

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes
September 12, 2023

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on September 12, 2023.

Members Present

Mayor, Nicole Condrey, BS, President
Jeff Bonnell
Sally Kash, MS, RN
Ruth Lolli
Emily Miller, BSN, RN
Joseph Richmond, MBA
Amy Sibcy
Dr. Scott Zollett, MD

Health Department Staff Present

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

ROLL CALL

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Dr. Zollett to excuse Ms. Lolli from the Board of Health meeting.

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

Ms. Phillips Carter introduced Ms. Emily Miller as the Board of Health's (BOH) newest member. Ms. Miller is an Infection Prevention RN at Atrium Medical Center. Ms. Miller is a long-time Middletown resident. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that Ms. Miller has worked closely with the health department both throughout the COVID pandemic and thereafter and will be a great addition to the BOH.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizens were present, Dr. Zollett commented that he had seen Mayor Condrey in the newspaper for winning an award with Team Fastrax.

Ms. Lolli arrived at 7:34 AM.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Condrey opened the public hearing for MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-01(Food Fees).

There were no comments in favor or in opposition of MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-01 (Food Fees).

Mayor Condrey closed the public hearing for MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-01(Food Fees).

Mayor Condrey opened the public hearing for MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-02(Campground Licensing Fees).

There were no comments in favor or in opposition to MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-02(Campground License Fees).

Mayor Condrey closed the public hearing for MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-02(Campground License Fees).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 2023

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the August 2023 Board of Health meeting minutes.

Roll call vote: Yes-7 (Bonnell, Kash, Miller, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT-August 2023

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to receive and file the August 2023 Financial Report.

Roll call vote: Yes-7 (Bonnell, Kash, Miller, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. **Motion Passed.**

Education Presentation- Rabies-Sarah Chaney, REHS

Ms. Chaney explained to the BOH that rabies is a deadly viral disease that attacks the brain, spinal cord and nerves of mammals. Rabies can be transmitted through contact with infected saliva, neural tissue, open wounds and mucous membranes. Rabies is almost always fatal once clinical symptoms appear, there are less than 20 recorded cases of humans surviving rabies. Signs and symptoms of rabies in animals include: being unusually tame, out at the wrong time of day, changes in temperament, or acting "strange" (trouble walking/eating/drinking). Signs and symptoms in humans include: flu-like symptoms, followed by a "neurologic period" which can include insomnia, paralysis, aggression, hyperactivity, fear of air being blown on the face, fear of and difficulty drinking liquids, hallucination and death.

Ms. Chaney explained the infectious path of the rabies virus. An animal is bitten by a rabid animal, the rabies virus from the infected saliva enters the wound. The rabies virus then travels through the nerves to the spinal cord and brain, this process can last approximately 3-12 weeks. The animal has no signs of illness during this time. When the virus reaches the brain, it multiplies rapidly and passes to the salivary glands. The animal begins to show signs of the disease at this time. The infected animal usually dies within 7 days of becoming sick.

Ms. Chaney informed the board that a bat strain of rabies has been found in Ohio, including Butler County. A raccoon strain entered the state at the Ohio-Pennsylvania border in 1997. The last human case of rabies in Ohio was in 1970.

Ms. Chaney presented the board with illustrated maps from 2018-2022 showing where rabies cases in Ohio had been identified.

Ms. Chaney explained that the Health Department monitors all animal bites reported in an effort to monitor and prevent cases of rabies. There has been an average of 65 animal bites reported to CMHD per year between 2019-2022. The majority of those bites reported were dog bites, however; cat, raccoon, bat and groundhog bites were also reported. The majority of animals reported for biting were not vaccinated at the time of the bite incident.

The Ohio Administrative Code states, "Whenever an individual is bitten by a dog or other non-human mammal, report of such bite shall be made within twenty-four hours to the health commissioner of the district in which such bite occurred." Ohio Administrative Code also states, "Biting animals must be confined for no less than 10 days." The City of Middletown Codified Ordinance Chapter 1810.02 states, "Every dog, cat, or ferret in the city, greater than 6 months of age, must be currently vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian."

Ms. Chaney explained that Ohio Department of Health and United States Department of Agriculture have partnered together in an Oral Rabies Vaccination Campaign. Helicopters and ground vehicles drop 8 million oral rabies vaccinations in 16 eastern states from Maine to Alabama. These vaccines prevent westward and northward spread of the rabies virus. The 2023 cycle included 12 northeastern Ohio counties.

Ms. Chaney explained the CMHD procedure for bite and scratch incidents. Once a bite report has been received by CMHD, the animal is placed in quarantine for 10 days. Health inspectors conduct visual observation at the end of the 10-day quarantine. The owner must provide proof of current rabies vaccination within 5 days of the end of quarantine. If the animal dies or is euthanized before the 10-day quarantine period is over, the animal is sent to the ODH lab for rabies testing. Failure to vaccinate the animal will lead to court proceedings in order to obtain a current rabies vaccination.

Ms. Chaney explained that there have been 2 inspector-involved bites in 2023 when releasing an animal from quarantine. To ensure the safety of inspectors, contact is always minimized during on-site visits. The animal is usually viewed from a window/door/cage. In an update to CMHD policy, if the animal cannot be secured for visual observation, inspectors may view the animal from the car.

Ohio local health departments investigate about 20,000 animal bite and non-bite exposures every year contributing to community health and safety. This prevents rabies from re-emerging as a serious problem in the area and educates the public on vaccine requirements.

