license fee for Vending Machine Locations as defined in the Ohio Revised Code shall be ~~\$18.53~~ **\$19.73**.

E. The cost of a license for Retail Food Establishments, Mobile Retail Food Establishments, Temporary Retail Food Establishments, Temporary Food Service Operations, Vending, Food Service Operations and Mobile Food Service Operations may include an amount in addition to the fees set forth above, to be determined by the Public Health Council and Director of Agriculture pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code.

F. Any licensee who fails to file a renewal application, postmarked on or before March 1, with the appropriate license fee, shall be assessed a penalty fee in the amount of twenty-five percent (25%) of the City license fee, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3709.09.

Section 2

The fees charged under this ordinance shall be in lieu of all food service operation, retail food establishment, micro market, license and inspection fees required by this Board of Health on or with respect to the operation of, ownership of or employment by food service operations and retail food establishments within this State, except that a fee will be charged for the collection and bacteriological examination of any necessary water samples taken from food service operations, and a fee of \$300.00 for Facility and Equipment Review. The fee for an Expedited Facility and Equipment Review fee shall be \$600.00.

Section 3

Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance shall be in violation of and subject to the penalties provided in Section 3717.99 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 4

Should any provision of the ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be thereby affected.

Section 5

This ordinance shall be effective beginning December 1, 2023.

Nicole Condrey, President
Board of Health and Environment

First Reading 8/8/2023
Second Reading _____
Third Reading _____
Date Adopted _____
Effective Date _____

Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Board of Health and Environment

Approved as to form:

Ben Yoder / JAK
Law Director

MBHE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-02

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LICENSE FEES FOR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKS, RECREATIONAL CAMPS, COMBINED AND TEMPORARY PARK-CAMPS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Middletown Board of Health, Butler and Warren Counties, Ohio:

Section 1

The license fees for recreational vehicle parks, recreational camps, combined and temporary park-camps are hereby amended as follows:

- (a) Each person, firm, governmental entity or corporation operating or proposing to operate recreational vehicle parks, recreational camps, combined and temporary park-camp shall be charged an annual fee for the right to operate such parks as follows:
 - (1) For recreational vehicle parks, recreational camps, combined park camps with 50 or fewer sites, the annual fee shall be ~~one hundred and fifty dollars (150.00)~~ **\$200.00**.
 - (2) For recreational vehicle parks, recreational camps, combined park camps with 50 or more sites, the annual fee shall be ~~one hundred and fifty dollars (150.00)~~ **\$200.00** plus ~~one dollar (\$1.00)~~ for each additional site **over 50**.
 - (3) For a temporary park-camp with 50 or fewer sites the fee shall be ~~thirty-five (35.00)~~ **\$50.00** per day-per event.
 - (4) **For a temporary park-camp with 50 or more sites the fee shall be \$50.00 plus \$1.00 per for each additional site over 50 per event.**
- (b) Any licensee who fails to file a renewal application, postmarked on or before April 30 with the appropriate license fee, shall be assessed a penalty of 25% of the City license fee as provided in Ohio Revised Code Section 3709.09.
- (c) The cost of the license for recreational vehicle parks, recreational camps, and combined park-camps, as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 3729.01, shall include, in addition to the fees set forth above, an amount to be determined by the Public Health Council, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 3729.02 and 3729.07.

Section 2

The Board of Health may suspend or revoke the license of a person who violates any of the regulations pursuant to Section 3729.08 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 3

Whoever violates or fails to comply with any provisions of this Ordinance or the provisions of Chapter 3729 of the Ohio Revised Code shall be subject to the penalties provided in Ohio Revised Code Section 3729.99.

Section 4

This regulation shall be effective on December 1, 2023.

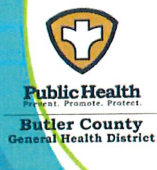
Nicole Condrey, President
Board of Health and Environment

First Reading 8/8/2023
Second Reading _____
Third Reading _____
Date Adopted _____
Effective Date _____

Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN,
Board of Health and Environment

Approved as to form:

Ben Godes / JAK
Law Director



Butler County Monthly Communicable Disease Surveillance Report

August of 2023

Leah Elliott, MPH

ElliottL@butlercountyohio.org

Notifiable Communicable Diseases

Summary:

- Number of Disease Cases Reported in Butler County: 1,354
- Most Frequently Reported: COVID-19, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Hepatitis C, and CP-CRE.

Table 1. Comparison of Reported Cases of Confirmed or Probable Notifiable Communicable Diseases, August 2023 (excluding Chlamydia infection and gonorrhea)

	Reported Cases	Rate per 100,000	Rate Ratio	Confidence Interval
State of Ohio (excluding BC)	24,060	199.2	-	-
Butler County	1,200	307.4	1.44	1.36-1.53

Interpretation: The residents of Butler County were 44% more likely to be the subject of a notifiable disease report when compared to the rest of Ohio as a whole. These results are statistically significant. (excluding Chlamydia infection and Gonorrhea)

Table 2.* Communicable Diseases by Jurisdiction (August 2023)

Jurisdiction	Count	Rate per 100,000	Change from Previous Month
Butler County General Health District	941	341.0	↑217.9% from July 2023 (n=296)
Middletown City Health Department	186	364.8	↑113.8% from July 2023 (n=87)
City of Hamilton Health Department	227	358.0	↑120.4% from July 2023 (n=103)
Butler County (all inclusive)	1,354	346.9	↑178.6% from July 2023 (n=486)

Table 3.* Butler County Reportable Diseases by Subgroups (August 2023)

Reportable Disease Subgroup	Count	Trend
Viral Hepatitis (B and C)	39	↑11.4% from July 2023 (n=35)
Sexually-Transmitted Infections (Chlamydia infection, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and HIV)	147	↑18.5% from July 2023 (n=124)
Enteric Diseases (Hepatitis A, Amebiasis, Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, Cyclosporiasis, STEC, Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis, Vibriosis and Yersiniosis)	27	↑28.6% from July 2023 (n=21)
Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (COVID-19, influenza-associated hospitalizations, Haemophilus influenzae, Bacterial meningitis, Mumps, Pertussis, invasive Streptococcus pneumoniae, Tetanus, and Varicella)	1,106	↑295% from July 2023 (n=280)

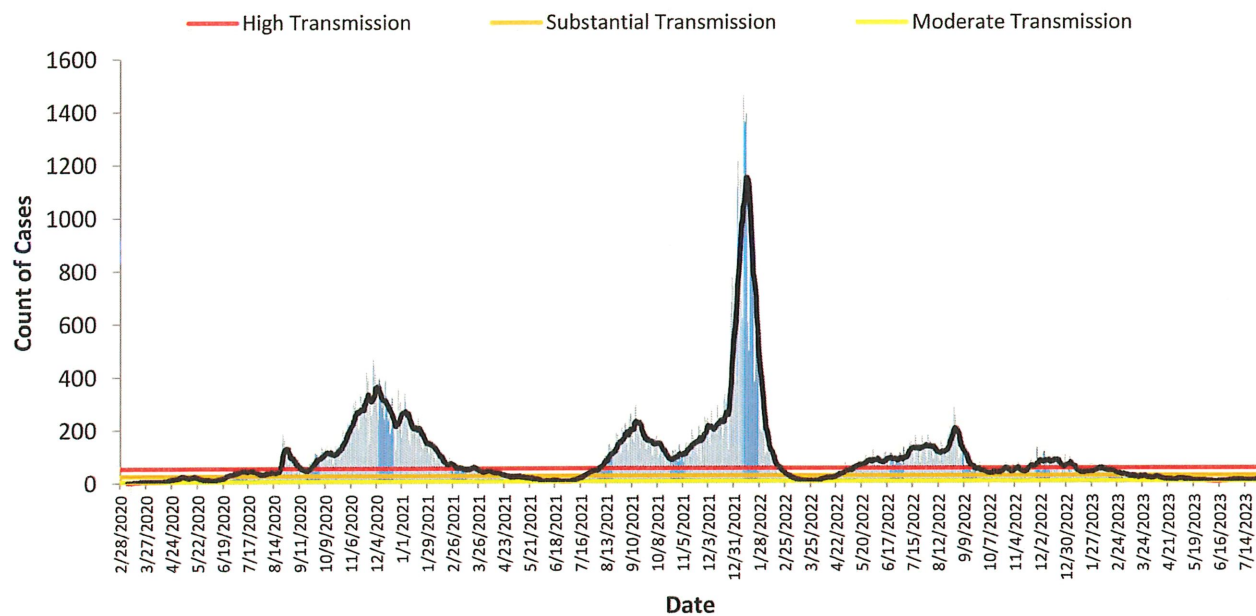
*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported.

*COVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of August 1-31, 2023 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 9/6/2023

Table 4.* Diseases Reported in Butler County (August 2023)

Jurisdictions	Butler County General Health District	Middletown City Health Department	City of Hamilton Health Department	Butler County (all inclusive)
C. Auris	8	0	0	8
Campylobacteriosis	4	0	2	6
Chlamydia infection	49	29	25	103
COVID-19	794	131	176	1,101
CP-CRE	17	1	0	18
Cryptosporidiosis	0	1	3	4
E. Coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	1	0	0	1
Giardiasis	2	0	2	4
Gonococcal infection	9	12	10	31
Hepatitis A	4	0	0	4
Hepatitis B	11	2	4	17
Hepatitis C	10	8	4	22
HIV	4	0	1	5
Influenza-associated hospitalization	1	0	0	1
Legionellosis	1	0	0	1
Lyme Disease	5	0	0	5
Malaria	1	0	0	1
Meningitis- bacterial	1	0	0	1
Q fever, acute	1	0	0	1
Salmonella Typhi	1	0	0	1
Salmonellosis	4	0	0	4
Shigellosis	1	1	0	2
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	2	0	0	2
Streptococcus pneumoniae	2	0	0	2
Syphilis	7	1	0	8
Varicella	1	0	0	1
Total	941	186	227	1,354

Figure 1. Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Date of Event 2020-2023*



*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported.

*COVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of August 1-31, 2023 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 9/6/2023

Butler County Reportable Disease Surveillance

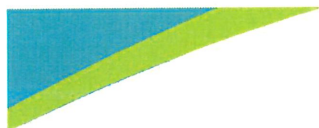
Table 6 outlines Butler County's select, reportable disease counts by year, that were classified as either "probable" or "confirmed" during the years of 2017 through 2022 and provides a 5-year average (2018-2022) column for comparison. Graph includes those diseases that represent a consistent threat to public health.

Table 6.* Reported Probable/Confirmed Cases in Butler County (2017–2023)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5 Year Avg.	Up to 8/31/2023
Amebiasis	2	1	0	1	1	1	0
Botulism- wound	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Brucellosis	0	0	0	2	0	<1	0
Candida auris (not reportable prior to 2019)	-	0	0	1	13	-	16
Campylobacteriosis	33	45	30	35	48	38.2	25
Chlamydia infection	1,592	1,631	1,512	1,406	1359	1,500	903
COVID-19 (not reportable prior to 2020)	-	-	26,420	39,521	49323	38,421.33	5,885
CP- CRE (not reportable prior to 2019)	-	4	10	11	12	9.25	54
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	1	2	0	1	1	1	0
Cryptosporidiosis	6	4	6	5	7	5.6	6
Cyclosporiasis	4	2	0	0	1	1.4	2
Dengue	0	1	0	1	1	0.6	0
E. coli, Shiga-Toxin Producing	14	11	14	15	17	14.2	5
Ehrlichiosis-Ehrlichia chaffeensis	0	0	1	1	1	<1	0
Giardiasis	12	12	4	14	7	9.8	10
Gonococcal Infection	668	732	651	480	473	600.8	260
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	17	10	7	6	11	10.2	14
Hemolytic uremic syndrome	0	0	0	1	0	<1	0
Hepatitis A	304	104	2	1	0	82.2	1
Hepatitis B - acute/chronic/perinatal	166	109	67	85	78	101	61
Hepatitis C – acute/chronic/perinatal	750	552	486	434	390	522.4	203
HIV	43	24	17	58	38	36	25
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	479	325	266	18	306	278.8	30
Legionellosis – Legionnaires' Disease	16	17	10	9	15	13.4	9
Hansen's disease	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Listeriosis	1	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Lyme Disease	4	3	2	0	2	2.2	1
Malaria	2	2	2	1	3	2	3
Meningitis – aseptic/viral	16	25	9	14	10	14.8	5
Meningitis – bacterial (not N. meningitidis)	3	4	3	3	11	4.8	7
Meningococcal dz. – Neisseria meningitidis	0	0	0	0	0	<1	0
MIS-C associated with COVID-19	-	-	-	15	7	-	1
Mpox (not reportable prior to 2022)	-	-	-	-	4	-	0
Mumps	2	1	0	0	0	<1	0
Pertussis	16	38	13	3	3	14.6	2
Salmonellosis	32	32	20	26	34	28.8	38
Salmonella Typhi (Typhoid Fever)	0	0	0	2	0	<1	1
Shigellosis	45	7	8	3	6	13.8	7
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (including RMSF)	0	0	2	0	1	<1	0
Streptococcal – Group A – invasive	23	24	27	24	34	26.4	31
Streptococcal – Group B – in newborn	3	0	1	0	1	1	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae – Invasive	54	59	31	33	40	43.4	23
Syphilis (all stages)	47	11	17	23	45	28.6	45
Tuberculosis (active)	2	8	6	7	8	6.2	3
Varicella	13	14	1	5	8	8.2	7
Vibriosis (not Cholera)	2	1	0	2	2	1.4	3
West Nile Virus Disease	0	0	0	0	0	<1	0
Yersiniosis	0	1	0	1	2	<1	4

*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported.

*COVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of August 1-31, 2023 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 9/6/2023



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Butler County
General Health District**



**CITY OF
MIDDLETOWN**

Figure 1: Middletown SSP Site Visitors by Month for 2022 and 2023

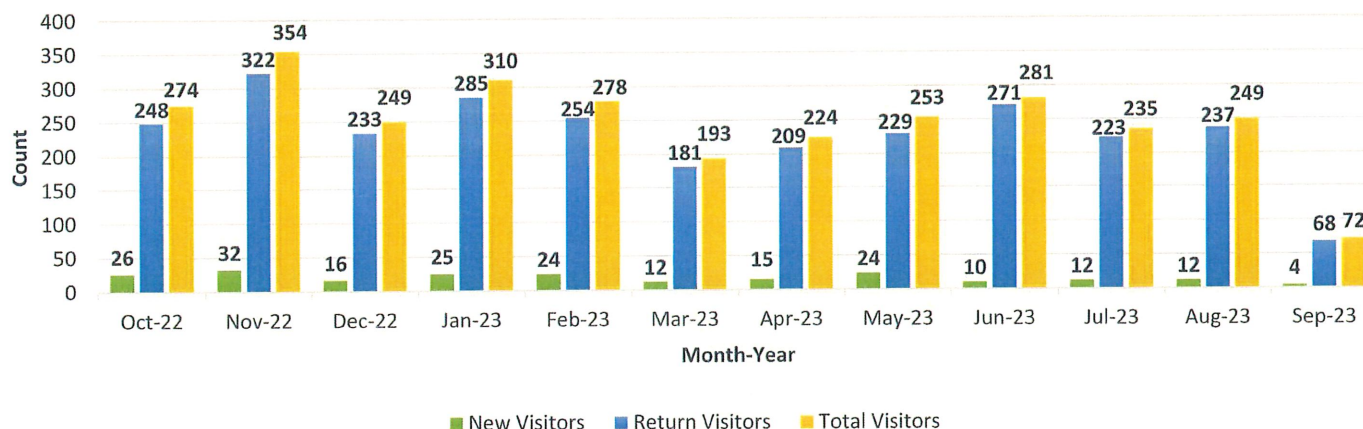


Figure 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Middletown SSP Site for 2022 and 2023

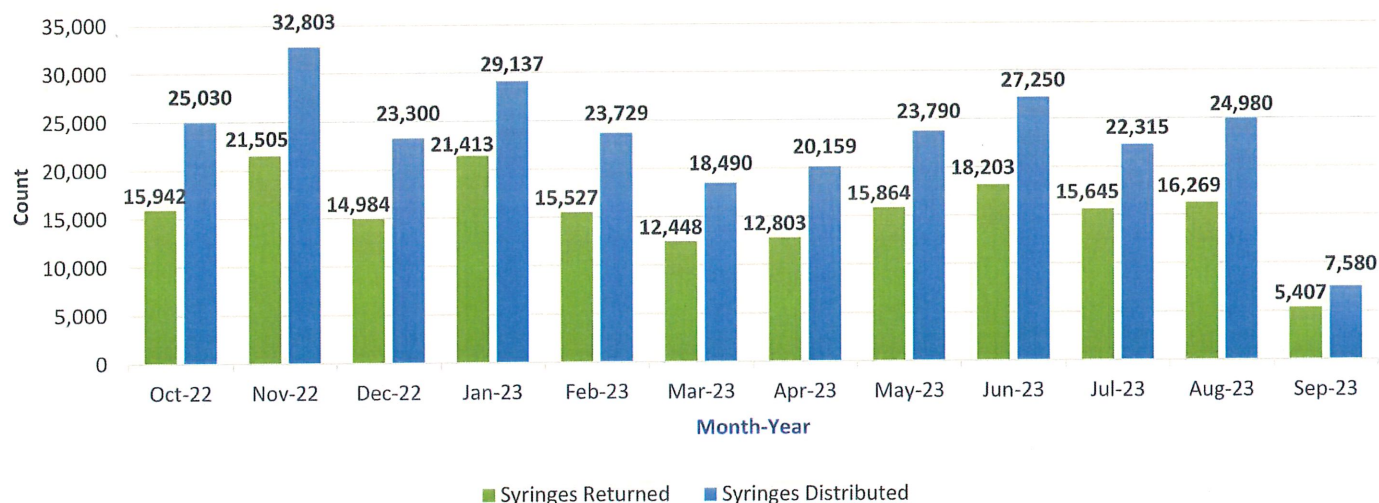


Table 1: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Visitors' Home County of Residence for the Middletown SSP Site for August - September 1, 2023

County	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Butler County, OH	19,240	29,690	64.80%
Montgomery County, OH	216	350	61.71%
Preble County, OH	520	520	100.00%
Warren County, OH	1,700	2,000	85.00%
Total	21,676	32,560	66.57%

