

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes
December 12, 2023

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on December 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
Amanda McDonald, Vital Statistics Registrar

ROLL CALL

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

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

Mr. Richmond arrived at 7:31am.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 2023

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Kash to approve the November 2023 minutes.

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

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT-November 2023

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that City of Middletown is currently switching over to a new financial system. The new system should be able to generate more up-to-date reports than the old system.

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

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

Education Presentation- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)-Dr. Jennewine

Dr. Jennewine presented the board with an overview of Pertussis (Whooping Cough). Whooping Cough was first diagnosed in 1578. The bacteria responsible for Whooping Cough was first isolated in 1906, and in 1938 the first vaccine became available. Whooping Cough is also known as the 100-day cough and is highly contagious. Most cases of the infection occur during the summer. The most at-risk population is children under five years old.

Symptoms of Whooping Cough include: runny nose, fever, mild cough, coughing fits and a “whoop” when coughing.

Whooping Cough is diagnosed by clinical symptoms, vomiting with coughing is diagnostic 50% of the time. Lab testing can also confirm Whooping Cough.

The treatment of Whooping Cough includes antibiotics within three weeks of symptom onset or six weeks of symptom onset in pregnant women or children under one year old. A Whooping Cough vaccine is available as a series of five vaccines starting at age 6-8 weeks with boosters thereafter. Cocooning is another method of prevention in which all of the caretakers/people around at-risk populations are vaccinated thus preventing the infection from occurring. Most individuals with Whooping Cough make a full recovery, however; 12% of infants less than one year go on to develop pneumonia and 0.5-2% of cases in infants less than one year are fatal. There were 603 cases of Whooping Cough in Ohio in November of 2023, there were only 117 cases of Whooping Cough reported in Ohio in 2022. This was the largest number of cases in the US to date. A large number of cases were in Warren County.

Discussion

Ms. Phillips Carter commented that Warren County tends to be a hot spot for communicable diseases, possibly due to the high number of residents that travel for work purposes.

Mayor Condrey asked if it were possible that Warren County residents were testing more often than residents in other communities.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that it is possible. Warren County tends to be a more affluent county and, in those areas, there is better healthcare which allows for more testing when sick.

Ms. Kash asked what the medical community says about communicable diseases and the large increase in immigrants.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that when immigrants come in to the country legally, they are processed and receive required immunizations.

Ms. Miller stated that there has been an increase recently in the number of patients being hospitalized for respiratory illnesses.

Mayor Condrey asked if COVID had impacted the general public's willingness to vaccinate.

Dr. Jennewine stated that there has been an overall increase in skepticism concerning vaccines and many adults are more hesitant to vaccinate.

OLD BUSINESS

PHAB

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the PHAB Annual Report was submitted on December 5, 2023. CMHD is now working on the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Tobacco 21 (T21)

Ms. Ealy informed the board that CMHD has received completed applications for 24 of the 70 tobacco retailers in Middletown. Second notices were sent out December 4, 2023. Ms. Ealy informed the board that she and Ms. Chaney are hand-delivering licenses and signage to tobacco retailers to be able to answer any questions retailers may have.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she is working with the City Manager and Director of Development Services on implementing retail density. Many other local communities have some form of retail density in place, without our own retail density limit in place we may see an increase in tobacco businesses.

Mayor Condrey asked if marijuana would fall under T21 laws.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that it should not.

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorizations

There were no travel authorizations requested.

Motion to Read MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-03 and 2023-04 by Title Only.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Mr. Richmond to read MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-03 and 2023-04 by title only.

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

Approval of MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-03-Pay and Benefits

An Ordinance Establishing Pay Ranges and Certain Benefits For Employee Classifications in the Middletown Department of Health and Environment and Declaring an Emergency.

Dr. Zollett asked what this ordinance meant.

Ms. Phillips Carter explained that each year a small committee consisting of Human Resources, the Legal Department and City Managers convenes and evaluates where City employees should be on the pay and benefits range. Ms. Phillips Carter continued that while City Council approves the City Budget, the BOH has to formally adopt the Pay and Benefits Ordinance for it to be effective for CMHD staff.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that Ms. Ealy has been reclassified as Environmental Director/Assistant Health Commissioner.

Motion: Dr. Zollett moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-03-Pay and Benefits

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

Approval of MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-04 Health Department Budget

A Regulation Approving the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget For The Department of Health & Environment and Declaring an Emergency.

Ms. Phillips Carter explained that the Health Department is partially subsidized by Public Works and Income Tax divisions.

