

CABELL-HUNTINGTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Board of Health Regular Meeting – April 27, 2022

Board Members Present:

Daniel Konrad
Danny Porter
Robert Sweeney
Eduardo Pino, MD, FAAP

Board Members Absent:

Fred Kitchen
Donna Rumbaugh

Staff Members Present:

Michael E. Kilkenny, Chief Executive Officer/Health Officer
Tim Hazelett, Chief Operating Officer
Jack Mease, Chief Financial Officer
Elizabeth Adkins, Administrative Services Manager
Rodney Melton, Director of Environmental Health Services
Dr. Abir Rahman, Director of Epidemiology
Kathleen Napier, Director of Nursing
Laura Powell, Administrative Services Office Assistant
Hannah Petracca, Public Information Officer
Mikaela Earl, Regional Epidemiologist

Visitors:

Sarah Ingram, Herald Dispatch

Mr. Konrad called the Board of Health meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

A motion to approve the April 27, 2022, Board of Health Agenda was made by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Porter and approved.

Approval of Board of Health Minutes

A motion to approve the March 23, 2022, Board of Health Meeting minutes as written was approved.

FY2021 Audit:

Jack Mease presented the FY2021 Audit. A motion to approve the FY2021 Audit as submitted was made by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Porter and approved.

Medical Cannabis Request:

Dr. Kilkenny presented the Medical Cannabis request. The Office of Medical Cannabis in the Office of Bureau Health has sent a request to the Board of Health to approve or disapprove a permit from Upshur County to Cabell County. A motion to disapprove was made by Mr. Sweeney, second by Mr. Porter. The vote to disapprove the request due to the property being within 1000 feet of a daycare/school was 4-0.

Cabell-Huntington Health Departmental Reports:

Chief Operating Officer:

Tim Hazelett presented the Chief Operating Officer report. Tim Hazelett made a request for the Board to vote on the additional WV Public Health Appropriation funding for FY2023. The Governor appropriated a line-item increase for public health to apply a salary increase for public health employees. The amount of the increase was \$65,621.06. Tim Hazelett requested one hundred percent of this additional funding be applied as an across-the-board FTE (full time equivalent) increase to all CHHD employees, including permanent full time and temporary, who are employed with the agency on July 1st, 2022. The CHHD Board of Health approved the additional state funding be applied to an across-the-board salary increase unanimously.

Financial Report:

Jack Mease presented the March 2022 financial reports.

A motion to approve the March 2022 invoices, receipts, and augmented by discussion was made by by the Board unanimously.

Environmental Health:

Rodney Melton presented the Environmental Services report, which included a new environmental program updates chart on specific activities. The Environment Health Services is working with the State to prepare for mosquito testing. A new sanitarian, who has completed training, has been hired.

Epidemiology:

Dr. Rahman presented the Epidemiology report, which included case numbers for reportable diseases, graphs, trainings, outreach, and meetings attended in March. A discussion occurred on the Cabell County COVID-19 Community Levels and Indicators graph. New indicators were introduced by CDC in February 2022. For the month of March, Cabell County started in the high category, tapered off to the medium category on March 11th, and finished out the month in the low category beginning on March 25th. The Reportable Disease differences in CY2022 and CY2021 were three disease case numbers increased and six disease case numbers decreased. Chronic Hepatitis C cases almost doubled in March 2022 compared to March 2021, which is attributed to the increase in testing and identification of cases.

Regional Epidemiology Report

Mikaela Earl presented the Regional Epidemiology report, which included regional epidemiological trainings, meetings, and field and partner education that was completed, and disease investigation and surveillance undertaken. ICARs were conducted in Jackson, Mason, Mingo, Wayne, and Lincoln County Health Departments. Training was conducted for the new Regional Epidemiologist. The daily number of investigations created in Chexout for Cabell County during March averaged nearly one fewer investigation each day. There were no outbreaks opened in March 2022 in the Western Surveillance Region. This is the first time in two years that no outbreaks were opened in Cabell County.

Nursing:

Kathleen Napier presented the Nursing report, which includes the clinical and Harm Reduction Program. Staff attended multiple web-based trainings in the month of March. There was a significant decrease in COVID cases. Only 350 cases were investigated. Testing has resumed on a regular basis for Harm Reduction clients. 108 clients were tested in March.