Source: Access Counseling Regional Harm Reduction Collaborative Middletown Syringe Service Program Site, Data is provisional and subject to change, Data obtained September 1, 2023



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Butler County
General Health District

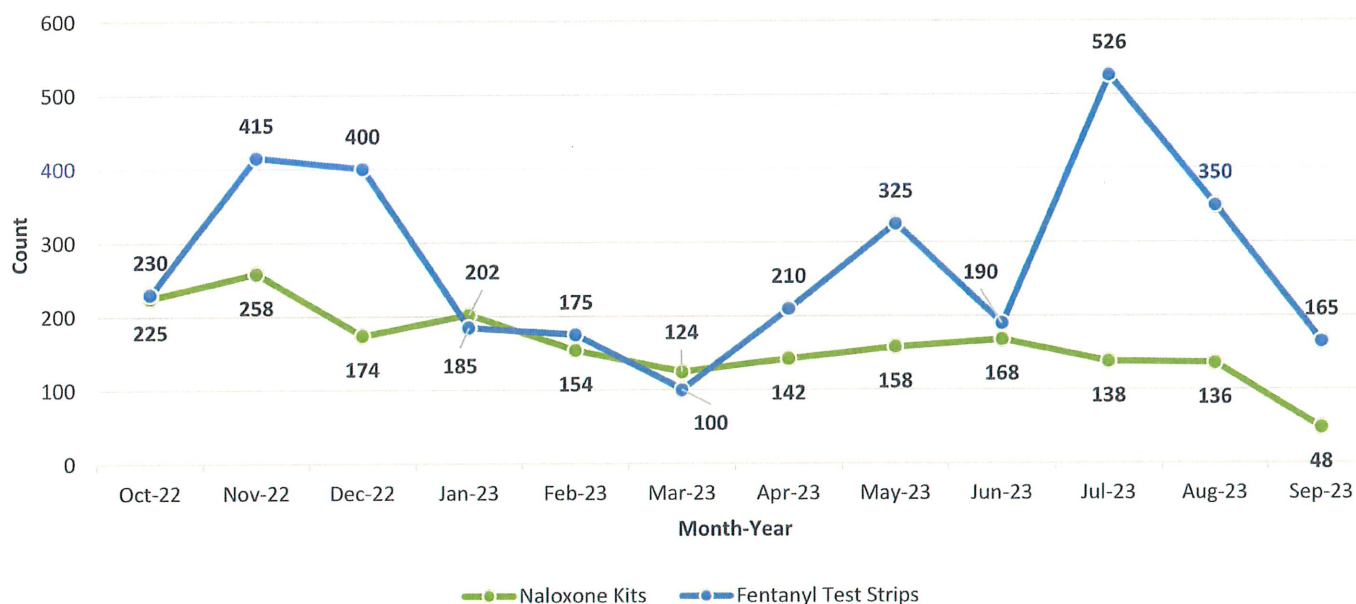


CITY OF
MIDDLETOWN

Table 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Zip Code - City for the Middletown SSP Site by Butler County Visitors' Home Residence for August - September 1, 2023

Zip Code - City	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Middletown			
45042	4,837	6,520	74.19%
45044	12,026	16,360	73.51%
Middletown Total	16,863	22,880	73.70%
Hamilton			
45011	1,202	4,820	24.94%
45013	600	1,170	51.28%
45015	0	80	0.00%
Hamilton Total	1,802	6,070	29.69%
45050 - Monroe	230	230	100.00%
45056 - Oxford	0	120	0.00%
45067 - Trenton	345	390	88.46%
Butler County Total	19,240	29,690	64.80%

Figure 3: Naloxone Kits and Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed by Month for the Middletown SSP Site for 2022 and 2023



Source: Access Counseling Regional Harm Reduction Collaborative Middletown Syringe Service Program Site, Data is provisional and subject to change, Data obtained September 1, 2023

Smoking Complaint Spreadsheet

For August 2023

	Business Name	Date	Notice of Report	Dismissed	Notice of Violation (30 Days)	Letter of Warning (15 Days)	Civil Fine Letter	Violation Contested	Notice of Hearing	Additional Comments
1										
2										
3										
Notes: Billy T's owes \$1200 in fines, unpaid. Buster's Bar owes \$200 in fines, unpaid. NEW UPDATE: This facility is closed for business and is for sale.										

City of Middletown Health Department

August 2023

Vital Statistics

	MONTHLY	YTD
Birth Certificates Filed	87	584
Death Certificates Filed	98	682
Birth Certificates Issued	438	2838
Death Certificates Issued	279	2588
Indigent Cremation Services	4	22

Deaths Filed

Accidental		
Drug Overdose	2	16
Falls	0	7
Motor Vehicle	1	5
Exposure to Elements	0	2
Choking	0	0
Fire	0	1
Homicide	0	4
Suicide	3	7
COVID-19 Related Deaths	0	3
Could Not Be Determined	0	0
Pending Investigation	6	6

**Totals reflect City of Middletown residents that died inside of city limits only

Environmental Inspections

	MONTHLY	YTD
Food Service Operations(FSO)	54	313
Retail Food Establishments(RFE)	24	115
Prelicense/Consultations	9	68
Sewage Inspections	6	7
School Inspections	1	21
Vending Locations	9	9
Temporary FSO/RFE	4	45
Mobile FSO/RFE	0	14
Complaints	5	41
Smoking Complaint Inspections	0	3
Swimming Pools	23	108
Tattoo	2	2
Temp Park/Park Camp	0	3
Jail Inspection	0	0
Site Visit (Septic)	0	0
Well Inspection	0	0

Level 1 Certification Training

Number of Attendees	0	5
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Animal Bite Events

Dog	14	71
Cat	0	9
Bat	0	0
Raccoon-Animal Exposure	0	1



BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

315 HIGH STREET, SUITE 670

HAMILTON, OHIO 45011

PHONE: 513.785.5810

EMAIL: BCEMA@BUTLERCOUNTYOHIO.ORG

Butler County Cooling Center Locations

August 21, 2023

In anticipation of high heat indices throughout the rest of the week, the following locations have been designated as Cooling Centers in Butler County:

<p>MidPointe Library Liberty 7100 Foundry Row, Suite S-234 Liberty Township, OH 45069 Monday – Saturday: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM</p>	<p>MidPointe Library Middletown 125 South Broad Street Middletown, OH 45044 Monday – Thursday: 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM Friday & Saturday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM</p>
<p>MidPointe Library Monroe 1 Tennessee Ave Monroe, OH 45050 Monday – Thursday: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM Friday & Saturday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM</p>	<p>MidPointe Library Trenton 200 Edgewood Drive Trenton, OH 45067 Monday – Thursday: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM Friday & Saturday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM</p>
<p>MidPointe Library West Chester 9363 Centre Pointe Drive West Chester, OH 45069 Monday – Thursday: 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM Friday & Saturday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM</p>	<p>Hamilton Lane Library 300 North Third Street Hamilton, OH 45011 Monday – Thursday: 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM Friday & Saturday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM Sunday: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM</p>
<p>Fairfield Lane Library 1485 Corydale Drive Fairfield, OH 45014 Monday – Thursday: 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM Friday & Saturday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM Sunday: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM</p>	<p>Oxford Lane Library 441 S. Locust Street Oxford, OH 45056 Monday – Thursday: 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM Friday & Saturday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM Sunday: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM</p>
<p>Lane Community Technology Center 228 Court Street Hamilton, OH 45011 Monday-Thursday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM Friday & Saturday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM</p>	<p>New Life Baptist Mission 415 Henry Street Hamilton, OH 45013 Monday – Thursday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM</p>

Please contact the Butler County Emergency Management Agency or any of the agencies listed with any questions or concerns.

Butler County Emergency Management Information Hotline – (513) 785-5800.



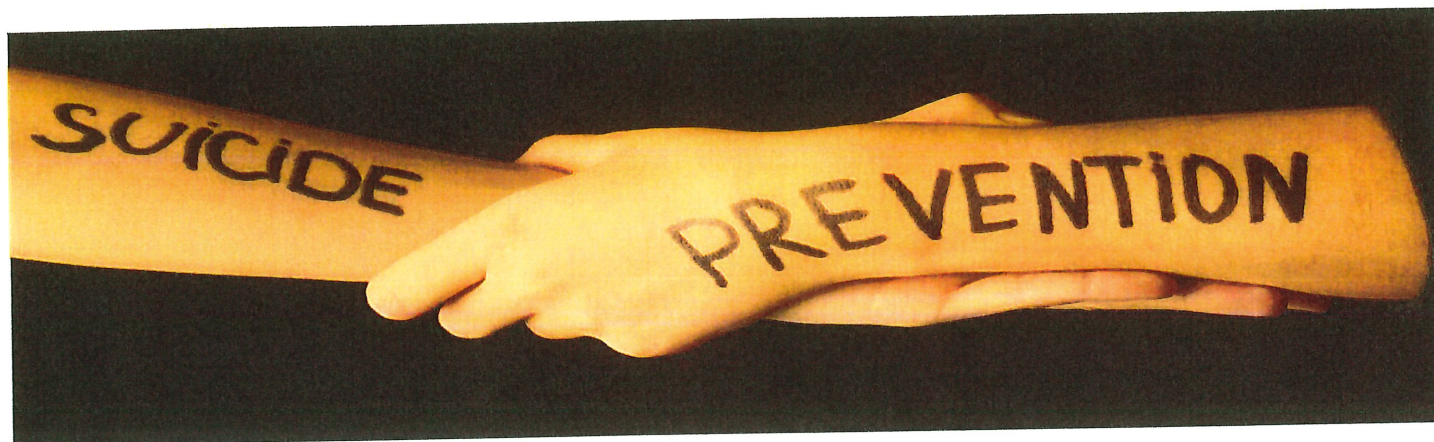
[@ButlerCOEMA](https://www.facebook.com/ButlerCOEMA)



www.butlercountyohio.org/ema/



[@butlercountvema](https://twitter.com/butlercountvema)



Suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the United States. Middletown has accounted for seven of those deaths this year. This number is up from 2022's number of five suicides for the area. It takes all of society to exert strategies to prevent suicides.

Improve Housing Strengthen and stabilize housing security

Create Protective Environments Reduce substance abuse, create healthy organizational policies, and reduce lethal means among persons at risk of suicides

Improve Access and Delivery of Suicide Care Provide immediate and remote access to help, increase availability in underserved areas, cover mental health conditions in health policies, create safer care through systems changes

Promote Healthy Connections Engage in shared activities amongst the community, promote healthy peer norms

Teach Coping and Problem Solving Skills Support learning programs, improve family relationships by teaching parenting skills, support resilience through education programs

Identify and Support People at Risk Provide therapeutic approaches, train gatekeepers, respond to crisis, and plan for safety and follow-up after an attempt

Lessen Harms and Prevent Future Risks Practice proper postvention and report and talk about suicide safely and honestly

Which strategies can you participate in?

Please stop by Your City of Middletown Health Department to learn more about preventing suicide.

City looks to rescue senior center

Middletown seeks to buy Central Connections, which has run into serious financial difficulties.



Middletown City Council holds a special meeting Thursday to discuss Central Connections. The city manager said the city hopes to buy the building from Central Connections.

RICK MCCRABB/STAFF



Central Connections held a ribbon cutting and tour of their renovated facility Nov. 1, 2022, on Central Avenue. in Middletown.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF / FILE

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

MIDDLETOWN — City Manager Paul Lolli said the city will buy Central Connections, the senior center that may close due to financial difficulties after Executive Director Diane Rodgers, part of a criminal investigation, was terminated last week.

City Council conducted a special meeting Thursday afternoon in council chambers, which was packed with concerned senior citizens.

After a 55-minute executive session, when the city offered those in attendance bottles of water, Lolli said the city will buy the property from Central Connections and council made a financial commitment to continue the "critical services" at the center.

Lolli called the finances at the center "a crisis situation."

But Ben Yoder, the city's law director, warned that the city was "attempting" to purchase the building on Central Avenue, a process complicated by the number of possible creditors. He said the legal process will take time.

In the meantime, Lolli said the goal is to return Central Connection to "normal" operations.

He said the city hopes to retain as many of the 35 employees as possible.

"We need time to work specifics," he said.

Mayor Nicole Condrey compared the situation at the center to a tornado ravaging the building.

"We are Red Cross," said Condrey, who added feeding and transporting the seniors to appointments takes precedence over exercise programs or

other social activities.

Vice Mayor Monica Thomas thanked the seniors for attending the meeting and caring for their neighbors and friends. She believes if the city purchases the building it can “move forward from this in a positive way.”

Council member Rodney Muterspaw said during the executive session there was no arguing among council members and city staff. The goal, he said, was to “find a solution to help people.”

Earlier, Muterspaw said it’s important to offer protection to the elderly and children.

“The elderly have been messed with,” Muterspaw said.

The center of the controversy is Rodgers, hired as executive director in 2021.

Her contract was terminated by the board last week and Rodgers was escorted out of the building by Middletown police.

Police Chief David Birk said the criminal investigating is continuing.

Rodgers and her attorney, Tyrone Borger, were scheduled to meet with Middletown detectives last week, but they failed to show, Birk told the Journal-News.

When Central Connections canceled its congregate meals due to losing \$1 per meal, according to board president Rick Fishbaugh, the city helped connect seniors with congregate meals at First Presbyterian Church, 2910 Central Ave.

Last week, Fishbaugh said the senior center may file for bankruptcy.

John Zampatti, 77, a member of Central Connections, said he attended Thursday’s meeting because he was curious about the center’s finances. He believes the center should have a board and another advisory board so they could periodically check balance sheets.

The finances, he said, should not be kept "secret."

"It's unfortunate," he said.

The Central Connections cafe was closed Saturday because several servers called off sick, Fishbaugh said. The center also canceled its Rolling Through the Decades Music Festival/Car Show scheduled for Saturday due to recent employee layoffs that left the center with "insufficient staff to cover this event," according to its Facebook page.

Then on Thursday, the center announced it would be closed every Saturday and Sunday.

Central Connections stopped delivering meals July 25, one day after laying off 50 employees. Since then, First Presbyterian Church has provided meals for seniors, said Paula Smith, director of communications for the Council on Aging.

Smith said the church will provide congregate meals from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday.

The plan is for COA to find a permanent place for the meals to be served within a few weeks, Smith said.

Partners in Prime, Meals on Wheels Southwestern Ohio and Warren County Community Services have stepped in to cover all home-delivered meals to clients, Smith said. Meals on Wheels will also provide meals for the seven congregate sites Central Connections previously served, she said.

Smith said COA is working to connect transportation clients and clients receiving supportive services with new providers.

Contact this reporter at 513-581-7612 or email Rick.McCrabb@coxinc.com.

City hopes to continue 'critical services' at senior center

Middletown meets with board's lawyers to discuss a sale price for Central Avenue building and land.



Middletown is attempting to buy the Central Connections senior citizens center and managing daily operations with Executive Director Diane Rodgers fired and under criminal investigation. The land and building were assessed at 2.14 million in 2020 but that's before a \$1.5 million remodel gave the center a full restaurant and bar, bridal suite, rooms to host weddings and a fitness room.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

CONTINUING COVERAGE

MIDDLETOWN — From the outside, nothing looked different Friday

8/7/2021

morning at Central Connections, Middletown's senior citizens center.

Numerous seniors, some carrying water bottles, slowly walked to their cars after exercising in the Silver Sneakers class.

But inside Central Connections, which finds itself under a microscope due to its financial difficulties and a criminal investigation of its former executive director, it was apparent this was no normal day. City Manager Paul Lolli and Jackie Phillips, the city's health director, were seen visiting with board members and staff.

Less than one day before, during a special City Council meeting attended by nearly 100 concerned senior citizens, Lolli announced the city was seeking to purchase the building and land so that Central Connections could repay its debts.

Lolli admitted the city owning Central Connections would be "challenging, but worth it."

Then he added: "We can't let this go. We have to provide the services the seniors depend on."

On Friday, he told the Journal-News during an exclusive interview, the city's lawyers and representatives from the center's board are meeting to discuss the sale price of the building and land. Lolli didn't want to speculate on that price.

According to the Butler County Auditor's website, the land at 3907 Central Ave. is appraised at \$225,00 and the building at \$1.9 million for a total of \$2.144 million.

But those are valuations from Jan. 1, 2020, before the center had a \$1.5 million remodel.

The land and property will be reappraised based off the Jan. 1, 2023, valuations.

Until the sale is finalized, Lolli said Phillips will oversee daily operations of the center in hopes of keeping what he called "critical services" for

seniors like transportation and meals operational.

He said the city hopes to retain as many of the 35 employees as possible. The center is closed on Saturdays and Sundays, and it's unclear what will happen to events already scheduled there.

Middletown High School's Class of 1983 40-year reunion was supposed to be held at Central Connections, but organizers are seeking another venue, according to Facebook.

Last week, Rick Fishbaugh, the board president, said Central Connections may have to file for bankruptcy, less than one year after the mortgage was paid off. Middletown taxpayers spent about \$7 million over 10 years to pay off the center, Lolli said.

"We didn't want to wash that money down the drain," he said of the taxpayers' investment. The senior levy expired on Dec. 31, 2022.

Lolli said Central Connections will be purchased with the city's American Rescue Plan Act funds, meaning taxpayers will have paid for the building twice.

How Central Connections got in this financial burden is unclear, though Middletown police are investigating if former Executive Director Diane Rodgers, whose contract was terminated last week, committed any crimes.

Rodgers was hired in 2021 and Central Connections then completed a \$1.5 million remodel to attract more members and generate revenue through wedding receptions and parties.

According to 2021 tax returns from Form 990, reviewed by the Journal-News, Central Connections profited \$1.04 million in 2020 and \$564,681 in 2021.

The center began 2021 with \$4.6 million in net assets or fund balances and ended the year with \$5.188 million. The biggest difference was found under total liabilities when they dropped from \$875,607 at the beginning of 2021 to \$155,532 at the end of the year.

The document listed Rodgers as the executive director.

Rodgers also signed for a mortgage loan through First National Bank for \$450,000 on July 29, 2022, then did a loan modification that increased the amount to \$650,000, according to the Butler County Recorder's Office. Her signature and job title are listed on the loan that matures on July 29, 2024.

Ben Yoder, the city's law director, warned that the city was "attempting" to purchase the building, a process complicated by the number of possible creditors.

He said the legal process will take time.