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-04-Health Department Budget.

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

2024 Board of Health Meeting Dates

Ms. Phillips Carter reminded board members that BOH meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30am in Conference Room 2C of the City Building. If a BOH meeting is ever cancelled, it has to be rescheduled within that month. A calendar of 2024 meeting dates was provided in the BOH packet.

Board Member Topic-Open Discussion

Mayor Condrey inquired about food trucks and how long they were able to stay in one location.

Ms. Ealy stated that they are permitted to stay in any one location for no more than 40 consecutive days.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that to bring everyone up-to-date, a mobile truck owner has purchased a lot on Breiel Boulevard and is now holding a food truck court at that location. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that City of Middletown has no specific regulations list for movement and stated that the ORC is vague. That is why it is important that zoning and other things come into play, there may be conditions that supersede ORC.

Mayor Condrey stated that from a zoning perspective, it would be important to know if the areas allow for outdoor dining. Mayor Condrey inquired what would happen if a food truck pulled up in the Historic District and sat unmoving for 40 days. Mayor Condrey stated that she had seen signage advertising a mobile food court coming soon which leads to other questions such as where are they dumping their gray water.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that it makes sense for the Health Department and Zoning Department to sit down and discuss the issues together.

Mayor Condrey asked how mobile food trucks are licensed.

Ms. Ealy stated that mobile food trucks are licensed by where the owner lives or owns a business.

Mayor Condrey asked who was responsible for inspecting food trucks.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that it is the licensing agency that inspects mobiles.

Ms. Ealy added that we have the authority to inspect any mobile we see operating within the city, but we cannot take an action on their license.

Mayor Condrey stated that she believed it would be hard to enforce health codes when CMHD is not the inspecting agency. Mayor Condrey inquired how often mobile food trucks are typically inspected.

Ms. Ealy stated that mobile food trucks are required to be licensed and inspected once per year by the licensing jurisdiction and may be inspected at local events.

Mayor Condrey inquired how an out of state mobile would become licensed to operate in Ohio.

Ms. Ealy explained that the mobile food truck would be inspected by the health department in the first jurisdiction they operate.

Ms. Phillips Carter added that CMHD still follows up on mobile food truck complaints regardless of the licensing agency.

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) may be revisited by City of Middletown, explaining that harm reduction is important. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she feels strongly that other communities should step up and help Middletown bear the burden of harm reduction, it is not just a Middletown problem. Ms. Phillips Carter elaborated that she is not opposed to entities such as the library distributing Narcan.

Ms. Lolli informed the board that she has already approached the Middletown Library about distributing Narcan on site. Narcan will be distributed by a case manager so that they will be able to educate and connect with Narcan recipients.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that Middletown is expecting to be on the path of a total eclipse on Aril 8, 2024. It is expected that Middletown will be in total darkness for approximately 1 minute and 52 seconds. It is expected that there will be a large influx in traffic, tourists and campers around this date. CMHD is working with Butler County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) on safety issues and concerns and will provide the board with more information as it becomes available.

Medical Director

Dr. Jennewine reported the November Communicable Disease cases.

Chlamydia infection	18
COVID-19	269
Gonococcal Infection	7
Haemophilus influenzae-invasive	1
Hepatitis B	3
Hepatitis C	6
HIV	1
Pertussis	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae-invasive	1

Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the board that part of being the Emergency Response Coordinator includes working closely with Butler County EMA on events such as the solar eclipse that will be occurring in April. Ms. Corbin explained that while for the general public it is only a two-minute event, it is a big deal at the county level. Butler county is expecting its population to double during the eclipse which brings concerns about traffic, food service and sanitation.

Ms. Corbin stated that she is currently working on meeting the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) deliverables.

Ms. Corbin stated that there have been a few cases of Pertussis (Whooping Cough) reported in children under age nine.

Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy informed the board that plans have been received for Common Ground Coffee Shop inside of Middletown High School, a micromarket inside PAC Worldwide and a Sunoco on Lefferson. Master's Touch has submitted a body art application.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that the following facilities have been licensed to operate: Name Brandt Distillery, Biggby Coffee, Arco Food Mart and All Hustle Tattoo.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that the open position of Environmental Health Specialist will be advertised again with the new salary from the 2024 PBO. Ms. Ealy is hoping to start interviewing applicants in January 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 AM. The next meeting will be held on January 9, 2024 at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C.


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


Elizabeth Slamka, President
City of Middletown Board of Health