



Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2018

Members – Present

Dr. Arthur B. Rubin, President
Dr. William Payne
Mr. Robert Reishman
Mr. James Strawn, by telephone
Mr. Stephen Weber

Staff - Present

Dr. Dominic Gaziano, Interim Health Officer
Janet Briscoe, Director, Epidemiology and Threat Preparedness
Lolita Kirk, Chief of Staff/Acting Executive Director
John Law, Public Information Officer
Maggie Linsky, Secretary
Carol McCormick, Administrative Services
Stanley Mills, Director, Environmental Services
Brandi O'Dell, Director, Administrative Services

1. Call to Order - President, Dr. Arthur Rubin

Dr. Rubin called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. Report of the President – Dr. Arthur Rubin

a. Approval of the minutes from the September 20, 2018 Board of Health meeting

Upon a motion by Mr. Weber, seconded by Mr. Reishman, to approve the minutes of September 20, 2018, as submitted, the motion passed.

b. Approval of the minutes from the November 7, 2018 Emergency Board of Health meeting

Upon a motion by Mr. Weber, seconded by Dr. Payne, to approve the minutes of November 7, 2018, as submitted, the motion passed.

c. Resolution commending Brenda Isaac for her dedication and service to Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

Dr. Rubin read the following Resolution Honoring Brenda Isaac for her dedication and service to the Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health, dated November 15, 2018.

WHEREAS, Brenda Isaac, a registered nurse and lead school nurse for the Kanawha County Board of Education, served as a member of the Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health, attending her first meeting as a board member on Sept. 12, 2002, and her final meeting on Sept. 20, 2018, 5,852 days later; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Isaac has been and continues to be instrumental in promoting the health of the residents of Kanawha County, beginning in April 2003, when, as a board member, she championed the county's Clean Indoor Air Ordinance, continuing her leadership through the July 2008 revision of the ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Because of her dedication to the health of Kanawha County residents, Ms. Isaac was elected in July 2008 as President of the Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health and was elected each successive year, including in July 2018, serving 122 consecutive months; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Isaac served as interim executive director of the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department from July 2008 – February 2009, and from January – July 2015; and

WHEREAS, She lead the health department through a number of public health emergencies, including H1N1 in October 2009; the water crisis in January 2014; the Elk River flooding in June 2016; and the ongoing Hepatitis A outbreak; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Isaac is a strong advocate for West Virginia school entry immunization requirements, testifying many times before the West Virginia legislature and advocating for the health of the children of West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Isaac was the engineer of the landmark cooperative agreement between the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department and the Kanawha County Board of Education that has, for 10 years, provided in-school influenza vaccinations for children, improving their educational situation and saving millions of dollars in health care costs; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Isaac championed the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department's monumental undertaking to become the only West Virginia health department accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health that Brenda Isaac be commended for her long, meritorious, visionary service on the board of health, her dedication to the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department and her ongoing concern for the citizens of Kanawha County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be included in the board of health minutes, and be conveyed to Ms. Isaac, the City of Charleston, the Kanawha County Board of Education and the Kanawha County Commission.

Upon a motion by Dr. Rubin, seconded by Mr. Webber, to approve the Resolution Honoring Brenda Isaac as submitted, the motion passed.

Ms. Isaac was in attendance and spoke of her gratitude for the experience of working with the other board members. She mentioned Dr. Rubin and Mr. Webber have served on the Board of Health longer than she. She praised the staff and stressed the important work the health department does.

d. Report on the status of interviews for a new health officer

Dr. Rubin stated any report on the status of interviews would be made at the end of the meeting.

e. Dr. Rubin requested a report on the status of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan be placed on the agenda for the next Board of Health meeting.

3. Report of the Finance subcommittee - Mr. Robert Reishman, Chairman

Mr. Reishman reviewed the first quarter financial report with the Board. He stated the financial situation compares favorably to past years, and he pointed out that income from overseas travel vaccinations was up substantially.

4. Report of the Acting Executive Director – Ms. Lolita Kirk

Ms. Kirk discussed the upcoming reports due to the Public Health Accreditation Board. Dr. Rubin requested the staff review and utilize the Hep A learning experience as a Quality Improvement project.

5. Report of the Division of Administrative Services – Ms. Brandi O'Dell

After the presentation of the staffing report, Dr. Rubin requested that the job descriptions for the open Director positions be posted and applications accepted, so candidates for the positions can be identified by the time a new health officer is hired.

6. Report of the Division of Clinic Services – Ms. Brandi O'Dell

Ms. O'Dell presented the FY2018 activities report for Clinic Services. She pointed out 15,000 patients were treated in Kanawha County in FY2018, and another 6,000 in Putnam County. The Kanawha County schools and business flu shot clinics are winding down for this fall with 6,137 flu shots and 1,214 Hep A shots provided out in the community. Also, from October 1 to the date of the meeting, 1,990 patients have been vaccinated at KCHD.

Ms. O'Dell and Ms. Briscoe have met with representatives from Kanawha County to continue to work out logistics for the program recommended and partially funded by the CDC to identify, locate and immunize vulnerable populations with Hep A vaccine.

7. Report of the Division of Environmental Health Services – Mr. Stanley Mills

Mr. Mills presented the FY2018 activities report and reported on the pesticide resistance study the division is completing through a CDC grant. Mosquitos are gathered as larvae and exposed to pyrethrin, malathion, and other pesticides. They are showing no resistance, which means if a deadly mosquito-borne disease were to be identified in the area, they could be controlled if necessary.

8. Report of the Division of Epidemiology and Threat Preparedness – Ms. Janet Briscoe

The Board asked Ms. Briscoe to report on the status of the Hepatitis A outbreak. She reported after the peak of the outbreak this summer, 50 to 60 new cases per week were reported. 10 to 15 new cases are now being reported weekly. This is not the end of the outbreak, since the country's baseline was zero cases, and the CDC warns the numbers could rise again. Up to 80% of the infected are drug impaired and 60% coinfecting with Hepatitis C, but the illness is spreading to others. 39 of the 55 counties in West Virginia have cases, with Kanawha County considered the "epicenter" having investigated over 1,000 cases. A Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) worker has been assigned to work at KCHD three days per week.

The State is following CDC guidelines by only providing for free the first shot of the two-shot series. Efforts are being made to identify and vaccinate high-risk people through clinics at homeless shelters, food pantries, drug treatment facilities, mental health clinics and emergency rooms, although no one can be required to accept the vaccination.

9. Report of the Division of Prevention & Wellness – Mr. John Law

Mr. Law briefly reviewed his written activities report. Dr. Rubin commented the medical community is united against any introduced law that would change the procedure required to allow immunization exemptions in the schools. He also asked if representatives from Cabin Creek Health could be invited to the next board meeting. Cabin Creek partners with the health department and has a branch housed at KCHD.

10. Executive Session

Upon a motion by Mr. Reishman, seconded by Mr. Weber, to go into executive session to discuss personnel, the motion passed.

Upon a motion by Mr. Weber, seconded by Mr. Reishman, to return from executive session, the motion passed.

President Rubin announced no business requiring action occurred in executive session.

11. Unfinished Business

Dr. Rubin reported he would like to extend an invitation to Mayor-Elect Amy Goodwin to attend a meeting after she is in office.

12. Adjournment

There being no more business and no public comments, upon a motion by Mr. Reishman, seconded by Mr. Weber, the Board adjourned until the scheduled January 17, 2019 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Lolita Kirk, Acting Executive Director



/mnl