At least one developer, D.E.R. Development Co. has filed a lien against Central Connections, according to documents obtained by the Journal-News. The document says the company performed work from June 20, 2022, to Feb. 27, 2023, and is owed \$266,594.52, plus allowable interest.

The lien was filed on May 5, 2023, and signed by William Roe, vice president of the company.

It's unclear where Rodgers is living. She and her attorney, Tyrone Borger, were scheduled to meet with Middletown detectives on July 28, but they never showed, Police Chief David Birk told the Journal-News. He said the criminal investigation is continuing and his department may seek assistance from the Butler County Sheriff's Office.

Before Rodgers was hired in 2021, Fishbaugh said the board completed a background check on her, but only in Ohio, though she had never lived in Ohio. He has admitted that was "a mistake."

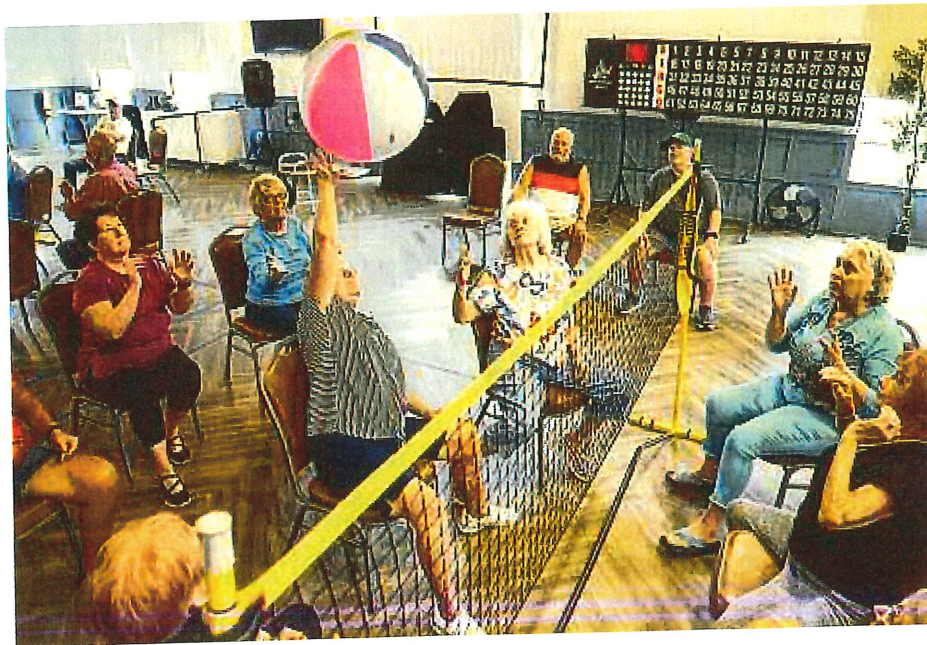
Contact this reporter at 513-581-7612 or email Rick.McCrabb@coxinc.com.

Ex-senior center boss staying quiet

Lawyer for Diane Rodgers says client would like to 'clear up misconceptions' but will not comment.



Diane Rodgers, ex-executive director, Central Connections



A group of seniors play chair volleyball at Central Connections, Middletown, on Monday.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB AND LAUREN PACK - STAFF WRITERS

MIDDLETOWN

MIDDLETOWN — Tyrone Borger, the attorney representing terminated Central Connections Executive Director Diane Rodgers, responded

8/8/202:

Saturday to a Journal-News request for comment sent July 31.

He said he advised Rodgers not to comment on the situation.

"My client and I have been informed that there is an ongoing investigation," he wrote in an email to the Journal-News. "As such, while my client would like to comment and clear up several misconceptions. She is taking my advice and refusing to comment on any allegations at this time."

Last week, Middletown Police Chief David Birk told the Journal-News that Rodgers and her attorney were scheduled to meet with Middletown detectives on July 28, but they never showed.

Borger said what Birk told the news outlet was incorrect. He met with Middletown detectives July 28, but earlier than their appointment, he said.

"When I met with the detectives, I informed them that Ms. Rodgers was not going to attend, thereby exercising her constitutional right to remain silent," Borger said.

How Central Connections got into its current financial situation is unclear, though Middletown police are investigating whether Rodgers committed any crimes.

Her contract was terminated and she was escorted by police out of the building July 27.

Rodgers was hired in 2021 and Central Connections then completed a \$1.5 million remodel to attract more members and generate revenue through wedding receptions and parties.

According to 2021 tax returns from Form 990 reviewed by the Journal-News, Central Connections profited \$1.04 million in 2020 and \$564,681 in 2021.

The center began 2021 with \$4.6 million in net assets or fund balances and ended the year with \$5.188 million.

The biggest difference was found under total liabilities when they dropped from \$875,607 at the beginning of 2021 to \$155,532 at the end of the year.

The document listed Rodgers as the executive director.

On July 29, 2022, Rodgers signed for a mortgage loan through First National Bank for \$450,000, then did a loan modification that increased the amount to \$650,000, according to the Butler County Recorder's Office. Her signature and job title are listed on the loan, which matures July 29, 2024.

City Manager Paul Lolli, during a special City Council meeting last week, told the overflow crowd of concerned city citizens that City Council supported purchasing Central Connections for an unknown amount. The building and land are owned by the Middletown Area Senior Citizens Inc.

According to the Butler County auditor's website, the land at 3907 Central Ave. is appraised at \$225,000 and the building at \$1.9 million, for a total of \$2.144 million.

But those are valuations from Jan. 1, 2020, before the center had a \$1.5 million remodel.

The land and property will be reappraised based on the Jan. 1, 2023, valuations.

Lolli admitted the city owning Central Connections would be "challenging, but worth it."

Then he added: "We can't let this go. We have to provide the services the seniors depend on."

Lolli said Central Connections will be purchased with the city's American Rescue Plan Act funds, meaning taxpayers will have paid for the building twice.

The money from the sale would be used to pay off the center's debt,

though the building was paid off from a levy that generated \$7 million over 10 years.

With no executive director in place and with the contract with the Council on Aging canceled, Lolli said Jackie Phillips, health director, will oversee daily operations of the center for the short-term.

The center, according to its Facebook page, is open from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Monday through Friday with the café serving lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The center is closed Saturday and Sunday and all weekend events have been canceled due to a staffing shortage, the city has said.

The city hopes to retain as many of the 35 employees as possible, Lolli said.

At least one developer, D.E.R. Development Co., has filed a lien against Central Connections, according to documents obtained by the Journal-News. The document says the company is owed \$266,594.52, plus allowable interest.

The lien was filed on May 5, 2023, and signed by William Roe, vice president of the company.

Contact this reporter at 513-581-7612 or email Rick.

McCrabb@coxinc.com.

State joins senior center investigation

Former account manager says 13 Central Connections board members 'went to sleep.'



Diane Rodgers



Central Connections held a tour of the renovated facility Nov. 1, 2022, in Middletown.

The renovations have turned the senior center into a recreation center with full

restaurant and bar, fitness room and rooms to host events.
NICK GRAHAM/STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB AND LAUREN PACK - STAFF WRITERS

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

As the Ohio attorney general's Bureau of Criminal Investigation has joined the Middletown Division of Police into the criminal investigation into the finances of Central Connections, a former account manager is questioning the actions of its board.

A letter from Middletown Police Chief David Birk was sent Friday to BCI's forensic account unit requesting the assistance of a forensic accountant "with a financial investigation resulting from an alleged theft of monies from a local organization."

Steve Irwin, spokesman for the Ohio attorney general's office, confirmed the office's involvement, stating the investigation is active.

Birk told the Journal-News the investigation is concerning Central Connections, the city's senior center. Diane Rodgers, hired as

Central Connections executive director in 2021, was terminated late last month by the board for "cause," said Rick Fishbaugh, board president.

Kate Cleary, former account manager at Central Connections who was fired by Rodgers, said she sent an email to all the board members in October 2022 addressing her concerns regarding the center's financial stability. She said none of the 13 board members, including Fishbaugh, responded to her email.

"It's like all 13 went to sleep," Cleary said. "It's bizarre."

Fishbaugh hasn't returned calls from the Journal-News this week.

Meanwhile, city staff is overseeing the daily operations of Central Connections following a special City Council meeting last week when it was decided the city would possibly purchase the building and property from the Middletown Area Senior Citizens Inc.

City Manager Paul Lolli said Jackie Phillips, health director, is overseeing the center in the interim.

He said Central Connections will be purchased with the city's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, meaning taxpayers will have paid for the building twice. The money from the sale would be used to pay off the center's debt, though the building was paid off from a levy that generated \$7 million over 10 years.

The center remains open 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, with the cafe open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., according to its Facebook page.

But Purse Bingo, a major fundraiser scheduled for Aug. 19, has been canceled and all weekend events have been canceled.

It's unclear how many wedding receptions, anniversary parties and reunions were scheduled at the center and when, or if, those deposits will be refunded.

Rodgers' contract was terminated and she was escorted by police out of the building on July 27.

Tyrone Borger, the attorney representing Rodgers, said he advised her not to comment on the situation.

"My client and I have been informed that there is an ongoing investigation," he wrote in an email to the Journal-News.

"As such, while my client would like to comment and clear up several misconceptions. She is taking my advice and refusing to comment."

At least one developer, D.E.R. Development Co. has filed a lien against Central Connections, according to documents obtained by the Journal-News. The document says the company is owed \$266,594.52, plus allowable interest.

The lien was filed on May 5, 2023, and signed by William Roe, vice president of the company.

Contact reporter Rick McCrabb at 513-581-7612.

Questions remain regarding alleged missing funds at Central Connections

Vandalism report led to a probe into senior center's finances.

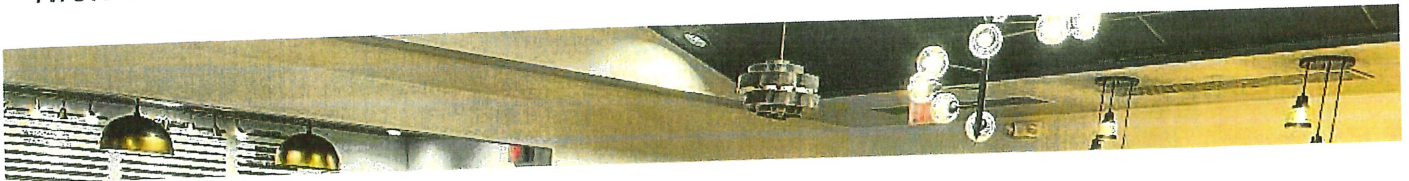


Diane Rodgers



Diane Rodgers was the driving force behind a renovation that included a recreation center, a full restaurant and bar, a bridal suite, rooms to host weddings and a fitness room.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF 2022





About 75 people packed the Central Connections cafeteria July 25 to discuss their concerns about the future of the senior center with Executive Director Diane Rodgers and Board President Rick Fishbaugh.
RICK MCCRABB / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB AND LAUREN PACK - STAFF WRITERS

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

MIDDLETOWN — A whirlwind of controversy has surrounded Central Connections, the city's senior citizens center, the last three weeks.

Seventeen days after Diane Rodgers, executive director of the center, was terminated by the board "for cause" and escorted out of the building by Middletown police, pieces are missing regarding one of the largest and most complex investigations in city history.

After Rodgers was hired in 2021, she was the driving force behind a \$1.5 million renovation of the facility that included a recreation center with full restaurant and bar, bridal suite and rooms to host weddings and a fitness room. Those improvements were needed to attract outside events to generate revenue to fund programming, Rodgers said.

Another goal was drawing younger members, she said. The center's membership has grown from 600 to 2,790, according to Rodgers.

But what was hidden until recently was the financial picture at Central Connections, which received \$7 million over 10 years from Middletown taxpayers to pay off the mortgage. Voters passed a five-year, 1 mill levy in 2012 and a renewal in 2017. The levy expired on Dec. 31, 2022.

In the last couple of weeks, Central Connections employees have claimed they were paid with payroll checks that bounced, with cash and gift cards; vendors have stopped purchase orders to the center due to lack of payment; events have been canceled and operating hours reduced; the Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio terminated its three-year contract that was set to expire this year; and the center stopped home-delivered meals to senior citizens.

Rick Fishbaugh, board president, said during a meeting on July 25, Central Connections may have to file for bankruptcy.

At the center of the financial fiasco is Rodgers, who hasn't been seen publicly since she was terminated.

She has closed her Facebook page and co-workers said they don't know where she is living. She has listed addresses in Hunter and Sabina.

Before Rodgers was hired in 2021, Fishbaugh said the board completed a background check on her, but only in Ohio, though she had never lived or worked in the state. He has admitted that was "a mistake."

Rodgers is under investigation by the Middletown Division of Police and the

Ohio Bureau Criminal Investigations regarding finances at the center, according to police Chief David Birk. No criminal charges have been filed and the investigation is ongoing, he said.

A letter from Birk was sent Aug. 4 to BCI's forensic account unit requesting the assistance of a forensic accountant "with a financial investigation resulting from an alleged theft of monies from a local organization."

Kate Cleary, former account manager at Central Connections who was fired by Rodgers, accused Rodgers of hiding the center's finances from her. She said Rodgers controlled the center's checkbook and credit card and when Cleary inquired, Rodgers refused to disclose the figures.

Cleary said Rodgers always opened the bank and credit card statements.

Eventually, concerned about the future of the center due to the finances, Cleary sent an email in October to the 13 board members and Fishbaugh. She said no one addressed her concerns.

"It's like all 13 went to sleep," Cleary said. "It's bizarre."

Fishbaugh didn't return repeated calls from the Journal-News seeking comment.

Another time, Cleary said, she showed the center's certified public accountant that the center had \$165,000 in its checking account. When the CPA asked about the missing money, Cleary told him: "It's gone."

"There was no system of checks and balances," she said.

While the investigation continues, Health Director Jackie Phillips is overseeing the daily operations of Central Connections, said City Manager Paul Lolli, who added, "We can't let this go.

We have to provide the services the seniors depend on."

The center remains open 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday with the café open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., according to its Facebook page.

But Purse Bingo, a major fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, has been canceled and all weekend events have been canceled.

It's unclear how many wedding receptions, anniversary parties and reunions were scheduled at the center and when, or if, those deposits will be refunded.

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She said the church will provide congregate meals from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday. The plan is for COA to find a permanent place for the meals to be served within a few weeks, Smith said.

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Meals on Wheels also will provide meals for the seven congregate sites Central Connections previously served, she said.

Smith said COA is working to connect transportation clients and clients receiving supportive services with new providers.

Lolli said the city's lawyers and representatives from the center's board are meeting to discuss the sale price of the building and land.

Lolli didn't want to speculate on that price. Those funds, which will come out of the city's American Rescue Plan Act money, will be used to pay off debt at the center, Lolli said.

According to the Butler County's Auditor's website, the land at 3907 Central Ave. is appraised at \$225,000 and the building at \$1.9 million for a total of \$2.144 million. But those are valuations from Jan. 1, 2020, before the center had a \$1.5 million remodel.

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CENTRAL CONNECTIONS TIMELINE

- Nov. 6, 2012: Middletown taxpayers pass a five-year, 1-mill levy to provide or maintain senior services at the Middletown Area Senior Center.
- Aug. 16, 2015: The name of the Middletown Area Senior Center is changed to Central Connections.
- May 2, 2017: Middletown taxpayers renew a five-year, 1-mill levy to provide or maintain senior services at the center.
- November 2021: Diane Rodgers is hired as executive director. She says she moved from Reno, Nevada, where she oversaw a senior center and worked with the homeless population, to be closer to her daughter who lives in New York.
- July 29, 2022: Rodgers signs for a mortgage loan through First National Bank for \$450,000, then does a loan modification that increases the amount to \$650,000, according to the Butler County Recorder's Office. Her signature and job title are listed on the loan that matures on July 29, 2024.
- Nov. 1, 2022: Ribbon-cutting is held to celebrate the \$1.5 million in renovations of Central Connections, 3907 Central Ave.
- Dec. 31, 2022: Senior citizens center levy expires after generating \$7 million over 10 years.
- May 5, 2023: D.E.R. Development Co. files a lien against Central Connections, saying the company is owed \$266,594.52, plus allowable interest.
- May 31, 2023: Rodgers files vandalism report at Central Connections. Middletown police say that leads to the investigation of center's finances.
- July 24, 2023: The Council on Aging terminates its three-year contract with

Central Connections. Fifty employees are laid off.

- July 25, 2023: Nearly 75 senior citizens and former and current employees of Central Connections attend a meeting in the cafe with Rick Fishbaugh, board president, and Rodgers.
- July 27, 2023: Rodgers is terminated as executive director of Central Connections and escorted out of the building by Middletown police.
- Aug. 3, 2023: During a special City Council meeting and after an executive session, City Manager Paul Lolli announces council has agreed to move forward with the possible purchase of the Central Connections building and land and for an unknown amount that will come out of the city's American Rescue Plan Act fund.
- Aug. 5, 2023: In an email to the Journal-News, attorney Tyrone Borger, who is representing Rodgers, writes that he and his client have been "informed that there is an ongoing investigation. As such, while my client would like to comment and clear up several misconceptions. She is taking my advice and refusing to comment on any allegations at this time."
- Aug. 9, 2023: Middletown Police Chief David Birk says his department is working with the Ohio attorney general's Bureau of Criminal Investigation into the criminal investigation into the finances of Central Connections.

COMPLETE COVERAGE

Read previous coverage of the ongoing Central Connections financial issue at journal-news.com.

Fallout over Central Connections' finances continues, hours cut

MIDDLETOWN



Middletown's Central Connections held a ribbon cutting and tour of their renovated facility on Nov. 1, 2022. in Middletown. The \$1.5 million in renovations turned the senior center into a recreation center with full restaurant and bar, bridal suite and rooms to host weddings, fitness room and more.
NICK GRAHAM/STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB AND LAUREN PACK - STAFF WRITERS

MIDDLETOWN — More employees of Central Connections senior center have been laid off following the business' financial fallout.

The center has temporally closed the café and bar and reduced operating

8/15/2023

hours, according to an email the Journal-News received from Jim Berry, a board member.

Starting Monday, the center will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday with reduced staff, he wrote. The center was open from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Berry didn't say how many of the center's 35 employees were laid off, but he believes they will be eligible for unemployment.

Lori Dennon, the center's former manager of food delivery services, told the Journal-News all but four employees were laid off during Friday's meeting.

When employees asked the board about their payroll checks due on Tuesday, for work completed Aug. 1-11, they were told they would be paid sometime in September, Dennon said. Their mileage reimbursement checks also would be available next month, she said.

