



# **Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **September 19, 2019**

#### **Members – Present**

Dr. Arthur B. Rubin, President  
Mr. Jeremy Nelson  
Mr. Paul Nusbaum  
Dr. William Payne  
Mr. Danny F. Scalise II  
Mr. Stephen Weber

#### **Member(s) – Excused**

#### **Staff – Present/Presenters**

Dr. Sherri Young  
Janet Briscoe  
Lori Kersey  
Carol McCormick  
Stanley Mills

#### **Staff - Excused**

Deborah Snaman

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

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

##### **a. Roll Call – Kandy L. Forsythe**

Ms. Forsythe conducted the roll call. All board members were present.

#### **2. Report of the President – Dr. Arthur Rubin**

##### **a. Approval of the minutes from the July 25, 2019 Board of Health meeting**

Upon a motion by Mr. Scalise seconded by Mr. Nusbaum to approve the minutes of September 19, 2019, as submitted, the motion passed.

#### **3. Report of the Executive Director/Health Officer – Dr. Young** **Point of Order - The Election of board President for FY2020**

Dr. Young informed the Board members that the vote for board president occurred before Mr. Scalise was sworn in. Therefore, there was not a quorum and another vote held, with all board members present. Mr. Scalise nominated Dr. Rubin and was seconded by Mr. Weber. Dr. Rubin to remain board President for FY2020.

##### **a. Staffing Announcements**

Dr. Young informed board that the Chief of Staff position remains open.

##### **b. Kids in hot cars**

Dr. Young informed board there have been 39 deaths so far this year, with an average of 38 each year. There are two bills in congress to support legislation that auto makers make warning alarms that go off if someone is still in the car when you exit. A letter was written in support of this. Dr. Young stated that West Virginia is not immune to children dying in hot cars. West Virginia has had five deaths from 1990 to 2018. Several articles are included in the meeting binders to educate the board on children being left in hot cars. Dr. Young informed the board that the health department has been doing a social media campaign on this topic and Dr. Rubin will have the WVSOM students for the

health fair to talk about this serious issue. Dr. Young informed the board that there was an incident in July of a baby, approximately 2 to 3 months old in a Walmart parking lot left in a hot car. An elderly woman walked by and heard the crying and was able to have EMS there in 3 minutes. Ms. Foster was recognized by the County Commission as a hero. There was a good outcome to this story and shows why education is so important.

**c. Vaping Discussion**

Dr. Young stated that there has been a great deal of issues with vaping related illnesses, with 530 illnesses by CDC. Dr. Young further stated that she will be following up with Kathy Slemple on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, on this issue. There have been seven deaths within the last six months and the numbers will keep rising. Dr. Young stated she wrote an editorial article to the Charleston Gazette to bring awareness to what our advisories are on this. Easy accessibility for young people and very easy to conceal from parents (can look like a USB drive). With increase awareness, we need to take a hard look with regards to public health, especially with growing number within youth. Dr. Young also stated that we need to consider indoor use. We do not need to bring it to the table tonight, but we need to be ready to bring it up at the next meeting. Mr. Nusbaum stated he received a phone call asking if vaping was included in the clean air act. Mr. Nusbaum asked if the arguments have been seen from the industry on this? Dr. Young stated that industry does understand that there is a problem. Another issue, stated Dr. Young, is that what is being put in the vaping product was not intended. This is why we need to look at this through a critical eye. Tobacco products are included in the clean indoor act. Facilities can have the right to ban vaping on their property. Mr. Weber asked if there was any evidence of second-hand vaping smoke damage to others. Dr. Young said that was being reviewed. There are 16 counties in West Virginia that have put vaping in the clean air act. Dr. Young stated that we will be reviewing how other clean indoor acts have worked and follow up at the next board of health meeting. A bill was introduced in the WV Legislature in 2019 to raise the smoking/vaping age from 18 to 21 was introduced, although did not pass.

**d. HIV Testing**

Dr. Young stated we are continuing the outreach of HIV testing. HealthRight and Covenant House had 978 tests and only two were positive. We have secured a grant in the amount of \$53,150 from the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation. We will use the funding to reach out to other communities in Kanawha County. Our first reporting will be submitted to the GKV from October through December.

**e. Health Fair**

Dr. Young informed the board that we are having a health fair this Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 10 to 2 with 16 partners and vendors. We will be using this as a quality improvement and improving relationship with the community. Kent Carper will be attending and speaking about his personal experience on his kidney transplant. The mayor will also be in attendance. We expect a good turnout and have already been asked for a spring health fair!

**4. Report of the Division of Administrative Services – Ms. Carol McCormick**

**a. Presentation and discussion of staffing report**

Ms. McCormick stated the chief of staff position is still ongoing. The sanitarian position has been selected by Mr. Mills and will be starting in October. This will make us full on the sanitarian staff. There was one sanitarian resignation. Mr. Nusbaum asked if resignation was due to pay (as previous sanitarians have moved on for) and Ms.

McCormick stated it was not due to pay, but due to a personal reason. Ms. Briscoe is interviewing for the EPI position.

