

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes
February 13, 2024

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on February 13, 2024.

Members Present

Mayor, Elizabeth Slamka
Jeff Bonnell
Sally Kash, MS, RN
Ruth Lolli
Emily Miller, BSN, RN
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
Amanda McDonald, Vital Statistics Registrar

Absent and Excused

Joseph Richmond, MBA

ROLL CALL

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

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 2024

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the January 2024 minutes.

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

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT-January 2024

Ms. Phillips Carter explained to board members that the Finance Department is still entering in revenue and expenses. A more complete and up-to-date report will be provided at the next meeting.

Motion: Mayor Slamka moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve the January 2024 financial report.

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

Education Presentation- Air Quality-Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency-James Nymberg

Mr. Nymberg explained to the BOH that Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency (SWOAQA) serves Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton and Warren counties. SWOAQA monitors air quality and regulates industrial air emissions for Ohio EPA and U.S. EPA and was established in the late 1880s.

SWOAQA works with local, state and federal government agencies, businesses, communities and citizens to achieve and maintain healthy air quality. SWOAQ permits, inspects and monitors air quality.

Air Quality Index (AQI) is a color-coded scale that illustrates multiple air pollutants, making air quality easily communicated to the public. The Air Quality Index is the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) tool for communicating daily air quality. The EPA has issued a national index for air quality since 1976 to provide an easy-to-understand daily report on air quality. There's a U.S. AQI for five major pollutants that are regulated by the Clean Air Act:

ozone, particle pollution (also called particulate matter), carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide. The AQI for each pollutant is generally based on the health-based national ambient air quality standard for that pollutant and the scientific information that supports that standard.

Mr. Nymberg explained that the wildfires in Canada in summer of 2023 impacted the Greater Cincinnati air quality as well as the entire Midwest region. June 27-29, 2023 Southwest Ohio experienced its highest PM2.5 concentration in 20 years. AQI reached 185 on June 28, 2023. An AQI over 150 is considered "Unhealthy." The U.S. EPA recommends that people limit strenuous outdoor activity as they may experience health effects; children, older adults and those with respiratory illnesses experience more serious health effects.

Mr. Nymberg explained that the areas of Middletown that are extensively monitored are: Amanda, BPG, Hook Field, MADE, Ohio Bell and Yankee. Mr. Nymberg stated that overnight spikes in particulate matter have been found at the BPG monitor (located at 3214 Yankee Road) and an investigation is ongoing.

Mr. Nymberg shared a graph illustrating the number of complaints that have been made annually in Middletown since 2016. The number of complaints made has trended downwards with occasional spikes. Mr. Nymberg informed the BOH that air quality complaints can be made any time by calling 513-946-7777 or by registering a complaint online at southwestohioair.org. SWOAQ investigates the following complaint types: particulate, odor, fugitive dust, open burning, smoke, CFC and anti-tampering.

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorizations

There were no travel authorizations requested.

Approval of the Health Commissioner to Issue Refunds of Fees Received by the Health Department Related to Licenses for the Sale of Tobacco Products as set in MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-03 Due to the Recent Veto Override of House Bill 68
 Ms. Phillips Carter and Ms. Ealy explained to the board that due to the recent veto override of House Bill 68, CMHD will not be licensing tobacco retailers. The BOH needs to approve CMHD refunding T21 license payments to tobacco retailers.
 Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the Health Commissioner issuing refunds of fees received
 Roll call vote: Yes-5 (Bonnell, Kash, Lolli, Miller, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

Approval of Agreement between Butler County General Health District & CMHD-Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) with Moxley

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the agreement.
 Roll call vote: Yes-5 (Bonnell, Kash, Lolli, Miller, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

Approval of Agreement between Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Ohio (County) on behalf of the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services-Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency

Ms. Ealy explained to the BOH that in the past this agreement has been renewed every three years, this new agreement will be effective for five years.

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agreement.
 Roll call vote: Yes-5 (Bonnell, Kash, Lolli, Miller, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

Approval of Personnel Appointment-Brandy Barner, Environmental Health Specialist In-Training

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the BOH that Ms. Barner will be the new Environmental Health Specialist In-Training. Ms. Barner is ready to begin work on February 20th once the BOH has approved her appointment.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the appointment of Brandy Barner as Environmental Health Specialist In-Training.

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



Approval of Personnel Appointment-Stephanie Leon, Administrative Assistant

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that Stephanie Leon will be the new Administrative Assistant. Ms. Leon is bilingual in English and Spanish. Ms. Leon is ready to begin work on February 20th once the BOH has approved her appointment. Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the appointment of Stephanie Leon as Administrative Assistant.

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

2023 Annual Report

Ms. Phillips Carter explained to the board that Ohio Department of Health requires an Annual Report be submitted by each local health district to the state yearly by January 15th. A copy of the 2023 Annual Report was included in the BOH packet.

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the meeting minutes from OneOhio were included in the packet illustrating how much opiate money each region will receive from ODH. These funds are restitution from drug companies in response to the opiate crisis that severely impacted the State of Ohio, and Butler County. City of Middletown is part of Region 14, meetings will be held monthly to determine how to best use the funds.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that eclipse information was included in the packet as well, Ms. Corbin is working with Butler County EMA on eclipse planning and information sharing.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the Point-In-Time (PIT) Count has been completed. There were 1200 unhoused persons in Butler County as compared to previous years of 217. There were 800 unhoused children included in this count. Ms. Phillips Carter reminded BOH that unhoused does not necessarily mean living on the streets, it means no permanent residence.

CMHD 2024 goals were included in the packet. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that CMHD's goals are aligned with Destination Middletown. Destination Middletown met with the Amanda area community to hear the community's concerns.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that CMHD will begin Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training on April 12th. Trainings will be held weekly on Friday's from 3pm-5pm for four weeks. The office will be closed during this time.

Medical Director

Dr. Jennewine reported the January Communicable Disease cases.

Chlamydia infection	28
Coccidioidomycosis	1
COVID-19	218
E. Coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	1
Gonococcal Infection	6
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	1
Hepatitis B	3
Hepatitis C	6
HIV	1
Influenza-associated hospitalization	26
Pertussis	2
Salmonellosis	1
Shigellosis	1
Streptococcal-Group A-invasive	4
Streptococcus pneumoniae-invasive	1



City of Middletown Health Department
Middletown, Ohio

Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the board that in January, there were 26 Middletown residents hospitalized for the flu. Ms. Corbin stated that while most hospitalizations were due to flu A, there has been an increase in flu B among school aged children. Ms. Corbin reported to the board that there was a case of salmonella typhooe-related typhoid fever reported. Ms. Corbin is still gathering information; the patient had recently traveled.

Ms. Corbin stated that the eclipse will occur on April 8th at approximately 3pm for 2-2 ½ minutes. More information will be provided at the next BOH meeting.

Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy noted that the 2023 Air Quality Report was included in the BOH packet.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that Irie Smoothie Bar has been licensed and plans for PAC WorldWide MicroMarket have been approved.

Ms. Ealy stated that CMHD is on track for completing all inspections by the end of the licensing period on February 29th.

Ms. Ealy stated that she is working with Ms. Chaney on larger facilities such as Atrium Medical Center and facilities that may utilize special processes.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that Mobiles now have two different fee categories, high and low risk. The low risk fee is 50% of the high risk fee.

Discussions

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that septic system conversations have begun. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she wanted to be very clear that any information shared should be factual, not speculation. Ms. Phillips Carter and Ms. Ealy will be meeting with the EPA and Public Works to further discuss and gather information. Moving forward, the BOH will be intrinsically involved in the process.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 AM. The next meeting will be held on March 12, 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