Berry said the Central Connections board of directors has been "gathering as much data as possible about the financials and the operation of the center" by talking to employees, suppliers, volunteers, and members of Central Connections.

The board also has been in discussions with the city of Middletown about stepping in and taking over the operation of the center. He said the city told the board it wants to lease the center with the intent of purchasing the center.

The goal, Berry said, is for the city to keep "mission critical operations" in place.

Diane Rodgers, executive director of the center, was terminated on July 27 by the board "for cause" and escorted out of the building by Middletown police, according to Rick Fishbaugh, board president.

After Rodgers was hired in 2021, she was the driving force behind a \$1.5 million renovation of the facility that included a recreation center with full restaurant and bar, bridal suite and rooms to host weddings and a fitness room. Those improvements were needed to attract outside events to generate revenue to fund programming, Rodgers said.

Rodgers hasn't been seen publicly since she was terminated.

She has closed her Facebook page and co-workers said they don't know where she is living. She has listed addresses in Hunter and Sabina.

Before Rodgers was hired, Fishbaugh said the board completed a background check on her, but only in Ohio, though she had never lived or worked in Ohio. He has admitted that was "a mistake."

Rodgers is under investigation by the Middletown Division of Police and the Ohio Bureau Criminal Investigations regarding finances at the center, according to police Chief David Birk. No criminal charges have been filed and the investigation is ongoing, he said.

While the investigation continues, Health Director Jackie Phillips is overseeing the daily operations of Central Connections, said City Manager Paul Lolli who added "We can't let this go. We have to provide the services the seniors depend on."

COMPLETE COVERAGE

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As such, while my client would like to comment and clear up several misconceptions. She is taking my advice and refusing to comment on any allegations at this time."

Aug. 9, 2023: Middletown Police Chief David Birk says his department is working with the Ohio attorney general's Bureau of Criminal Investigation into the criminal investigation into the finances of Central Connections.

Aug. 11, 2023: Central Connections announces more layoff and the closing of the cafe and bar. The hours are reduced to 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Middletown authorizes lease, possible purchase of senior center for \$1.8 million

By Rick McCrabb | Journal-News,
13 hours ago



Middletown City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to allow City Manager Paul Lolli [to enter into a lease agreement for Central Connections](#) with the option to purchase the property.

There was a lengthy discussion before council members voted because they didn't receive the lease contract until Tuesday afternoon.

The cost of the lease for the remainder of the year is \$50 per month, or \$200 for the rest of the year.

After that, the city may purchase the property for \$1.8 million. The city must exercise the option to purchase before Dec. 31, 2023, according to the lease contract. Law Director Ben Yoder said the building and property have been appraised at \$2.5 million.

Lolli said it will cost the city about \$10,000 a month to operate the center: \$5,000 in insurance and \$5,000 in utilities. He said two staff members, Health Director Jackie Phillips, and Jeri Lewis, events coordinator, are operating the center in the interim. He said they have recruited 10 volunteers to assist in running the center.

After the “due diligence” is complete, if the purchase of the property is recommended, the option to purchase will be brought before City Council for further approval and appropriation of the necessary funds, according to the staff report.

Lolli said if the city didn’t lease the building, it would have to close immediately and the 100 members who are using the facilities won’t receive “mission critical services.”

If the city purchases Central Connections, Lolli said the 13 board members have indicated they want to resign. When told that, council member Rodney Muterspaw said: “We want them out.”

The city won’t inherit any of the center’s debt, city officials said.

“We don’t know what debt is out there,” Yoder said.

By Dec. 31, he said, the city will have “a better handle” on the center’s finances.

At one time during the meeting, it appeared Mayor Nicole Condrey would vote against the lease.

“I don’t have enough information,” she said. “There are so many unknowns. I feel uncomfortable.”

Then Muterspaw added: “We know it’s a mess. We didn’t create the mess. I see both sides of it.”

In the last week or so, Lolli said, thanks to city staff, the day-to-day operations at the center have been stabilized.

The goal is for another agency to operate the center, hopefully, sometime in 2024, Lolli said. He said the city will take precautions to reduce the risk of the financial struggles repeating.

Last month, Diane Rodgers, executive director of the center, was terminated by the board “for cause” and escorted out of the building by Middletown police, according to Rick Fishbaugh, board president.

Rodgers is under investigation by the Middletown Division of Police and the Ohio Bureau Criminal Investigations regarding finances at the center, according to police Chief David Birk. No criminal charges have been filed and the investigation is ongoing, he said.

The center has temporally closed the café and bar and reduced operating hours, according to an email the Journal-News received from Jim Berry, a board member. On Monday, the center changed its operating hours to 8:30

a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday with reduced staff, he wrote. The center was open from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Berry said the Central Connections board of directors has been “gathering as much data as possible about the financials and the operation of the center” by talking to employees, suppliers, volunteers, and members of Central Connections.

The goal, Berry said, is for the city to keep “mission critical operations” in place.

Taxpayers may fund senior center again

Middletown could enter into lease with option to buy for \$1.8M.

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

MIDDLETOWN — Senior citizens have often been described as some of the “most vulnerable” residents due to their age and substantial health risks.

One Butler County city is learning that providing services to seniors can be expensive, too.

If Middletown City Council votes later this year for the city to purchase Central Connections, the city’s senior citizens center that is experiencing a financial crisis, it will be the second time Middletown residents have paid for the building and land at 3907 Central Ave.

On Tuesday night, council voted unanimously to allow City Manager Paul Lolli to enter into a lease agreement for Central Connections with the option to purchase the property. The cost of the lease for the remainder of the year is \$50 per month, starting Sept. 1, according to the contract.

After that, the city may purchase the property from Middletown Area Senior Citizens Inc., a non-profit, for \$1.8 million. The city must exercise the option to purchase before Dec. 31, 2023, according to the lease agreement.

Law Director Ben Yoder said the building and property have been appraised at \$2.5 million.

Last year, the center held a ribbon-cutting to celebrate its \$1.5 million in renovations.

Lolli said it will cost the city about \$10,000 a month to operate the center: \$5,000 in insurance and \$5,000 in utilities. He said two staff members, Health Director Jackie Phillips, and Jeri Lewis, events coordinator, are operating the center in the interim. They have recruited 10 volunteers to assist in running the center and the city is performing background checks on them, Lolli said

The city must keep the building in "good order and condition" and is responsible for all cleaning services and snow and ice removal, according to the contract.

Lolli said city employees will handle those duties as needed.

So the city could spend more than \$40,000 the rest of the year to keep the center open and provide "mission critical services," according to Lolli, who said about 100 seniors are using the facility daily.

Lolli said if the city didn't lease the building, it would close immediately.

In 2012, Middletown taxpayers passed a five-year, 1-mill levy to provide or maintain senior services at the Middletown Area Senior Center. Then five years later, a five-year renewal was passed that generated a total of \$7 million that paid off the center's mortgage.

If the city purchases Central Connections with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, Lolli said the 13 board members have indicated they want to resign. When told that Tuesday night, council member Rodney Muterspaw said: "We want them out."

The city won't inherit any of the center's debt, city officials said.

"We don't know what debt is out there," said Ben Yoder, law director.

By Dec. 31, Yoder said, the city will have "a better handle" on the center's finances.

At one time during the meeting, it appeared Mayor Nicole Condrey would vote against the lease agreement.

"I don't have enough information," she told her fellow council members. "There are so many unknowns. I feel uncomfortable."

Then Muterspaw added: "We know it's a mess. We didn't create the mess. I see both sides of it."

In the last week or so, Lolli said, thanks to city staff, the day-to-day operations at the center have been stabilized.

The goal is for another agency to operate the center, hopefully sometime in 2024, Lolli said. He said the city will take precautions to reduce the risk of the financial struggles repeating.

Last month, Diane Rodgers, executive director of the center, was terminated by the board "for cause" and escorted out of the building by Middletown police, according to Rick Fishbaugh, board president.

Rodgers is under investigation by the Middletown Division of Police and the Ohio Bureau Criminal Investigations regarding finances at the center, according to police Chief David Birk. No criminal charges have been filed and the investigation is ongoing, he said.

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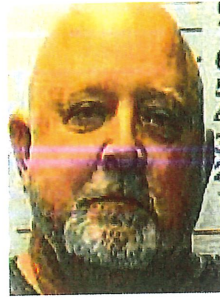
Monday through Friday.

All weekend events have been canceled.

Berry said the Central Connections board of directors has been "gathering as much data as possible about the financials and the operation of the center" by talking to employees, suppliers, volunteers, and members of Central Connections.

Former director's husband charged

Investigation at Central Connections leads to 7 counts of passing bad checks totaling over \$56K.



Vincent S. Smith

BY RICK MCCRABB AND LAUREN PACK - STAFF WRITERS

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

MIDDLETOWN — While Diane Rodgers, former executive director of Central Connections, a senior citizens center in Middletown, hasn't been charged with any crimes, her husband is sitting in the Middletown City Jail.

Vincent "Scott" Smith has been charged with seven counts of passing bad checks, all felonies, according to the Middletown Division of Police and court records.

Smith, 56, was booked Monday night into the jail after police served warrants at his home on Sabina Road in Sabina, according to Sgt. Earl Nelson. He is scheduled to be arraigned today in Middletown Municipal Court.

Rodgers hasn't been seen publicly since she was terminated by the Central

Connections board of directors on July 27 and escorted out of the building by Middletown police. Nelson said she was not present at the Sabina home.

According to the court complaint filed by Middletown Detective Patrick Glassburn, Smith's charges stem from the fraud investigation "at Central Connections with the executive director."

Smith allegedly wrote a series of checks that totaled \$56,300 between June 1, 2022 and June 23, 2023 from his bank to Central Connections and the checks were returned for insufficient funds, according to the court document.

"Smith wrote on 6/01/2022 a check in the amount of \$6,500, on 4/17/2023 two separate checks in the amounts of \$7,000 each, on 04/16/2023 two checks in the amount of \$14,000 and \$4,000, on 6/05/2023 a check in the amount of \$2,800 and on 6/23/2023 in the amount of \$15,000," according to the detective.

It appears Smith allegedly was attempting to return money taken from the Central Connections account, Nelson said.

Rodgers was fired "for cause," according to Rick Fishbaugh, board president.

He said the board performed a background check on Rodgers, but only in Ohio, where she never worked or lived. He said that was "a mistake."

Middletown investigation

Rodgers is under investigation by Middletown detectives and the Ohio Bureau Criminal Investigations regarding finances at the center, according to police Chief David Birk. No criminal charges have been filed and the investigation is ongoing, he said.

She was hired in November 2021 and then spearheaded a \$1.5 million renovation of the center, 3907 Central Ave., that included an event center, full bar, café, furnishings and decorations.

She said the improvements were needed to attract outside business to the center and fund activities.

While Rodgers said membership rose under her leadership, Central Connections is buried by its financial burden.

The Council on Aging canceled its contract with the center that no longer provides meals or social services to seniors.

Middletown is considering leasing the building for \$50 a month the last four months of the year.

After that, the city may purchase the property from Middletown Area Senior Citizens Inc., a non-profit, for \$1.8 million, said City Manager Paul Lolli. That money will help pay off debt at the center, he said.

The city must exercise the option to purchase before Dec. 31, 2023, according to the lease agreement. Law Director Ben Yoder said the building and property have been appraised at \$2.5 million.

Lolli said it will cost the city about \$10,000 a month to operate the center: \$5,000 in insurance and \$5,000 in utilities. He said two staff members, Health Director Jackie Phillips and Jeri Lewis, community projects coordinator, are operating the center in the interim. They have recruited 10 volunteers to assist in running the center and the city is performing background checks on them, Lolli said.

So the city could spend more than \$40,000 the rest of the year to keep the center open and provide "mission critical services," according to Lolli, who said about 100 seniors are using the facility daily.

Lolli said if the city didn't lease the building, it would close immediately.

If the city purchases Central Connections with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, Lolli said the 13 board members have indicated they want to

resign.

The goal is for another agency to operate the center, hopefully sometime in 2024, Lolli said. He said the city will take precautions to reduce the risk of the financial struggles repeating.

Contact this reporter at Rick.McCrabb@coxinc.com.

Area hospitals ranked among best in Ohio

Mercy, Kettering and Premier facilities earn high ratings from U.S. News & World Report.



Atrium Medical Center received "high-performing" ratings for heart attack and stroke care from U.S.

News & World Report. Upper Valley Medical Center earned high marks for maternity care. STAFF FILE

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW -STAFF WRITER

CLOSER LOOK

Premier Health had a solid showing in the latest hospital rankings by U.S. News & World Report, including accolades for Atrium Medical Center in Middletown.

Premier's Miami Valley Hospital was named the ninth-best hospital in Ohio. Other area hospitals were ranked "high-performing" in different procedures and conditions, including those in hospital systems Kettering Health and Mercy Health. Cleveland Clinic was ranked the best hospital in Ohio, also making the national list of U.S. News 2023-2024 Best Hospitals Honor Roll.

"Premier Health is committed to quality patient care and improving the health of the communities we serve," said Michael Riordan, president and CEO of Premier Health. "This acknowledgment from U.S. News and World Report demonstrates that our team of physicians, providers, nurses, clinical and support professionals excel in providing patient care at our hospitals each and every day. They inspire us all."

Miami Valley Hospital's ranking includes Miami Valley Hospital North in Englewood and Miami Valley Hospital South in Centerville. The hospital was ranked high-performing in 10 areas of care: heart failure; heart attack; colon cancer surgery; hip replacement; knee replacement; diabetes; prostate cancer surgery; leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma; maternity care (uncomplicated pregnancy); and stroke.

Atrium Medical Center received a high-performing designation for heart attack and stroke, while Upper Valley Medical Center received a high-performing designation for maternity care (uncomplicated pregnancy).

Bethesda North Hospital in Cincinnati was also ranked among the top 10 hospitals in Ohio, and it was deemed high-performing in one specialty and 10 procedures and/or conditions. Christ Hospital in Cincinnati was named third-best hospital in Ohio, was nationally ranking in one specialty, and named high-performing in four specialties and 12 procedures and/or conditions.

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center was ranked No. 1 on the Best Children's Honor Roll.

Kettering Health

Kettering Health had four hospitals named as high-performing hospitals, with Kettering Health Main Campus receiving the most ratings.

Kettering Health Main Campus earned high-performing ratings for the following procedures and conditions: aortic valve surgery, colon cancer surgery, heart bypass surgery, hip replacement, knee replacement, and stroke.

Three other Kettering Health facilities were named high-performing for the following conditions or procedures:

- Hip replacement: Kettering Health Miamisburg
- Knee replacement: Kettering Health Dayton and Kettering Health Miamisburg
- Stroke: Soin Medical Center

"Receiving this recognition affirms our employees' commitment to our patients' best health," said Brenda Kuhn, chief clinical officer at Kettering Health. "We remain dedicated to raising our standards of care and achieving patient-focused outcomes, resulting in superior healthcare."

Mercy Health

Jewish Hospital-Mercy Health in Cincinnati was rated high-performing in heart failure; leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma; stroke; and knee replacement.

Mercy Health-Anderson Hospital in Cincinnati was rated high-performing in heart attacks, heart failure, diabetes and stroke.

Mercy Health-Clermont Hospital in Batavia was rated high-performing in heart failure.

Mercy Health-Springfield Regional Medical Center in Springfield was rated a high-performing hospital in heart attacks, heart failure and stroke.

U.S. News evaluated more than 4,500 hospitals across 15 specialties and 21 procedures and conditions.

"For 34 years, U.S. News has provided data-informed rankings to help patients and their doctors find the best hospital to treat their illness or condition," said Ben Harder, chief of health analysis and managing editor at U.S. News.

"Fewer than half of evaluated hospitals earned any High Performing rating. Hospitals that are High Performing have excelled in providing high quality care in specific procedures and/or conditions."

To address varying needs for patients, U.S. News offers rankings and ratings in three dozen different health care services, including cancer care, orthopedics, heart bypass surgery and more.

Contact this reporter at 937- 503-5305 or email samantha.wildow@coxinc.com.

Funds to keep winter festival alive, help city buy ice rink

Holiday Whopla is an economic driver, organizers of Middletown attraction say.



The volunteer organization Holiday Whopla will raise the necessary funds to rent a chiller to make the ice for the ice rink. Holiday Whopla is a two-month winter festival in

downtown Middletown.



Structures were illuminated for the Middletown Holiday Whopla in downtown Middletown in November 2021. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF FILE

BY RICK MCCRABB -STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

MIDDLETOWN — Just when it appeared Holiday Whopla, a winter festival in downtown Middletown, was skating on thin ice it has been given new life.

"It was dead" is how Holiday Whopla coordinator Avinne Kiser described its future. "Completely dead."

But on Tuesday night, City Council members voted unanimously on an emergency ordinance for the city to purchase an ice rink for \$236,202 from Everything Ice Inc. and allow Holiday Whopla (pronounced who-plah), a volunteer organization, to operate the event for at least four years.

The money is coming out of the city's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund, according to City Manager Paul Lolli.

Holiday Whopla is a twomonth winter festival that includes ice skating, interactive light displays, igloos and Santa House in the downtown. As it has the last two years, Holiday Whopla will be held in downtown this year with the hopes of possibly finding a permanent home, either in Smith Park or after the city builds a park on top of a water basin on South Main Street, near the former Manchester Inn, Kiser has said.

As part of the agreement, Everything Ice included a Zamboni machine and Holiday Whopla will raise the necessary funds to rent a chiller to make the ice, Kiser told the Journal-News after the meeting.

The company also agreed to purchase the skating rink back, if the city desires, for 50% during the first two years, according to the contract. Lolli said the city is continuing to negotiate the buyback percentages.

The city had committed to financially support the holiday event in January, then appeared in recent City Council meeting to waver as the costs rose and the organization asked for more money.

Mayor Nicole Condrey said the "financial stability" of the organization was her biggest concern for initially not supporting the project.

Then last month, Kiser, who led Holiday Whopla its first two years, presented council with several letters of financial support from local foundations and

businesses.

There were letters from Sarah Nathan, executive director of the Middletown Community Foundation; Ken Cohen, CEO of Cohen Recycling; Sarah Kaup from the Arthur Harvey Foundation; Greg Martin from Martin Excavating; Angela Phillips, CEO of Phillips Tube Group, and representatives from the Miriam G. Knoll Foundation.