Administrative Services:

Elizabeth Adkins presented the Administrative Services report, which includes Administration, Public Information, Prevention Programs, and Threat Preparedness. A few hundred calls have been received through the COVID Call Center since the last BOH meeting, bringing the total up to 34,114. The Quit and Stay Quit Monday tobacco campaign is occurring at CHHD. This is funded through a Pallontine Foundation Grant. This is a national campaign from the CDC that puts out messages every Monday to encourage those that use tobacco to quit, increase awareness and use of the WV Tobacco Quitline, and assists worksites in creating tobacco free workplace policies. Hannah Petracca discussed the new media impression software. Our previous method was a manual calculation. This new software allows us to be more efficient and accurate, as well as provide additional tools. A dollar amount can now be applied to the earned media, showing how much money we saved through earned media. The software provides more interactive information and reports, including links to TV segments. The media can also be sorted into local, state, national and international.

Threat Preparedness:

A NACCHO Rise grant was awarded to Cabell-Huntington Health Department in the amount of \$75,000. The funds, which is through December 31, 2022, will provide a mass media campaign to enhance recruitment efforts, equipment, and supplies. Hannah Petracca and Joe Reckard were recognized for their work in writing and acquiring the grant.

Updates to the conference rooms were acknowledged. Four conference rooms in total are being updated.

A motion to approve all departmental reports as written and modified by discussion was approved unanimously.

Health Officer:

Dr. Michael Kilkenny presented the Health Officer report. A discussion occurred on HIV reporting. HIV cases are reported directly to the State, which in turn reports to the local health departments. There was a sizable outbreak in Cabell County in 2018-2019. By the end of 2019, rapid transmission of HIV in Cabell County was stopped, but not all transmission. In 2020, we anticipated enhancing surveillance with the state and eliminating ongoing transmission, but the COVID Pandemic intervened and disrupted the plan. Although we continued services, we reduced contact with people who inject drugs and HIV testing because the focus was on COVID-19. Now that COVID is transitioning, we can focus on other diseases. HIV testing and contact with people who inject drugs has been increased. The results of these increased efforts are an increase in numbers of HIV cases reported and identified. Currently, Cabell County leads the state in new cases of HIV, which is due to the effective outreach and case finding. We have met with the Bureau of Public Health and mobilized our local partners. We have the full support of Marshall Health, Mountain Health, Valley Health, both local hospitals, and all substance use treatment centers in getting back into an extensive screening, testing, and treatment effort. All techniques that were effective in 2019, except those few very specialized techniques that required CDC's involvement, will be put back in place. Our goal is to see the number of cases decrease by the end of the year. The Harm Reduction Program remains a key and essential part of any comprehensive effort to control the spread of HIV, especially when it involves injection drug use. Many restrictions have been placed upon Harm Reduction Programs, which impairs the program and its effectiveness. A new National Drug Control Policy strategy has been put into place. Harm Reduction is a large portion of the strategy and does a good job in explaining how harm reduction programs do not stand alone but are synergistic with other services. Harm Reduction Programs are key touch points for (1) expanded Naloxone distribution and (2) linkage to care for infectious diseases and substance abuse disorders. Having the comprehensive plan engaged at the same time is the most effective strategy. Limiting any one segment of the strategy impacts all of it. We continue to work on

limiting the restrictions, while obeying all laws. Funding is another restriction. We are funded to operate the Harm Reduction Program, but not to purchase the syringes. There is limited funding to purchase syringes. Though national policy has expanded nationwide, the funding of harm reduction has not expanded. We continue to actively seek funding for syringes and will work strategically for ongoing support.

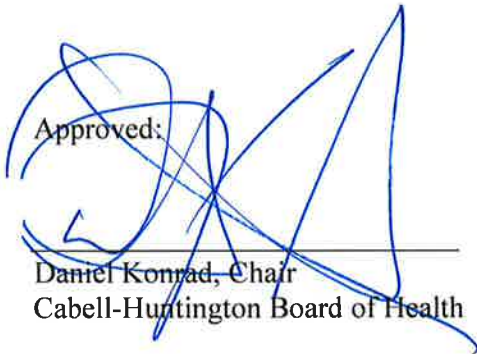
The April 2022 Board of Health meeting adjourned at 6:04pm.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Kilkeny, MD, MS
CEO & Health Officer, Cabell-Huntington Health Department

Approved: 

Daniel Konrad, Chair
Cabell-Huntington Board of Health