

CABELL-HUNTINGTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Board of Health Regular Meeting –September 23, 2015

Board Members Present:

J. Larry Crawford
Harriette Cyrus
Thomas Gilpin, Atty.
Donna Rumbaugh
Omayma T. Touma, MD
Kevin Yingling, MD

Board Members Absent:

Staff Members Present:

Michael Kilkenny, MD, MS, Physician Director
Tim Hazelett, Administrator
Jack Mease, Accountant
Elizabeth Ayers, Health & Wellness, PIO
Casey Napier, Accreditation Coordinator/Grant Writer
Debbie Ellison, Regional EPI
Rodney Melton, Sanitarian Supervisor
Teresa Mills, Regional Tobacco Coalition Coordinator
Laura Johnson
Deb Koester
Heather Wood, Nurse Practitioner
Jenny Erwin, RN

Non Staff Members Present:

Ron Forren, Chairman of the Board of the West Virginia Association of Local Health
Taylor Stuck, Herald-Dispatch

Called to order at 5:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Cyrus made a motion to approve the July Board of Health Meeting Minutes, Mr. Crawford seconded, and the motion was approved.

Ron Forren, President of the West Virginia Local Health Incorporated, on behalf of the Board of Directors, thanked the Board of Health and Administrative Staff of Cabell-Huntington Health Department for acting as the fiscal agent for the past two and a half years. Through the active partnership between the Local Health Incorporated and the Association of Local Health Departments, much has been accomplished in the last two and a half years, including improved support, technical assistance, training and consultation, and 100% of local health departments in West Virginia are members of the association. The Board of Directors consists of 5 members, 2 of which are from Cabell County, Nancy Cartmill and Dr. Calvin Kent. Another members is Dr. Bill Neal, a pediatric cardiologist from Morgantown. Dr. Deb Koester provided the Board with a summary of activities that was accomplished with the Benedum funding, that will last through mid-2016. Mr. Gilpin complimented the letter Mr. Bundy sent to the Board.

Dr. Kilkenny presented the Board with the Cabell-Huntington Health Department's Annual Report. The Annual Report summarizes a tremendous body of work that is done in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. Dr. Kilkenny commended the directors of all the departments for providing two months' worth of regular reports as well as the annual report. Dr. Yingling said a great deal of the revenue from the state government funding looks uncertain. The Board has encouraged and supported the decision to invest in grant writing as an opportunity to enhance funding and expand services in the Health Department. Dr. Yingling suggested a focus should be on a strategic plan to address the decreasing state government funding and allows us to understand how to create revenue. How does the request for the levy go before the citizens of the county? So many times something that's been in place for a long time stays the same, when in reality the request for the levy and the responsibility of the citizens of Cabell County to support the levy should be paced upon the needs and projections that are necessary to run the department in an effective way. How do we get to understanding what is the right request? Who decides what the levy is going to be and how might we effect the change? As the Health Department becomes more proactive and takes on more responsibilities and meets more needs, it's going to need more support. The levy is a major component. Dr. Kilkenny said the first question speaks to the value of a report like this. The charts help make a strategic plan and does tell me we want to diversify our income streams. The levy is based on a percentage of a collected tax. We do have to look at grants and billing as other sources of income we can enhance. Dr. Yingling said the more focused attention that is brought to that in an organized way, the better the outcome. The grant dashboard was very helpful and correlated to the pie graph. It should be part of a strategic plan that the more attention we bring to it the more likely we are to be successful. Dr. Kilkenny said the second part is to how we approach the levy. The levy is a set percentage that we ask for. Though we may have some leeway to ask for a different percentage, at this time we have no plans to do so. Dr. Touma said it has always been a set percentage and the community has been very pleased with the services we provide. Mr. Gilpin said there may be a limited of total percentages that can be subject to the levy. Dr. Yingling stated that if there is a fixed amount of money being collected and allotted to a certain number of opportunities then there has to be a process in where the people who get the money can argue they deserve more. This is an incredibly important asset to this community and it needs to be properly supported. If the community expects it to be properly supported to do harm reduction and any other number of programs then they need to be willing to say it is worth more. Dr. Touma agrees that it is worth trying. Tim said the levy has increased in the last five years, Mr. Gilpin suggests a presentation on the process and background of the levy. Tim said part of the strategy is how we tell the public what we do. The Annual Report is something we can use to show the public what we do, how much money we get, and this is the product. By enhancing our value, we now have very sound evidence that the levy is supporting these functions. We now have two documents that we can take to the public and say why and what we have done. The last vote was 52 to 48%. We know what we have to do and will start at the end of this year. The levy is for a 5 year term. This levy does not end until June 30, 2017. Mrs. Rumbaugh asked if every county gets the same percentage. Tim said no, most counties do not get any levy funding. Deb said only four counties have levies and a third only get use of a facility from the local level funding. Dr. Kilkenny said we are very fortunate to have the levy and it has not crossed our minds to ask for more. We want to make sure we fully appreciate it and give the citizens a value for their dollar. Tim said the accreditation plays a role in it as well. By the time we start our community outreach, we have the Annual Report, the CHA, the CHIP, and we will also have the accreditation team on site in 2016. Mr. Gilpin asked if the levy election is in May and where do you go to process the request. Tim said yes we are putting on the ballot for May and we go to the County Commission. Mr. Gilpin said he really appreciates the effort that went into the Annual Report. It was both readable and depending upon things we accomplished.