Those organizations have given around \$250,000 in donations and man-hours the first two years, according to their letters of support. They all urged the city to purchase the rink.

Cohen said his company would provide a cargo container and allow Holiday Whopla to store its lights and ice rink in a warehouse.

Nathan called Holiday Whopla "a signature community event that generates pride, provides enjoyable entertainment for families, encourages spending at downtown businesses, and enhances quality of life."

The MCF has pledged \$18,000 to this year's event, she wrote.

Kiser said the turning point in gaining council's approval came when large and small Middletown businesses and the Middletown Community Foundation "made their voices heard."

After reading those letters, Condrey said she looks at Holiday Whopla more as "a community service" than a business.

"It is good for the community in the end," she said.

Vice Mayor Monica Thomas said the organizers are the kind of people who have "shown us a lot of resilience. They have a group of volunteers who don't

want to give up.”

Council member Zack Ferrell said Middletown needs these type of community events to attract residents and give residents reasons to live in the city.

After the meeting Kiser, and John Ferrando, vice president of the Holiday Whopla board, and Sharon Flagel-Burke, board treasurer, celebrated the council's decision.

“It's done, finally,” Kiser said, fighting back tears.

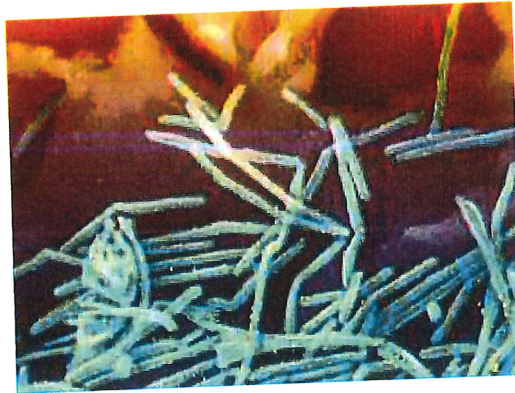
Ferrando added: “It's a win for Middletown.”

Contact this reporter at 513-581-7612 or email Rick.

McCrabb@coxinc.com.

CDC: New RSV immunization to be ready for infants this fall

Latest shot said to prevent severe cases in infants by 80%.



A microscope image shows RSV virions (colorized blue) and anti-RSV F protein/gold antibodies (yellow).

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH VIA AP / FILE

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW - STAFF WRITER

NEW DETAILS

The Centers for Disease Control is recommending a new RSV immunization for infants younger than 8-months old this fall to help prevent severe RSV illnesses, providing passive immunity against the virus for approximately five months after the shot is administered.

Nirsevimab, trade name Beyfortus, is a long-acting monoclonal antibody product the CDC says has been shown to reduce the risk of both hospitalizations and health care visits for RSV in infants by about 80%.

"This new RSV immunization provides parents with a powerful tool to protect

their children against the threat of RSV," said CDC Director Mandy Cohen, who recently adopted the CDC advisory committee's recommendation for the use of nirsevimab.

"RSV is the leading cause of hospitalizations for infants and older babies at higher risk and today we have taken an important step to make this life saving product available."

RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus, is one of the most common causes of childhood respiratory illness, prompting annual outbreaks of respiratory illnesses in all age groups.

An estimated 58,000 to 80,000 children under 5 years of age, most of them infants, are hospitalized each year nationwide due to an RSV infection, the CDC says. Each year, an estimated 100 to 300 children younger than 5 years old die due to RSV.

Nirsevimab was approved last month by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. It is administered as an injection, providing infants and toddlers with antibodies to protect against severe RSV illness during their first RSV season when they're most at risk.

This new shot also isn't a vaccine, doctors say. A vaccine stimulates the body's immune system to develop antibodies against a specific infection, but monoclonal antibodies, like in nirsevimab, provide passive immunity.

"Passive immunity is when antibodies to an infection are given to a person to help prevent or treat a disease," said Dr. Michael Klatte, chief of infectious disease at Dayton Children's.

This passive immunity lasts for however long the antibodies remain in the body, which is about five months for a dose nirsevimab, Klatte said.

Dayton Children's experienced an early surge in RSV infections last year, filling beds in its hospital in October with RSV patients instead of in January or February, like in pre-pandemic years. Klatte is anticipating a similar trend

this year but is hopeful for future years that this new immunization will help alleviate severe illness.

"I fully anticipate that during this coming fall and winter we'll still see a good number of infants hospitalized with RSV," Klatte said.

"However, with widespread uptake of this shot, I'm optimistic that within the next two to three years we'll begin referring to RSV in terms of how we talk about measles, rotavirus and whooping cough; namely, as a relatively rare cause of infection."

This shot has the potential to dramatically decrease the number of infants who develop severe RSV infection, Klatte said. Nearly all kids have been infected with RSV at least once before the age of two years, he said.

Between 1-3% of all children under one year old who catch RSV are hospitalized with a severe infection, but nirsevimab decreases the risk of hospitalization by about 80%.

"To put this in some perspective, there are roughly 6,200 infants born in Montgomery County per year," Klatte said. "If all these infants develop RSV infection, then about 100-200 of them will need to be hospitalized at Dayton Children's Hospital. However, if all those infants get nirsevimab, then only 20-40 infants would end up getting admitted to the hospital."

The CDC is recommending infants younger than eight months, born during — or entering — their first RSV season (typically fall through spring) receive one dose of nirsevimab. For a small group of children between the ages of eight and 19 months who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease, such as children who are severely immunocompromised, a dose is recommended in their second season.

Nirsevimab is expected to be available this fall. Dayton Children's Hospital anticipates having nirsevimab available for use prior to the start of this year's RSV season. Since the CDC recommends infants under eight months and newborns receive this shot prior to their first RSV season, Klatte said it

will also be important for birthing hospital partners in the region and for pediatricians' offices in the community to have nirsevimab available for patients.

The CDC's advisory committee also voted to include nirsevimab in the Vaccines for Children program, which provides recommended vaccines and immunizations at no cost to about half of the nation's children. Additional clinical guidance and health care provider education material will be provided by CDC in the coming months.

"As we head into respiratory virus season this fall, it's important to use these new tools available to help prevent severe RSV illness," said Cohen. "I encourage parents of infants to talk to their pediatricians about this new immunization and the importance of preventing severe RSV."

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U.S. suicides reached all-time high last year

CLOSER LOOK

BY MIKE STOBBE - ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — About 49,500 people took their own lives last year in the U.S., the highest number ever, according to new government data posted Thursday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which posted the numbers, has not yet calculated a suicide rate for the year, but available data suggests suicides are more common in the U.S. than at any time since the dawn of World War II.

"There's something wrong.

The number should not be going up," said Christina Wilbur, a 45-year-old Florida woman whose son shot himself to death last year.

"My son should not have died," she said. "I know it's complicated, I really do.

But we have to be able to do something. Something that we're not doing. Because whatever we're doing right now is not helping."

Experts caution that suicide is complicated, and that recent increases might be driven by a range of factors, including higher rates of depression and limited availability of mental health services.

But a main driver is the growing availability of guns, said Jill Harkavy-

Friedman, senior vice president of research at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Suicide attempts involving guns end in death far more often than those with other means, and gun sales have boomed — placing firearms in more and more homes.

A recent Johns Hopkins University analysis used preliminary 2022 data to calculate that the nation's overall gun suicide rate rose last year to an all-time high. For the first time, the gun suicide rate among Black teens surpassed the rate among white teens, the researchers found.

"I don't know if you can talk about suicide without talking about firearms," Harkavy-Friedman said.

U.S. suicides steadily rose from the early 2000s until 2018, when the national rate hit its highest level since 1941.

That year saw about 48,300 suicide deaths — or 14.2 for every 100,000 Americans.

The rate fell slightly in 2019. It dropped again in 2020, during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some experts tied that to a phenomenon seen in the early stages of wars and natural disasters, when people pull together and support each other.

But in 2021, suicides rose 4%. Last year, according to the new data, the number jumped by more than 1,000, to 49,449 — about a 3% increase vs. the year before. The provisional data comes from U.S. death certificates and is considered almost complete, but it may change slightly as death information is reviewed in the months ahead.

The largest increases were seen in older adults. Deaths rose nearly 7% in people ages 45 to 64, and more than 8% in people 65 and older. White men, in particular, have very high rates, the CDC said.

Many middle-aged and elderly people experience problems like losing a job or losing a spouse, and it's important to reduce stigma and other obstacles to them getting assistance, said Dr.

Debra Houry, the CDC's chief medical officer.

Suicides in adults ages 25 to 44 grew about 1%. The new data indicates that suicide became the second leading cause of death in that age group in 2022, up from No. 4 in 2021.

Despite the grim statistics, some say there is reason for optimism. A national crisis line launched a year ago, meaning anyone in the U.S. can dial 988 to reach mental health specialists.

The CDC is expanding a suicide program to fund more prevention work.

These vape pens look like school supplies — and they're being used in plain sight



JENNIFER BROOKLAND, USA TODAY NETWORK
August 17, 2023 at 5:17 AM

An e-cigarette that looks exactly like a highlighter is being sold to U.S. retailers, allowing children to smuggle the camouflaged product into schools.

The [High Light Office 4 e-cigarette](#) is practically indistinguishable from a highlighter. Its angled, colorful tip makes it look ready for study hall even when uncapped. It provides 4,000 puffs, according to the company's website, and is available in 20 flavors, from sweet mint to mango.

Teenagers have a specialty for staying one step ahead of the rules, and school resource officers are calling attention to the gargantuan challenge of keeping products like these out of lockers and classrooms.

"Nothing's really being enforced to stop the flow of these coming into our schools," said veteran Illinois school resource officer Stefan Bjers. "And we're seeing the numbers grow and grow and grow every single year."



This screen capture from highlightvape.com shows the colorful selection of vape products that can easily be mistaken for an actual highlighter carried by a student.

It's never been easier to vape in secret

Vapes are now manufactured to look like USB drives, ballpoint pens, smartphone cases and smartwatches. There are vaping backpacks and even vaping hoodies that hide tubing and a mouthpiece so the wearer can inhale inconspicuously.

"Some of these companies have gotten so creative in terms of how they disguise this, that's not doing us any favors," said Mo Canady, executive director of the National Association of School Resource Officers. "It's very difficult to detect."

School resource officers around the country are trying to figure out how to respond. Canady said that at their national conference last month, a breakout session dedicated to vaping ran out of space and was by far the heaviest attended.

"This certainly is a hot topic for a lot of SROs, where they're trying to help out and educating students and their parents about the dangers here," said Canady.

Changing the role of school resource officers

Bjes says the "exorbitant" amount of time and attention school resources officers now expend identifying and confiscating illegal vaping devices detracts from their ability to do other aspects of their jobs.

School resource officers and administrators should really be focusing on building relationships, dealing with threats of violence and addressing bullying, Bjes says. By putting them on the vape beat, they spend so much time in their roles as enforcers that they don't have time to wear their other hats: those of teachers and mentors. "You're pulling away from the essence of what the school resource officer is meant to be," he said.

Bjes says a student who is pushed into the juvenile justice system is significantly more likely to reoffend. In Detroit public schools, vaping is a code of conduct violation and a reportable offense that requires the

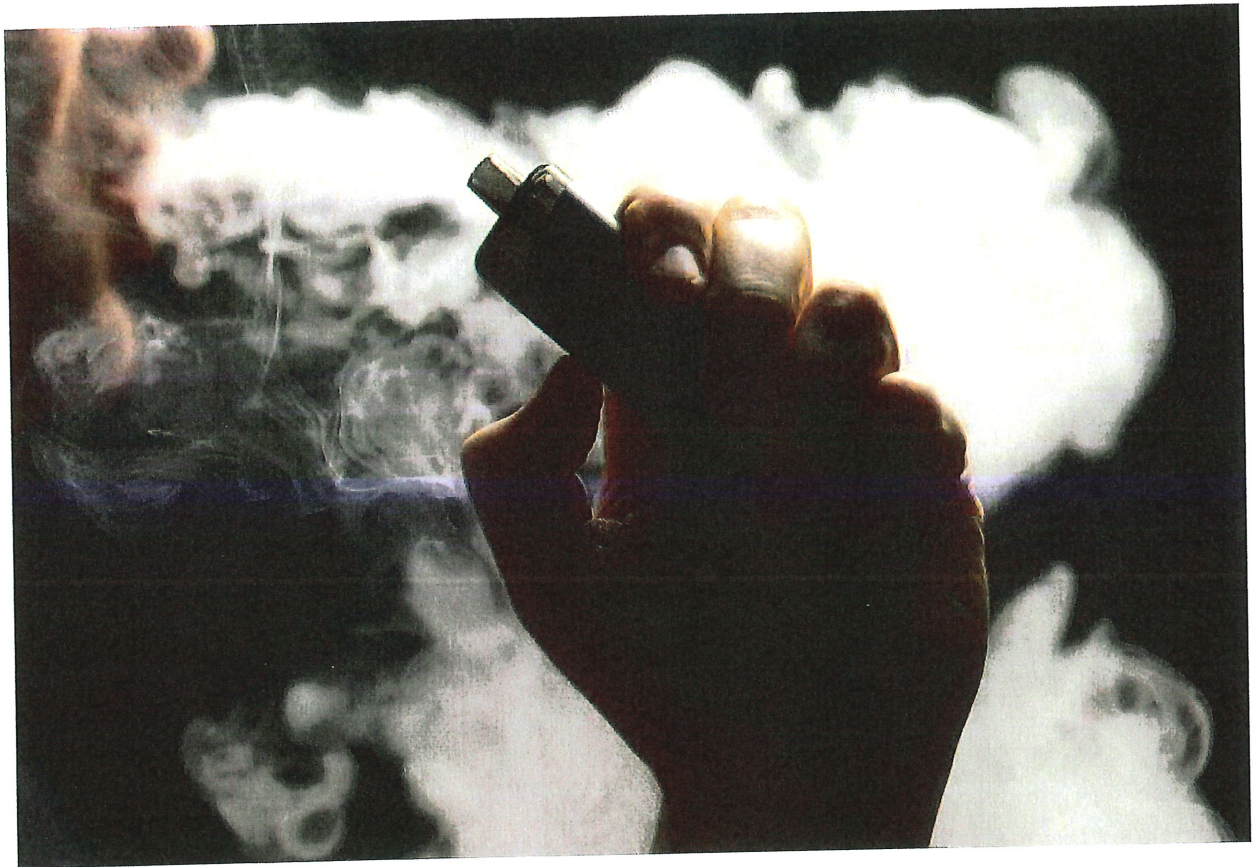
school district to report the incident to the public safety department, complete an incident report and, depending on previous referrals, issue a range of disciplinary actions.

Not only that, but students who interact with law enforcement may be even **more likely to use** controlled substances in the future.

Highly addictive, and not always obvious

Disguising vape products as household items or personal belongings “allows teenagers to vape in secret and hide their nicotine use from their parents, teachers and classmates,” according to the Addiction Prevention Coalition.

Upticks in e-cigarette use mean that about 20% of high schoolers report using the products, almost half of whom use them frequently.



Vapes almost universally contain nicotine — even those whose packaging doesn't disclose it. [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports](#) that some vape liquids marketed as containing 0% nicotine have been found to contain the highly addictive substance.

Even the term "vapes" is a marketing ploy, according to Chelsea Wuth, a Michigan Department of Health and Human Services spokesperson. It was "created by the tobacco industry to make these products appear less harmful, when in reality most vape products contain a large amount of nicotine, as well as several chemicals," she said.

Wuth said using these products can permanently damage developing adolescent brains. Nicotine has been shown to change the way teen brains function, increase the risk of future addiction to other drugs, and

adversely affecting the lungs, heart, kidneys and reproductive system. Vaping nicotine products has also been [linked to increased feelings](#) of depression, anxiety and stress among young people.

Those sweet, minty and tropical flavors make the job even quicker. “The evidence is overwhelming that flavors play a key role in youth starting and continuing to use tobacco products, leading to addiction,” according to the youth-focused [Take Down Tobacco](#).

Flavored vape products are flooding the market, and driving demand

The Food and Drug Administration made it harder to market flavored tobacco in the first days of 2020, and products had to submit to special approval if they contained any flavorings besides menthol. But enforcement proved weak, and manufacturers who can't produce here simply import disposable flavored products from China.



E-cigarette sales increased by nearly 50% from 2020 to the end of 2022, according to a CDC [study](#) published in June. The massive growth in sales was driven by kid-friendly flavors.

The greater availability has been matched with greater potency and addiction potential, but lower costs. From 2017 to 2022, disposable e-cigarettes sold in the U.S. nearly tripled in nicotine strength, quintupled in e-liquid capacity, and dropped in price by nearly 70%, according to a Truth Initiative [study published this month](#).

In less than three years, the number of types of e-cigarette devices sold in the U.S. has nearly [tripled to over 9,000](#), according to sales data obtained by the Associated Press, which reported that the retail market for e-cigarettes hit \$7 billion last year.

While the FDA has taken specific aim at brands like Elf Bar and Esco Bar, the primary concern in Michigan is Breeze, according to Richard Marianos, former assistant director of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.



"Being Michigan-owned and operated, Breeze's influence here is akin to Nike's dominance in sportswear," Marianos wrote in a statement to the Detroit Free Press, part of the USA TODAY Network. "From my experience and discussions with local law enforcement, Breeze is indisputably the most significant challenge we're grappling with in this context."

'It's just absolutely reprehensible behavior'

The company that makes the Office 4 vape pen says on its website that its products are intended to provide “discreet” and convenient vaping for people on the go. A disclaimer on the website states that products containing nicotine are not for sale to minors.

High Light Vape told the Free Press its product was strategically named the "Office" in a bid to appeal to young professionals. “This specific nomenclature derives from its positioning as a discreet solution, catering to individuals who wish to avoid any potential scrutiny from their peers, superiors, and associates with regard to vaping within professional environments,” an unnamed spokesperson wrote in an email.



This screen capture from highlightvape.com shows the colorful selection of vape products that can easily be mistaken for an actual highlighter carried by a student.

"Emblazoned on our packaging is the prominent age restriction of 21 and older, a testament to our unwavering commitment to refraining from sales to minors," the statement read.

Bjes says the products are clearly marketed to kids. And Michigan advocates agree.