OLD BUSINESS

PHAB

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the Community Health Assessment (CHA) will be completed soon and she will present it to the board once it is available.

Tobacco 21 (T21)

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that a flow chart illustrating tobacco retail density was included in the board packet. Ms. Phillips Carter explained that there are multiple strategies that can be employed to control tobacco density, stating that the one that makes the most sense for Middletown would be capping the number of tobacco retailers permitted to operate within the city. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the retail density number would come from the Zoning or Planning Commission and the City Manager will present it to City Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorizations

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the Fall AOHC Conference will be held September 13-15 in Columbus, Ohio. Ms. Phillips Carter, Ms. Ealy and Dr. Jennewine attend this event each year. The total cost of the conference was included in the packet; however, the trip usually costs a little less than what is projected due to CMHD staff rooming and ridesharing.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Kash to approve the September travel requests.

Roll call vote: Yes-7 (Bonnell, Kash, Miller, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. **Motion Passed.**

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

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

Roll call vote: Yes-7 (Bonnell, Kash, Miller, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. **Motion Passed.**

Second 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.

Second 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

Mayor Condrey stated that she had heard the Middletown City School Board has rescinded funding for the Robert "Sonny" Hill Jr. Community Center Project.

Dr. Zollett asked why.

Mayor Condrey stated that there is a 3-4 million-dollar gap that the city was asked to cover, the city declined.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she was disappointed the project would not be moving forward.

Mayor Condrey stated with both the Senior Citizen Center (Central Connections) and the Community Center, she feels as though we are not addressing the racial divide that is present in the city and is hopeful that the community can bridge the gap.

Dr. Zollett commented that it is not the city's duty to bail out the Senior Citizen Center.

Mayor Condrey commented that the concern is that Middletown citizens paid off the building and if the city does not step in, citizen's tax money was wasted. Mayor Condrey stated that she feels like there may be an opportunity to combine the Senior Citizen Center and the Community Center, the issue would be deciding on a location and is hopeful that the city will be able to create something that tries to be inclusive of every age and race.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the problem of moving it to a central location is that you must invest in all areas of the community. Ms. Phillips Carter added that we need a plan that everyone can work towards together.

Mayor Condrey stated that she feels like we are not talking about the real issues and that is how we have gotten ourselves spread so thin.

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that Central Connections has signed an agreement with the City of Middletown allowing the city to lease the building. Ms. Phillips Carter states that the members of Central Connection are a delightful group of people. Volunteers have been staffing the front and have been identifying active and non-active members. Meetings with the City Managers will continue as updates are available.

Discussion

Mayor Condrey asked about the health benefits and aspects that had been offered at Central Connections.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that there have been Premier Health screenings, but there have not been many participants.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that most members of Central Connections appear to be coming for socialization.

Mayor Condrey stated that Central Connections was presented in a light that made it out to be mission critical and lifesaving.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that there are many different pockets of senior citizens residing in Middletown. There are seniors living in senior apartments such as Dublin House, residing at nursing homes and assisted living centers and independently living in the community.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that there will be a meeting in Middletown today addressing the homeless/unhoused, she stressed that this is a county-wide issue not just a Middletown issue.

Mayor Condrey stated that the last meeting was held in Hamilton and it was made clear by County Commissioners that they would like the homeless housed in Hamilton City. Hamilton City staff does not want the initiative based in Hamilton City. It was addressed in the meeting that there is a need for the State to step in at a greater capacity.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that she and Lisha Mooreland, Assistant Economic Development Director, met with Gem City Market in Dayton. Gem City Market is a co-op community market that provides an opportunity for fresh fruits and vegetables in areas that do not have grocery stores available to them and would like to add locations in other areas.

Ms. Mooreland is looking into areas that may be possible locations within Middletown.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that she had provided them with copies of Middletown Connect's Year End Report. Middletown Connect held a press conference at the end of August, the next community areas of focus will be the Amanda and Wildwood areas.

Medical Director

Dr. Jennewine reported the July Communicable Disease cases.

Chlamydia infection	29
COVID-19	131
CP-CRE	1
Cryptosporidiosis	1
Gonococcal infection	12
Hepatitis B	2
Hepatitis C	8
Shigellosis	1
Syphilis	1

Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the board that Ohio Department of Health has initiated pre-booking for ordering COVID vaccines for uninsured and underinsured populations. Patients that have insurance will be provided a list of pharmacies that will offer the vaccine.

Ms. Corbin informed the board that COVID cases are up 300% from July to August. Ms. Corbin explained that this could be due to groups congregating together more and school being back in session.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that wastewater surveillance is a great tool in monitoring upticks in COVID across the United States. Wastewater surveillance is currently occurring in Hamilton and Oxford..

Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy informed the board that plans to remodel Cassano's on Verity Parkway have been approved. Middletown City Schools Virtual Program plans have been approved. Plans for Verity Lodge Head Start program have been received and approved. Ms. Ealy stated that Middletown Quick Stop has had a change of owner. Close to Home on Roosevelt has closed and will reopen as Aaron's Garden. Buster's Bar has closed.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that two pre-administrative hearings are scheduled for this morning (9/12/2023). The first is with Taku and the second is with the new owner of both the Verity Parkway and Marie Drive Pizza Huts.

Ms. Phillips Carter added that pre-administrative hearings come prior to an administrative hearing which would be held with the Board of Health.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that inspectors have finished all outdoor pool inspections for the year and will continue quarterly inspections of indoor pools.

First round food inspections have been completed, second round inspections must be completed by the end of February.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 AM. The next meeting will be held on October 10, 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