"It is completely irresponsible, and it is just another attempt by the tobacco industry to lure our kids into a lifelong addiction to nicotine," said Minou Jones, founder and CEO of [Making It Count Community Development Corp.](#) and chairperson of the Detroit Wayne-Oakland [Tobacco-Free Kids Coalition](#). "When you are making products that resemble school supplies, that is just not playing fair."

Michigan doctors aren't buying the company line, either.

"They're targeting our children to addict their next generation of customers," said Dr. Russell Faust, medical director for Oakland County's Health Division. "And it's just absolutely reprehensible behavior."

Jones says Michigan lawmakers should ban the sale of flavored tobacco products now. "Manufacturers are [looking for the loopholes](#) to slip through the cracks," she said. "In Michigan, we need to not wait on the federal government to protect our kids."

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in 2019 tried to ban flavored vapes with an emergency order that was struck down by the courts. In 2021, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services abandoned an effort to institute a rule to that effect.

Students looking for more information on quitting e-cigarettes can go to mylifemyquit.org, and additional resources are available [here](#).

Jennifer Brookland covers child welfare for the Detroit Free Press in partnership with Report for America. Reach her at jbrookland@freepress.com.

This article originally appeared on Detroit Free Press: [Vape pens that look like highlighters are being smuggled into schools](#)

Recreational marijuana on November ballot

Citizen-led effort would legalize cultivation, sales to people 21 and over.

BY AVERY KREEMER - STAFF WRITER

ELECTION 2023

A statewide ballot initiative to legalize marijuana officially secured its place on the November ballot Wednesday after Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose confirmed the success of the citizen-led campaign's signature gathering process.

Wednesday's announcement puts the recreational marijuana question on the November ballot alongside an abortion-rights amendment proposal. Both questions were brought forth by Ohioans through the state's initiated petition process, which allows citizens to spur a statewide vote on policy without approval from the Ohio General Assembly.

The cannabis question came by way of a citizen-initiated statute.

If passed by a simple majority of voters, the measure will add a section to the Ohio Revised Code which would outline how marijuana sales and consumption will be regulated in the state.

The campaign's confirmation was held up after it came about 679 signatures short of the requisite statewide quota when it initially submitted its petition

in July.

Using the 10-day cure period afforded to petitioners, the campaign collected 4,405 valid signatures, including 626 in Montgomery County, to meet the quota.

“We are grateful to the thousands of Ohioans who helped us get to this point and are excited to bring our proposal to regulate marijuana like alcohol before Ohio voters this coming Election Day,” said Tom Haren, a spokesperson for the Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, the group behind the proposal.

The Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol runs JustLikeAlcohol.com. The group’s 40-page proposal would legalize marijuana cultivation, manufacturing, testing and sales to people age 21 and over. It would also legalize growing and cultivating marijuana plants at home for people 21 and over with a limit of six marijuana plants per person and 12 plants per household.

The measure also would create the Division of Cannabis Control within the Ohio Department of Commerce, which would broadly be responsible for regulations on the Ohio cannabis industry, including granting licensing and doling out necessary penalties.

It is rare for citizen-initiated statutes to get to this point in Ohio. If the marijuana statute passes this November, it would become just the fourth citizen-initiated statute to pass in state history. The last time was when Ohioans outlawed indoor smoking in 2006.

Ohio’s citizen-initiated statute law provides no protections or safe harbor for enacted citizen statutes, a fact that makes the marijuana statute’s future unclear, even if it passes this November. The Ohio General Assembly could amend or even rescind the law entirely if a simple majority of state legislators wanted to do so.

Recreational marijuana backers have long tried to use Ohio’s citizen-initiated

petition process to legalize cannabis, either through amendment or through statute, but all have failed to this point.

Ohioans soundly denied the most serious attempt at recreational legalization back in 2015, when 63.4% of voters rejected a constitutional amendment that would have created a marijuana cultivation monopoly for only 10 select growers in the state. That same election, Ohioans passed an anti-monopoly amendment, which barred amendments from being used to create special financial interests .

Contact this reporter at 614-981-1422 or email avery.kreemer@coxinc.com.

MORE DETAILS

IF THE MARIJUANA MEASURE PASSES:

- The measure would legalize recreational marijuana sales to adults over the age of 21.
- Adults over 21 would be allowed to grow and cultivate up to six marijuana plants themselves.
- This would be the fourth citizen-initiated statute to pass a statewide ballot initiative in Ohio history.

Nonprofit targets 'extreme shortage' of senior housing

National Church Residences operates 4 Middletown facilities.



The 39-unit Dublin House, 1425 Central Ave., is one of four senior housing facilities in Middletown operated by National Church Residences. The organization helps seniors age in place.

RICK MCCRABB / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

MIDDLETOWN — State Rep. Thomas Hall (R-Madison Twp.) met Friday morning with representatives from the National Church Residences to discuss the growing need for affordable senior housing throughout the region.

The organization, the nation's largest nonprofit senior affordable housing provider, operates 113 housing communities across Ohio and serves 14,000 seniors a day, said Amy Rosenthal, vice president of affordable housing.

In 25 states, the organization operates 340 housing communities, she said.

In Middletown, National Church Residences operates four facilities: Trinity Manor, Woodlands on Lafayette, Mayfield Village and Dublin House. Those facilities have 241 units and house 235 residents with an average age of 72.

Hoping to better serve the state's growing senior population, the organization is rehabbing or building 15 facilities with construction costs at \$250 million, Rosenthal said.

Corri Page, public policy manager for the organization, said there is "an extreme shortage" of affordable housing for seniors.

For every 100 Ohio seniors seeking affordable housing, there are 40 units available.

That shortage will continue to grow because U.S. citizens are living longer. Desiree Skidmore, services coordinator at Trinity Manor, said 10,000 people in the United States celebrate their 62nd birthday.

Hall said Ohio is "way behind" other states when it comes to available

housing.

The goal of National Church Residences is to provide quality, affordable housing that allows residents to "age in place," Skidmore said. That includes providing residents necessary care, including visiting doctors, hospice care, home health aides and Meals on Wheels.

Rosenthal hopes Ohio legislatures can create state workforce housing credits that will allow seniors to be "properly housed with dignity."

Hall applauded those at National Church Residences for gaining the trust of their residents.

"In today's world, it's hard to find people who care for your neighbor," he said.

Hall believes now is the time for Ohio to invest more in some of its services, including those aimed at seniors. He said the state recently deposited \$600 million into its "rainy day fund," pushing the total to \$4 billion.

He called this "an historic time" as the state recorded its lowest unemployment in history.

As the population continues to grow in Butler County, the state's eighth largest, with 390,000 residents, Hall sees Middletown primed to "turn the city into the future."

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Butler County's eviction rate ranks highest in the state

The end of COVID-era protections and help driving the increases.



A renter in this home in Dayton recently faced eviction in Dayton Municipal Court, but the case was later dismissed. Landlords filed 6,582 evictions in Montgomery County last year.

CORNELIUS FROLIK / STAFF



Marty Gehres

8/22/2023

BY CORNELIUS FROLIK - STAFF WRITER

CLOSER LOOK

Several local counties saw big increases in eviction filings last year — Butler County had the highest eviction rate in the state, and Montgomery County had the most new eviction cases in at least a quarter century, according to a Journal-News analysis.

After a reprieve during the COVID-19 pandemic, eviction filings are increasing again, and housing advocacy groups say the end of an eviction moratorium and the loss of rental and utility assistance is largely responsible for this.

“The eviction situation in Butler County is looking grim,” said Rachel Sheets, community relations coordinator with SELF, a nonprofit that serves as the community action agency for Butler County. “While many think the pandemic is over, the financial burden it has caused is still prevalent.”

A sharp increase

Municipal courts in Montgomery County saw a 41% increase in eviction filings last year, and filings in Butler County municipal courts jumped 25%, the largest increases since at least the late 1990s, according to data compiled by the Ohio Supreme Court.

Evictions plunged during COVID, owing to a federal eviction moratorium that expired in the summer of 2021 and changes to court procedures and proceedings.

Also, countless Ohio renters received federal assistance that helped cover their housing and utility costs.

Many people lost their jobs during the pandemic or had their hours severely reduced, which made it difficult for them to pay their bills.

Landlords filed 6,582 evictions in Montgomery County last year — which was more cases than any time since at least 1997, possibly longer, since data published by the Ohio Supreme Court only goes back that far.

Butler County — which had 4,544 new eviction cases in 2022 — had the highest eviction filing rate in the state, at 10.5%, according to a report by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.

The eviction filing rate is the number of eviction filings per 100 renter-occupied households in an area, the agency said.

Lucas County, home to Toledo, had the second highest rate (10.2%), while Hamilton County had the third highest (9.2%).

Montgomery County's eviction filing rate of 7.5% was fifth highest in the state.

A worrying trend

Sheets, with the nonprofit SELF, said it's surprising and saddening to hear that Butler County has Ohio's highest eviction filing rate.

But she said that actually makes sense since local rents have increased dramatically.

She said some renters say their monthly housing costs have doubled.

Sheets said not only have rents gone up — the prices of other essentials also have climbed, putting pressure on household budgets.

SELF has used COVID-related grants to help people pay rent and utilities for the last couple of years, and the organization has about \$1.8 million available to help struggling individuals and families. But there's high demand for the aid, and SELF had a wait list of about 91 requests for assistance as of mid-August.

Sheets said there could be even more evictions, unfortunately, once SELF

runs out of rental assistance funds.

Comparing to pre-COVID years

Elsewhere in the Miami Valley region, eviction filings last year increased 27% in Warren County; 25% in Clark County; 13% in Greene County; 9% in Miami County and 5% in Champaign County, according to Ohio Supreme Court data.

Despite these sizable increases, Montgomery County was the only local county where the number of new filings surpassed pre- COVID levels.

New filings last year in Butler, Champaign, Greene and Miami counties fell short of 2019 totals, while eviction cases in Warren County did not exceed the 2018 tally.

Eviction rates vary from county to county partly because different areas have different costs of housing relative to household incomes, said Marcus Roth, director of communications and development with the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio. Roth, however, also said studies have found that a small number of landlords often are responsible for a large share of evictions in their communities.

That means "it only takes a few frequent evictors to drive up a community's eviction rate," he said.

Court procedures and local tenant protection policies also play a role in the number of evictions in a community because it is harder and more expensive to evict tenants in some jurisdictions than in others, Roth said.

Roth agreed with Sheets that eviction rates are likely to continue to increase because of the loss of this kind of emergency rental aid and rising rental prices.

Nearly half of Montgomery County's new eviction filings (45%) were filed in Dayton Municipal Court, even though the city accounts for only about one-quarter of the county's population.

Dayton saw a 35% increase in new eviction filings last year, and landlords in the city already have filed about 1,900 eviction cases this year.

Marty Gehres, clerk of courts for Dayton Municipal Court, said the increase in evictions is very concerning.

Gehres, who worked with an eviction task force formed by city leadership, said evictions have long-lasting health impacts on families and children and unfortunately this is a complex problem with no easy solutions.

Dayton has enacted several laws that seek to help people facing eviction, like a pay-to-stay and rent receipt policy, and municipal court regularly refers tenant and landlord disputes to mediation, he said.

“To address the eviction issue on a larger scale, the Ohio Legislature would need to act and provide additional protections and resources to tenants,” Gehres said.

Contact this reporter at Cory.

HELP AVAILABLE FOR STRUGGLING RENTERS

Miami Valley Community Action Partnership is currently offering the ERA 2 Rental and Utility Assistance program to renter households in Montgomery, Darke, , and Preble Counties. Full program information is available on the organization’s website at [https:// miamivalleycap.org/era-2/](https://miamivalleycap.org/era-2/).

Households are eligible to apply for the ERA-2 Rental and Utility Assistance Program if they meet the following criteria:

- Households of one or more individuals who are obligated to pay rent on a primary residential dwelling in Darke, Greene, Montgomery or Preble counties;
- Households that include undocumented residents are eligible for assistance;

■ Eligible households must be able to answer “yes” to one of these two questions: 1) Is the household income at or below 50% of area median income (AMI) or 2) Has a member of the household been unemployed for at least the 90 consecutive days prior to the date of application?

■ The household experienced a hardship during or due to (directly or indirectly) the coronavirus pandemic, which may include qualifying for unemployment benefits, experiencing a reduction in income or incurring significant costs.

The program began in January 2023 and will continue through December 2024, or until funds are completely depleted. Frolik@coxinc.com.

County seeks feedback on crisis center

Forums next month will highlight the favored model and allow for community discussion.



The site of Butler County Care Facility in Hamilton could become home to the new Emergency Mental Health Crisis Stabilization Center. GREG LYNCH / STAFF

BY DENISE G. CALLAHAN - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

The Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Board will hold forums next month to gather feedback and listen to concerns about the Emergency Mental Health Crisis Stabilization Center planned at the site of the former county nursing home.

Officials countywide have talked about this facility for years but paused the project a year ago so Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board

Executive Director Scott Rasmus could fine tune the plan and seek input.

Rasmus told the Journal-News he will be holding three forums next month to present the favored model and allow a community discussion.

"(We're) just wanting to say, 'hey this is the model, this is what we're looking at' and in an open forum to educate about it, so everybody is aware of what it is and what it can do, and the timeline until it's implemented if it's endorsed,"

Rasmus said. "And then take questions ... and then to take feedback to see what are the concerns."

The plan is to use a section of the former Butler County Care Facility, the nursing home commissioners closed last year, and start with 10 observation chairs and 10 private rooms to offer "a continuum of care for non-violent individuals experiencing a serious and immediate mental health need."

"The cornerstone of this continuum would serve as the central and preferred destination for residents in crisis, whether they are experiencing a mental health breakdown or complications resulting from withdrawal from alcohol or other drugs," the MHARS board description reads.

"Law enforcement, emergency medical personnel and families could access the center 24/7 for help."

After being stabilized in the observation area, patients would be referred to wraparound services or admitted for two to five days for further in-house treatment.

The MHARS Board does not provide direct services; they manage funding for outside providers, so Rasmus needs to put out a request for proposals to find someone to run it.

The commissioners told him they wanted him to get input from the various communities — namely Hamilton and neighboring Fairfield Twp. He said he also has had discussions with city of Middletown staff.

Several years ago, Rasmus conducted two rounds of eight focus group meetings.

Attendees were from a wide swath of the community, including police, judges, clergy, doctors and elected officials, about 80 to 100, all told.

Rasmus gave the Fairfield Twp. trustees a presentation last month, and Fairfield Twp. Trustee Michael Berding told the Journal-News, "I would be in favor of it going in as long as our chiefs don't have an overwhelming concern."

"As a leader in our community, I do have to take into consideration what our highest-ranking police and fire personnel are thinking," he said. "That doesn't mean I have to take it as Bible, but I do have to at least consider it," Berding said.

He said he would also defer to the wishes of Hamilton because it is in their jurisdiction.

Rasmus met with Hamilton City Council in June and was peppered with questions about how this center impacts the burgeoning homelessness issue.

City Manager Joshua Smith also asked him why hospitals wouldn't be a better option for this service.

"It's another facility in Hamilton, and if (homeless people) are discharged, there's no guarantee they'll be returning to where they came from originally," said Smith.

"I'm just struggling to understand why Hamilton would be the best location."

Rasmus told the Journal-News he has reached out to the area hospitals since that meeting and will be having discussions.

The county commissioners have already allocated \$3 million in American Rescue Plan Act dollars to this project, some of it to renovate the building for this use, rather than build a new facility.

Commissioner Don Dixon told the Journal-News the hospitals aren't an option.

"I don't think the hospitals are even geared to that kind of treatment anymore,"

Dixon said, adding that the last local psychiatric ward at Fort Hamilton closed a couple of years ago.

"The last one was a couple years ago and they said it just didn't work. So I don't believe that's an opportunity, I believe that's all off the table," he said.

Dixon said he is glad Rasmus is reaching out to a large portion of the county to get their input and the commission will not force the issue if local communities strenuously oppose it.

"This has to have the community support, and if we don't have that it won't work anyway," Dixon said.

Cost is another issue to be considered. Rasmus said renovations are estimated at \$1 million and the balance of ARPA funds could be used for startup costs.

He has other commitments for capital costs. The annual cost to run the facility is estimated at \$7 million, and he said the city would likely need an additional tax levy to support the project.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The forums will be held from 5-7 p.m. Sept. 7 at the Butler Tech Career Center in Fairfield Twp.; Sept. 13 at the Mercy Health Fairfield Healthplex; and Sept. 18 at the Middletown City Council Chambers.

Officials consider levy for \$7M mental health facility

3 community forums in Butler County will be held next month.



The Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services board is considering a new levy to fund an Emergency Mental Health Crisis Stabilization Center.
GREG LYNCH / STAFF

BY DENISE G. CALLAHAN - STAFF WRITER

NEW DETAILS

The Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board is gauging interest in a new emergency crisis stabilization center, but a big part of the picture is the estimated \$7 million cost.

MHARS Board Executive Director Scott Rasmus is holding three community forums next month to explain what the center would provide — a project overview states around 4,800 residents would benefit in the first year — and listen to feedback.

The county commissioners are contributing the former Care Facility and \$3 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds to the project. Rasmus told the Journal-News the ARPA money should cover renovation — estimated at \$1 million — and some start-up costs, but the annual operations are estimated at \$7 million, “depending on usage levels and community support.”

“The board does have some operational funds to help start the facility up, too,” Rasmus said.

“But then we’re targeting new levy funds potentially to support the operation long term.

We’re looking at next year, maybe March.”

Officials countywide have talked about the center for years, and Rasmus conducted two rounds of eight focus group meetings. The 80 to 100 attendees were from a wide swath of the community, including police, judges, clergy, doctors and elected officials.

He has also studied five models, two in North Carolina, two in Ohio and one in Oregon. He based the \$7 million estimate on those models.

Commissioner Cindy Carpenter traveled with Rasmus to tour the two crisis units in North Carolina last year, one in Durham County that costs \$7 to \$8 million a year to run and another smaller one in the city of Henderson that

costs \$3 million to \$3.5 million annually.

The Durham County facility serves about 250 people a month and they are similar in size to Butler County.

The plan here is to use a section of the former nursing home for the 24/7 emergency, specialized care facility and start with 10 observation chairs and 10 private rooms to offer "a continuum of care for non-violent individuals experiencing a serious and immediate mental health need."

Although MHARS is an independent board, the county commissioners must sanction asking voters for money. It is unclear whether the board would need to levy the entire operational amount. The board already has two levies that garner around \$10.4 million and receive around \$8 million in state and federal funding.

Expenses were listed at \$16.8 million in the 2022 annual report.

Mike Stein, the auditor's office real estate director, told the Journal-News since property values are still being finalized — the median value hike is 37% — an exact cost to taxpayers isn't yet available. However, "7 mills of tax on a \$100,000 home will always cost about \$245 per year."

Carpenter told the Journal-News she believes Rasmus can trim the cost estimate.

"I don't think it's going to be that high," she said.

"I hope he can adjust his numbers, we know there are a lot of agencies with their hand out right now," she said. "And there is a lot of the system that needs improving, I need to make a decision after I see all those numbers, but of course I lean toward supporting what we need for assisting individuals with mental health issues."

Commissioner Don Dixon told the Journal-News he is glad the MHARS board is holding feedback forums because if there isn't community support the

question of a new tax levy is moot.

"It would have to be totally supported by the communities, number one and number two it would have to be determined that the services provided there have a benefit at the end of the day with the additional money," Dixon said. "I don't know, I have to hear the whole plan and see the community's reaction, I want to see the extra \$7 million benefit."

Rasmus told the Journal-News suicides are rising, drug overdoses are resurging and COVID-19 is still spreading its ill effects even three years out. He said they took a poll in May of 600 voters and "across the county 70% indicated they recognized or agreed with the need for this facility."

None of the commissioners have said they have made up their minds on a levy, but the cost is worrisome, especially with higher taxes on the horizon because of state-ordered astronomical property value hikes.

"At a \$7 million figure I don't know whether we would have the payback for that amount," Commissioner T.C. Rogers said. "It's hard to say this is the time to raise taxes for another service."

Butler County cities want help with homeless

Calling the problem a drain on resources, local officials seek help and funding from state leaders.



A group of Butler County leaders met on Monday to discuss the various issues surrounding the homeless problem.

DENISE CALLAHAN / STAFF

BY DENISE G. CALLAHAN - STAFF WRITER

CONTINUING COVERAGE

Butler County leaders are asking state lawmakers for help with the issue of homelessness, but if it includes locating more housing facilities in Hamilton and Middletown, officials there say they are already overburdened.

State Sen. George Lang and Rep. Sara Carruthers met with a group of elected officials from the county's two biggest cities and a host of others about the homelessness issue on Monday.

There were pleas for the state to anti up funds for more sheltering capacity, and city officials said they can't handle anymore drifters who drain public safety services, and sometimes harm businesses.

Lang told the Journal-News he convened the meeting after touring homeless camps with city officials from Hamilton and Middletown, in response to their requests for help.

"It's with a high degree of enthusiasm, excitement and motivation, I hope over time we can come to a way to address the homeless problem that we have in Butler County," Lang told the group. "And it is a problem, my eyes have been opened ... my focus is going to be on what can we do to help the business community because it's a tremendous negative impact on the business community."

Tammi Ector, executive director of Serve City in Hamilton and chair of the Butler County Housing and Homeless Coalition, gave a "spirited" presentation to the group, opening her remarks by singing the Donna Summer song "She Works Hard for the Money."

"If we're honest with ourselves, everyone in this room has been through something — if you didn't have support, you could just as easily end up homeless and in the same situation.

It's happening in West Chester, don't be fooled into thinking it's not," she said.

"It's not just Hamilton, it's West Chester and Oxford as well. Most Americans are one paycheck away from the bottom falling out."

She noted she was homeless briefly and warned "the NIMBY mindset not in my backyard, guess what: They're not going away.

They're going to be in our backyard, but they can be in our backyard housed instead of on the street."

"If we build the capacity to serve our own citizens, to help them stabilize instead of turning a blind eye and burying our head in the sand, we can help businesses to thrive," Ector said, adding they need 150 more permanent housing units based on a gap analysis.

Butler County Commissioner Cindy Carpenter said the "gap analysis" shows the county needs 274 permanent supportive housing units; some are already in the pipeline and they are asking the state for the balance.

To get federal grant funding, counties must do what is called a "point in time" count every January. Volunteers go out counting heads and the PIT count for the homeless in shelters this year was 246 and unsheltered was 20, according to Marcus Roth, a spokesman for the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio.

He said the unsheltered number is just a sampling and if the number is extrapolated to the entire county that number is 68 according to his agency. He said it is extremely difficult to get a true homeless count at any given time.

"It is inherently difficult to count people experiencing homelessness," Roth said. "People really don't want to stand up and be counted during maybe the worst moments of their lives so we do the best we can."

Also when you look at the data this way, this point in time count, it's kind of an undercount because it doesn't reflect the cyclical nature of homelessness."

Crisis center a topic

The issue of homelessness is more in the spotlight lately because of a proposed Emergency Mental Health Crisis Stabilization Center currently planned for the former county nursing home on Princeton Road in Hamilton.

City officials say city services are already taxed to the limit and are concerned the center may require more police and fire personnel.

The county mental health and addiction services board is spearheading the project, and Executive Director Scott Rasmus got an earful recently when he visited the Hamilton city council. Officials say the city is already inundated with homeless people who are being dropped off there and the new facility would exacerbate the situation.

They also feel such a facility should be more centrally located within the county.

We've got to be very cognizant of where these folks are going to go after they're stabilized, it's just going to cause an increase that unfortunately we are unprepared to handle," said Hamilton Vice Mayor Michael Ryan.

"My concern is those who are going to be dropped off, those that are going to be brought into our city and after they are stabilized where's the follow-up after that.

"Who's going to keep track of their progress? Where are they going to go? What happens if they just decide I don't want to do this anymore, is the very folks that dropped them going to come back here and take them home."

The Butler County commissioners have provided the vacant nursing home for the stabilization center and \$3 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to get the program started. The plan is to start with 10 observation chairs and 10 private rooms to offer "a continuum of care for non-violent individuals experiencing a serious and immediate mental health need."

After patients are stabilized in the observation area, they are either referred out for wrap-around services or admitted for a few days for further in-house treatment.

Rasmus told the Journal-News the reason he has become so immersed in the homeless problem is that the proposed center, even though addressing

homelessness, is not one of his board's responsibilities by law.

"I'm looking at the system, I realize system capacity may be an issue," Rasmus said. "So I'm addressing it now."

A costly issue

Middletown officials have been finding different ways of tackling its homelessness issues, and Councilman Zack Ferrell — who had to leave the meeting early — told the Journal-News it hasn't been cheap.

He estimated the city has spent \$3.5 million dealing with it over the last few years, and that means taxpayers have paid bill of roughly \$17,000 per homeless person.

"Middletown and the taxpayers are covering tens of thousands of dollars a year per homeless person ... ,"

Ferrell said. "So how does that make any sense? We are a caring, giving community, not just our council but all our citizens, however we can't do it by ourselves."

A lot of anecdotal evidence was given describing the various facets of the issue, and Fairfield Twp.

Trustee Shannon Hartkemeyer suggested they do a deeper dive into the hard facts.

"I heard there's some discrepancy in understanding what the actual needs are," she said. "I heard we occasionally get drop-offs from Clermont or other places and I heard we get a lot of drop-offs from other places."

I would encourage that we get the actual data."

Lang and Carruthers told the group they want to see that data before they can discuss state action.

As for the request to increase housing capacity? "Not if it is going to increase the burden on the local communities," Lang told the Journal-News.

"We heard testimony, they the experts that deal with this on a daily basis, that it will provide a burden. I'm not willing to increase the problem."

Contact this reporter at 937- 903-1808 or email Denise.
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Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board: A vital service

COMMENTARY



Rasmus

BY SCOTT RASMUS
GUEST COLUMNIST

The Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board (BCM- HARSB), otherwise known as MHARS (pronounced "mars," like the planet, for short), is in the process of performing an updated needs assessment and implementing a new three-year strategic plan. As we are beginning to receive feedback from our needs assessment, a common theme in the data revolves around residents wanting to know more about the board and the local community mental health system.

I will discuss the board here and then focus on the local community behavioral health system in a future article.

The MHARS board represents our county's behavioral health "hub" to address mental and substance misuse issues locally. The MHARS board

serves as an oversight government agency, which mainly focuses on contracting, budgeting, auditing, advertising, advocacy, planning and assessing the behavioral health services and ongoing needs in Butler County.

To perform these tasks, the board employs 11 full-time staff. These include five professionally licensed MH and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) staff, two subcontracted personnel, a county prosecuting attorney and a chief clinical officer (part-time psychiatrist).

An 18-member governing board serves as the main decision maker on budgets, contracting, staffing and policies. Staff and governing members do not provide any direct mental health and substance misuse services, but rely on contracts with more than 14 local providers through the community mental health system to provide behavior health services. These services include treatment, education, prevention, and residential and consultation services.

There are also a number of board non-contract providers that offer these services in our community but are not financially supported by BCMHARS.

The board has an \$18 million annual budget that is supported by revenue from two local mental health tax levies (57%), federal grants (29%) and state grants (14%). Of these revenues, 90 cents on the dollar support our county resident services/programming directly with 10 cents on the dollar for administrative overhead.

Still, the latter overhead or oversight is so important, since we as a government body are empowered to be good stewards of taxpayer money to ensure any funds we receive are used appropriately — since the board is “the funder of last resort.”

Board staff uses auditing procedures and continuous vetting of any funds allocated to the provider system. When it comes to programming supports, the board supports more than 60 specialized programs beyond generalized funding for mental health and addiction services from preschoolers

(Incredible Years) up through senior citizen (UPLIFT) programs based on evidenced-based practice models. Many of these models are researched and "tried and true" verified by outcomes.

We also review and consider fidelity to these best practice models when indicated.

Finally, the board has licensed Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder professionals who can be contacted for consultations about providers and resources in our county system.

The public may reach out to the board if they have further questions on mental health and substance abuse or any interest serving on the BCMHARSB governing board, especially Butler County residents.

It is also important to note for the local public that the BCMHARSB office is located at 5963 Boymel Drive, Fairfield.

The office is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The telephone number is 513-860-9240.

Caller/walk-in/guest consults for referrals to treatment (although no BH services are provided at the office or by the staff) are when needed.

The board funds a crisis hotline and heroin hopeline (24/7/365) that is available by calling 844-4CRI- SIS. The service offers information and referral services at any time.

Dr. Scott Rasmus is executive director of the Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board.

LOCAL

'They saved my life.' Middletown to lose harm reduction site with no option to reopen

**Terry DeMio**

Cincinnati Enquirer

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Drea Emmitt was first to arrive last week at the Middletown syringe services program: A back corner of a parking lot dotted with blue and white canopies that shielded folding tables with an array of supplies – from sterile syringes to water bottles.

"I don't miss it," said Emmitt, face gleaming in the sun. "It's like church."

Emmitt, 31, has struggled with drug use since she was 15, she said, triggered by "family problems" involving her father. She lives in Hamilton and takes the bus every week to the syringe service, where she's been a client for a year and a half.

That weekly ritual will end in a couple of days.

The weekly Middletown-based service, one of three that the Butler County General Health District funds, will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday for the last time outside Access Counseling, a mental health clinic, in the 4400 block of South Dixie Highway.

It has no place to reopen in the city, or anywhere.

No government board and no other business in Middletown has raised a hand or given a nod to the city health commissioner's requests to host the program on its property. And neighbors have complained about previous locations.

"I'm dreading its closing," Emmitt said.

A busy, safe space offering help for people with addiction

Middletown is by far the busiest of three Butler County safe drug-use services sites. It drew 3,380 clients and handed out more than 300,000 sterile syringes last year. The county health department safely disposed of 200,000 used syringes that clients returned to the site rather than littering the city with discarded needles.

The harm reduction program also distributed 2,613 Narcan kits and 4,555 fentanyl detection strips last year.

“For Narcan distribution alone, Middletown’s safe services program has been critical for the county as a whole,” said Erik Balster, health commissioner for the general health district.

For Emmitt, the Middletown program has been a safe space with warm health workers and educators as well as a place to get safe supplies.

“They’re like my family,” she said.

She started coming to the syringe exchange after she was diagnosed with HIV, and staff from Caracole, the Northside-based, regional nonprofit for HIV assistance, connected her with medical care. “I got it instantly,” she said. She takes medication for HIV every day, and the infection is no longer detectable in her blood, she said.

“They saved my life.”

Safe-use program credited with drop in HIV, hepatitis C cases, jump in overdose rescues

The people who work at the safe-use supplies site quietly worry that infections that sterile syringe services prevent will surge again in the region without the Middletown site providing evidence-based prevention supplies and care. Outbreaks of hepatitis C and HIV prompted the push for a needle exchange in the first place.

Both infection rates have dropped in Butler County since the safe syringe sites opened, records show. Balster also pointed to growing overdose reversals reported by clients who get naloxone and a drop in emergency hospitalizations for suspected overdoses in Butler County. The less-used programs in Fairfield and Oxford also contribute to the successes, he said.

This year, the program is also providing paper strips that can detect xylazine – the latest adulterant dropped into fentanyl so that people can check their supply for the drug before

injecting. The test strips and wound care “have been pretty big,” said Jordan Meyer, a Butler County harm reduction worker and epidemiologist. That’s because repeated injection of xylazine, an animal sedative, can cause unhealing skin abscesses.

Safe drug use program struggles with community support

The Middletown program has struggled from the start to maintain community support, advocates say.

In 2016, Butler County experienced a surge in hepatitis C cases, prompting the county to welcome the Cincinnati Exchange Project to Middletown, said Jackie Phillips Carter, the city health commissioner. The grassroots mobile needle exchange program was run from a van, led by infectious diseases expert Dr. Judith Feinberg, then a professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

In January 2018, Hamilton County Public Health’s harm reduction workers, who’d taken over the Cincinnati Exchange Program, helped Middletown’s exchange.

The mobile site was moved twice since its original opening due to neighbors’ complaints and discomfort with its presence, said Phillips Carter.

It landed at Access Counseling for what was to be a temporary stay in August 2021, and later, the Butler County General Health District took over funding.

“As COVID’s gone away, the main concern is safety. The lot is small, there are cars that whip through there,” said Daryl Hams, associate executive director of Access Counseling. “We’ve got the same issue with clients who didn’t want to be scheduled at the same time as the syringe exchange.”

Hams is also project director for the Regional Harm Reduction Collaborative, a group that introduces and supports harm reduction strategies in Butler and surrounding counties. He said that despite the opioid epidemic hitting hard in the region, there remains a stigma surrounding people who have the chronic health condition, and the area needs more education.

Middletown officials expressed hope for another community to pick up the harm reduction program.

In response to Enquirer questions about the site’s closure, Middletown City Manager Paul Lolli emailed a statement saying that the city is aware of the closing and “at this time” has no

plans to open an alternative site.

"We feel that the future of these programs and other programs, addressing homelessness, addiction, mental health issues and others need to be better addressed on a regional basis" and, while the city acknowledges the problems, he said, "a collaborative effort would not unduly burden any single community."

"To me there are obvious greater health benefits to the program even if it's something that no one wants in their backyard," said Middletown Mayor Nicole Condrey. She said the city has "always stepped up" to help public programs, but added, "When you continue to say yes, there's no pressure on anyone else to host it."

In Hamilton, Cindy Hogg, acting city health commissioner, responded to questions in an email, saying, "This has not been evaluated by our City Council in recent years. If it gets reevaluated we will let you know."

The Hamilton city manager and his chief of staff did not respond to Enquirer requests for comment.

Balster said county data tracking overdoses and use of the syringe site show that the people who most need the services in Butler County are in Hamilton or Middletown, and a new site would be most helpful either in or around one of those cities – preferably along a bus line.

"These people are a part of the community," he said, "and they deserve care and access to treatment."

'These are vulnerable people'

Emmitt knows that there's no direct bus line to the Fairfield syringe-access and harm reduction site, but she is determined to get there after the Middletown program folds up for good.

"I'll take a bus as far as I can go," she said, "and then I'll walk." A bus route and Google search shows the trip from Middletown by bus would leave a roughly 2-mile walk from the bus stop that's nearest to the Fairfield site.

She brightened as George Elias stepped off the Caracole van for its visit last week.

"Hey, papa bird!" she called out from across the parking lot, smiling broadly.

"Hey, baby bird," he replied, lifting an arm and tapping his rib cage.

It is, he said, a way to show her that he's "got her" tucked under his wing.

"These are vulnerable people who need these services," said Elias, a health educator with the nonprofit.

As she made her way around the site Friday, Emmitt filled out paperwork for a Nationwide Children's Hospital fentanyl research project and chatted with people, mostly the workers, who come from a variety of community-based health programs.

Emmitt paused at one table and took up an offer to sign a large poster that would be displayed at an International Overdose Awareness Day of remembrance a few days later at New Life Mission in Hamilton.

In red marker, Emmitt wrote, "Love you so much Nicole Emmitt." She pulled a tiny candle from a box on the table and placed it next to her sentiment for the loved one she'd lost to overdose death.

"My wife," she said.

Then she grasped her bag stuffed with supplies from the visit, turned and walked away.

Dirty Dining: Check violations at restaurants across the Tri-State

'We want it to be safe. We want it to be healthy.'

Posted: 12:40 PM, Aug 21, 2023

Updated: 12:46 PM, Aug 23, 2023

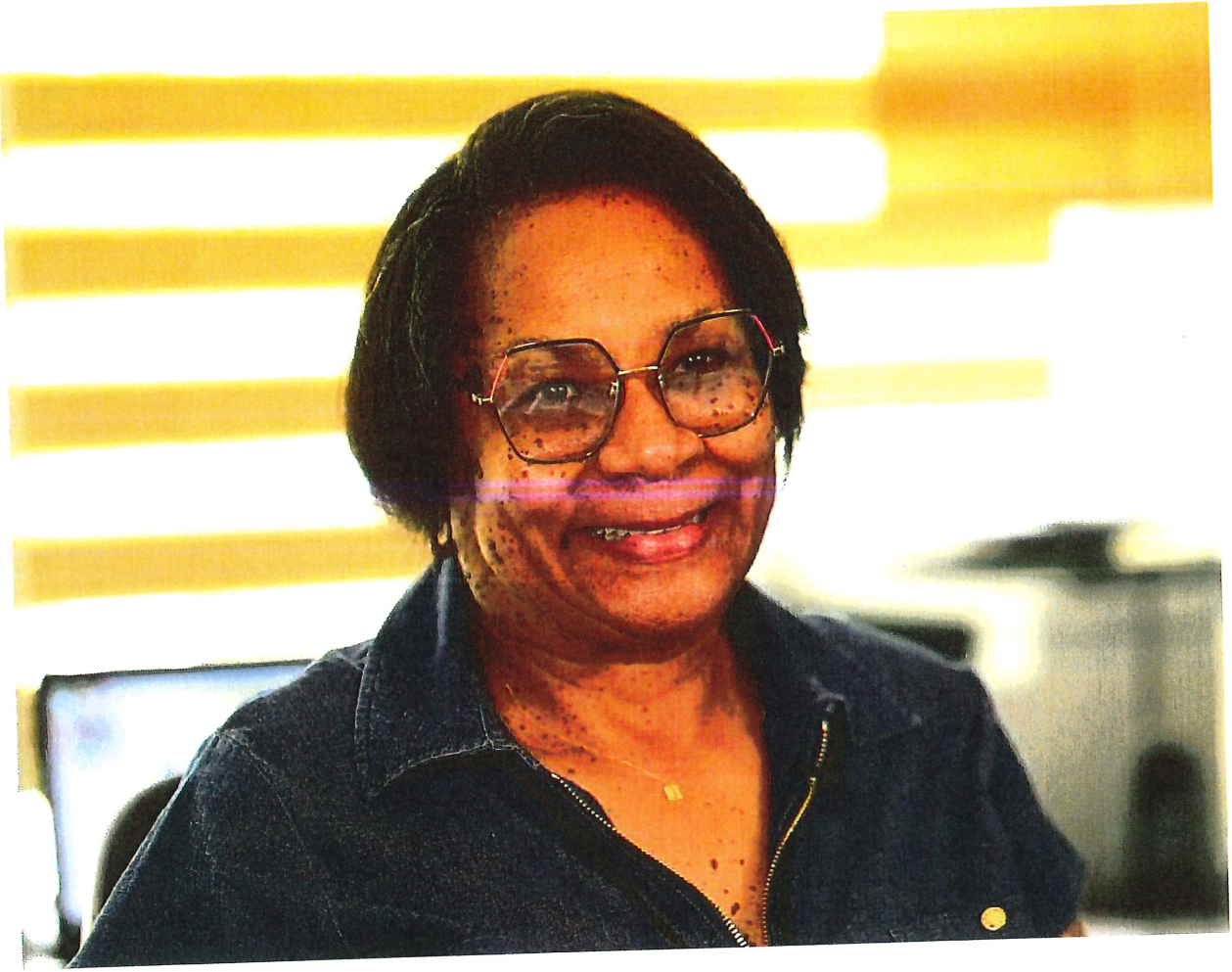
CINCINNATI — The mice are never on the menu.

But they could be in the building when you buy your next meal.

More than 100 local restaurants, grocery stores and other food-service establishments were cited for rodent violations in the first half of this year, based on the WCPO 9 I-Team's analysis of food-safety violations from eight local health departments. Although some of the businesses took weeks to resolve the problem, all but four remained open while they cleared pests from their property.

That's because health inspectors try not to close restaurants when they spot a problem. Instead, they work with food-service license holders to correct the underlying issues that cause rodent and roach problems and food-handling mistakes that can make customers sick.

"We want it to be safe. We want it to be healthy and we want to educate," said Middletown Health Commissioner Jackie Phillips-Carter. "I leave it up to the expertise of my inspectors and if they feel like it's a safe environment, then I trust that it's a safe environment."



Dwayne Slavey

Jackie Phillips-Carter became Middletown's health commissioner in 2010.

The I-Team has been monitoring restaurant violations for more than a decade. This year is no different from past years, in that roughly 3% of all violations involved pest problems, including rats, mice, roaches and flies. The reports can be shocking to read but they aren't necessarily evidence of a safety problem, as inspectors found when a vendor complained about a Kroger store at 4001 Hamilton-Cleves Road on May 4.

"There was a dead mouse stuck on the shelf," the unnamed vendor wrote. "My coworker had to literally pull it off because of the pee it was stuck in. The smell was so bad it was making us almost throw up. The odor of the pee is very strong. The day before a customer pulled out a box that had mice babies in it. We took it (to) the management and they basically acted like they didn't care they had a rodent problem."

The next day, inspectors documented mouse droppings throughout the building and dead mice in traps in a back storage section of the store. All violations were corrected when inspectors returned May 8. The store had six violations in two subsequent inspections since then, but none involved pests.

“Food safety is our top priority,” a Kroger spokesman said. “These issues were quickly addressed and resolved in compliance with Hamilton County Public Health.”

Most restaurant closures are voluntary

Every local health department takes a different approach when deciding whether citations warrant closing a restaurant. Hamilton County uses a pre-administrative hearing process where inspectors and their supervisors identify changes they want to see. In the first half of this year, 25 restaurants were scheduled for such hearings and nine voluntarily closed for periods of one to seven days to complete the required changes.

The Cincinnati Health Department reported 10 closures in the first half of 2023, all of them voluntary. The Northern Kentucky Health Department had three. Clermont County had one. All 23 closures are listed at the end of this story, along with WCPO’s Dirty Dining database, listing every violation we obtained in the I-Team’s public record requests.

The food-service establishments with the longest closures this year had multiple problems, not just mice.

Wings Bar & Grill at 2235-1 Bauer Road in Batavia had 151 violations in 2022. Then, the restaurant was cited Jan. 4 for “mice droppings in back storage room” and “multiple live cockroaches throughout back kitchen.” Problems continued into April, when the health department imposed a two-week license suspension that ended April 27. In its last inspection Aug. 1, Wings had 11 violations, none for pests.

The restaurant declined to comment.



Lot Tan

Wings Bar & Grill in Batavia had the longest closure, among 23 food-service locations that shut down to resolve health code violations this year.

Ollie's Bargain Outlet at 2250 Waycross Road has battled a rodent problem since July 2022, when a complaint said the store was "infested with rats." After a clean inspection last November, Hamilton County found "rat droppings in (a) box of coco flavored nuts" on Jan.13, followed by "evidence of rats and mice throughout the entire store" in March. The store closed for seven days ending April 17 so it could do a "full-building fumigation." It hasn't had a rodent violation in three inspections since then.

"The Ollie's store at Waycross Road in Forest Park was closed for cleaning after a neighboring retailer's pest management situation led to issues at our location," wrote Tom Kuypers, senior vice president of marketing for the Harrisburg, Pa.-based retailer. "Since the store was closed we have received three completed 100% passing inspections of the site."



Lot Tan
Ollie's Bargain Outlet in Forest Park had zero violations in its most recent inspection July 26.

What it takes to get rid of mice

Restaurants and grocery stores can usually eliminate pests without closing if they seal off holes that let critters into the building, maintain regular service with a reputable pest-control company and keep interior spaces clean and dry, said Moshe Kibel, owner of High Rock Pest Solutions.

"All a mouse needs is a quarter of an inch gap. That's it. A rat only needs half an inch," Kibel said. "A person could have in his own house, he might see one or two mice, you're not going to say, 'Oh, we can't sleep here.' You know, you do something, you trap it. You do what's necessary to get rid of these mice."

Kibel brought the I-Team to Marx Hot Bagels in Blue Ash to show us "one of the cleanest restaurants we do." Inside, we found food-preparation machines on wheels to allow for better cleaning access. Inside and outside, on the building's perimeter, rodent traps flanked every exit. The store was cited for mouse droppings last September, but hasn't had a pest-related violation since January, when inspectors found "gaps/openings at garage door separating back storage area from dock."



Marc Price

Moshe Kibel, owner of High Rock Pest Solutions, explains how to prevent mice. At Taku Japanese Steakhouse in Middletown, owner Ella Huang was surprised in January when inspectors found mouse droppings “in several areas in kitchen” and cited the restaurant for “using Raid and Decon themselves” to combat pests.

“We do clean our floor every day. So, we don’t see that,” Huang said. “I don’t see that. It’s on the floor. Corner. The health department inspector, she discovered that.”

Middletown's approach to food safety

Records show Middletown inspectors had never cited the restaurant for mice problems until January, but Taku has seen a rising number of total violations since 2021, when it had 28 citations. The violation count jumped to 71 last year and 62 in the first two months of 2023.

Taku ranked sixth in the region in the total number of violations in the first half of this year. But that requires some context. Middletown has a history of writing more violations than other departments and this year

is no exception. Seven of the top violation counts in our searchable database are Middletown stores and restaurants.



Ray Pfeffer

Ella Huang and her husband, a chef, opened Taku Japanese Steakhouse in 2016.

“We try to be very business-friendly but our patrons and our community trump businesses,” said Philips-Carter, Middletown's health commissioner since 2010. “We have the luxury or the convenience to have enough staff and enough restaurants and facilities to manage that we can go and do follow up inspections. Every time you do a follow up inspection it can lead to more violations.”

A self-described foodie who began her public-health career as a nurse, Phillips-Carter said she never checks restaurant inspections before dining out.

“I love to eat and I even go to risky places,” she said. “I just take my chances.”

But she does pay attention to a restaurant's cleanliness and avoids eating outdoors. When her food arrives, she checks to make sure it isn't under-

cooked. And if she notices anything amiss, she talks to a manager and urges others to do the same.

“If you have not really a good feeling about something, speak to a manager, right then and there,” she said. “That would stop anything that may be happening. And then call your health department.”

Middletown’s health department received a complaint about Taku Japanese Steakhouse Feb. 9, when a party of nine said they got “severely sick 30 minutes after eating” at the hibachi grill and sushi restaurant. Inspectors walked through the restaurant Feb. 10 and “observed eggs being stored at room temperature” but issued no citations after a worker put the eggs in a refrigerator.

Phillips-Carter said the foodborne illness complaint was “not verified,” partly because the restaurant received only one complaint.

“If it was something in the food, there should be multiple complaints,” she said.

The complaint happened 16 days after Middletown inspectors found mouse droppings in the restaurant, along with 13 other critical violations and 24 noncritical issues. Phillips-Carter said all but 10 noncritical violations were corrected within three days.

“They do respond to what we say. They really do,” Phillips-Carter said.

Huang said she is sure Taku’s mouse problems are behind her.

“We pay fortunes. They take care of the problem,” Huang said. “They put a lot of traps in. Outdoor, indoor, all the corners. That’s what they’ve done for me. They did catch some.”

The I-Team received violations data from public record requests to the Northern Kentucky Health Department and Ohio Department of Health, which contracts with local health departments to store food-safety violations so they can be offered to residents online. Cincinnati’s data came from the city’s Open Data portal.

The following restaurant closures came from local health departments directly.

NKY closures:

- Guthries, 1795 Patrick Drive, Burlington. Suspension 1-30-23; reinstatement same day. "Sewage surfacing in food prep area"
- Waffle House #851, 64 Broadway, Dry Ridge. Order to cease operation 5/15/23 for "roaches creating a imminent health hazard." Closed until re-inspection 5-18.
- Holiday Inn Airport, 1717 Airport Exchange Blvd, Erlanger. "No hot water in kitchen for 2-3 weeks."

Cincinnati closures:

- Young's Kitchen - 2042 Beechmont Ave - Cockroaches throughout the facility.
- Darou Salam Restaurant - 4163 Hamilton - Closed for roach activity.
- China Food - 410 W. McMillan St. - Closed for roach activity/no ability to wash dishes.
- Frisch's Price Hill #8 - 5216 Glenway - Closed as the result of a fire.
- Little Caesars - 5243 Glenway - Closed for unsanitary conditions/no hot water.
- UC Chick-Fil-A - 2701 Bearcat Way - Closed for a water leak within the walls.
- Mavericks Restobar & Lounge - 601 Vine St - Closed as a result of a fire.
- Bona 5515 - IHOP 5515 - 3222 Geier Dr - Closed as a result of a fire.
- OTR Bagel Bar - 107 W Elder St - Closed as a result of a fire.
- Drip Coffee Lounge Bond Hill - 4930 Reading Rd - Closed due to refrigeration failure/food time-temperature abuse.

Hamilton County closures:

- Popeye's #759, 9202 Reading Road. No hot water for dishwashing Feb. 1. OK to re-open Feb. 14.
- Ollie's Bargain Outlet, 2250 Waycross Road. Company agreed to 7-day closure after multiple rodent violations to do a "full-building fumigation" in April.
- Singh's Valley Grocery, 6319 Vine. "Facility has voluntarily closed due to presence of mouse feces," Hamilton County inspectors wrote Jan. 19. It was permitted to open the next day.
- Crafty Crab, 7677 Montgomery Road. After multiple food-handling violations, it was "permitted to re-open" after an April 4 inspection with no violations.
- Taste of Belgium, 7800 Montgomery Road, Suite 14. Five critical violations on Feb. 17, permitted to re-open after no violations Mar. 16.
- Hui Bing Wu (Kumo), 4990 Delhi. April inspection documented "rodent feces throughout the facility," corrected by the next day. Inspectors found "four dead mice" in the building June 12. After 3-day closure, no violations on the 14th.
- Nababi Hyderabad House, 11963 Lebanon Road. Roach problems from February to April led to 2-day closure ending April 27. No pest violations since then.
- Red Squirrel, 8227 Colerain Road. Closed three days in July for repeat violations in probationary period.
- Little Caesars, 5500 Harrison. Closed three days in June for refrigeration problem.

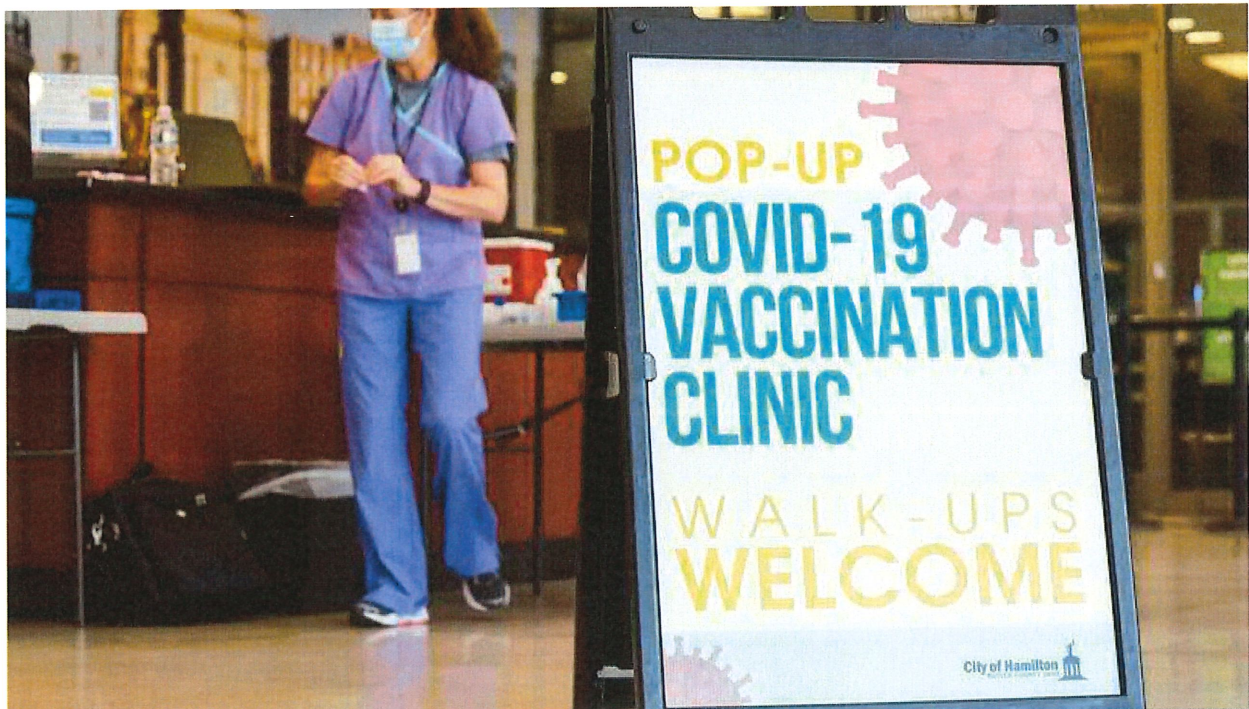
Clermont County closure:

- Wings Bar & Grill, 2235-1 Bauer Road. The restaurant was cited Jan. 4 for "mice droppings in back storage room" and "multiple live cockroaches throughout back kitchen." Problems continued into April, when the health department imposed a two-week license suspension that ended April 27.

Our Dirty Dining database includes violations through June 20. To see more recent violations, visit the health departments shown in our data. You can find those departments here:

- [Hamilton County](#)
- [Cincinnati](#)
- [Clermont County](#)
- [Butler County](#)
- [Warren County](#)
- [Northern Kentucky](#)
- [Middletown](#)
- [Springdale](#)

COVID-19 cases up in Butler, Warren and other SW Ohio counties



NEWS

By Molly Schramm – WCPO

Sept 1, 2023

CINCINNATI — COVID-19 cases are the highest they've been in both Southwest Ohio and Kentucky in months, and they seem to be trending upward.

According to newly released data from the Ohio Department of Health, weekly cases in Southwest Ohio — which includes Hamilton, Butler, Warren, Clermont, Highland, Clinton, Brown and Adams counties — is up 6.8 times per week from June.

As of Aug. 30, there is a seven-day average of 194 cases in those counties. This is the highest the case amount has been since February 2023.

Breaking it down by county, both Highland and Adams counties are seeing their highest case numbers of 2023.

In Northern Kentucky, cases are also trending upward as they see the highest case count since mid-February.

In total, Boone, Kenton, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Owen, Grant, Pendleton, Bracken and Mason counties have seen 554 cases in the week of Aug. 20. This is 6.84 times higher than at the beginning of June 2023.

In terms of hospitalizations, they remain low throughout the majority of the Tri-State, according to CDC data through Aug. 19.

The only two counties to see substantial increases in hospitalizations were Clinton and Highland counties.

At the beginning of August, [the CDC noted that there were upticks in cases nationwide](#). While the CDC said the data is concerning, the rise isn't as high as in previous summers.

This new COVID data also comes as the Ohio Department of Health announced that a new COVID variant has been detected in northeastern Ohio. Director Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff said [the COVID-19 variant BA.2.86](#) has been detected in one case in Lorain County, which is just west of Cleveland. The CDC said BA.2.86 is a notable variant because it has multiple mutations that make it distinct. Vanderhoff said there is no evidence that this variant is causing more severe illness though.

Outside of Ohio, the variant has only been detected in two other U.S. cases — one in Michigan and one in Virginia. There have been 21 other cases worldwide.