**b. Presentation of Budget and Financial Report**

Ms. McCormick stated the financial committee met and financial reports are included in the binder. Ended year with \$149,236.00 surplus but \$120,634.00 of FY19 expenses included a \$63,500.00 phone system which would come out of surplus.

**c. Legal Opinion on Transfer of Putnam's Capital Assets**

Ms. McCormick informed the board on receipt of letter from attorney stating that they did not see any prohibition to the transfer. Ms. McCormick has not received anything from DHHR yet regarding the transfer. Mr. Weber asked if we get fair market value or anything for these items? Ms. McCormick stated that we do not. It is basically their money, so we do not receive anything. Mr. Nusbaum recommended that we send to County and City attorney's for review. Ms. McCormick stated we were waiting for DHHR's recommendations. Dr. Rubin added that it could be forwarded upon DHHR's advice.

**5. Report of the Division of Clinic Services – Dr. Young filled in for Ms. Deborah Snaman**

**a. Back to School Vaccination Clinic After Action Report**

Dr. Young informed the board that The Back to School Immunization Clinic that was held August 5 – 9, 2019 was a success. During the week, 238 individuals were served. Those served included K – 12<sup>th</sup> grade and also college bound students. Our "Back to School" efforts are continuing during routine clinic hours. As the School Nurses complete their evaluations of their student's immunization records, those lacking the school required vaccines continue to be seen at the health department.

**b. Flu Clinics**

Dr. Young informed the board that the clinic has begun its annual community flu clinics.

- Outside community, business, and government agency clinics are scheduled from September through mid-November.
- Three large clinics have already been held (WV Lottery, DHHR-Davis Square, Capitol Complex).
- Meeting with school nurses was held Tuesday, September 17, 2019. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of collaborating with the schools for flu vaccine. This year, we will be scheduled to provide flu vaccine to 69 county and private schools. Once the school flu clinic schedule is received from Brenda Isaac, the health department will begin going into the schools.
- We are preparing for Saturday's health fair and will be offering the flu vaccine during that event.

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

**a. Hepatitis A Food Handler**

Mr. Mills discussed a Hepatitis A issue in a restaurant. Mr. Mills stated that they did their risk assessment and found there was no risk.

**b. Scombroid Poisoning**

Mr. Mills stated that this was the first case of Scombroid poisoning that he had investigated. Ms. Briscoe, with her years of experience, had never seen a case either. It is a histamine toxin from the decay of the fish and not an allergy to the fish. Mr. Mills stated that the sanitarians spent some time with the risk assessment and

the food facility handled the fish properly. They saved samples of the tuna which was sent to Virginia and the Virginia State Laboratory found that the tuna was contaminated before it came to the restaurant. Mr. Mills further stated that they found by looking at temperature logs, there were times when the tuna was above freezing, and the improper temperatures produced this. It was not something that the restaurant caused. Only one person was affected, and his reaction was severe enough that he had to be hospitalized. It is one of those illnesses that we all may be exposed to but not develop symptoms. Dr. Rubin asked if it was investigated like it should have been and Mr. Mills stated yes, it was.

**c. Medical Cannabis**

Mr. Mills stated he listened to the conference call regarding medical cannabis and there are still many unanswered questions. The Bureau for Public Health will approve the siting of facilities but no standards other than local zoning codes and distances to schools and daycare centers have been developed. What we, as environmental health would look at is if it has proper sewage disposal and proper water supply. The Bureau be focusing on security issues for the growers and processors. Dr. Rubin asked how long does it take to receive a permit? Mr. Mills stated about 4 to 10 months and they have to announce a month before it is online. Dr. Rubin also asked if we would know where they would be. Mr. Mills stated that we do not know anything until the state gives us the location information. Mr. Nusbaum stated that it depends on how many applications the state has. Dr. Rubin asked at what point does the county have to have additional guidelines? Mr. Mills stated 60 days from tomorrow. Mr. Nusbaum also stated that the medical benefits are amazing, and it is something the state has major interest in. There is a 10% tax is paid by the companies. The permits must have written approval from the Local Board of Health before the permits will be issued. It does not state that the board can implement additional requirements. Mr. Mills asked for the checklist to be sent to Dr. Young. They have to have programs for physicians, apply and meet certain criteria. Dr. Young stated she has a meeting with Cathy Slemper, State Health director tomorrow and will follow up at the next board meeting. Mr. Weber asked if there were any geographical restrictions. Mr. Mills stated only restrictions right now are from schools and daycares. Mr. Weber further asked if we could have all 10 in Kanawha county if we wanted to? Mr. Mills stated yes, depending on where they are. This is not a public health issue; it is a political issue.

Mr. Scalise asked about the bar opening, "House of Hounds" allowing dogs. Mr. Mills stated that it is true, that the dogs will be limited to the outside deck and that the dogs will enter the deck from the outside. There will be a couple of policies enforced such as dogs cannot be at tables and servers cannot have any contact with the dogs.

Mr. Scalise also asked if we really do follow up on Facebook posts? Mr. Mills stated that they do follow up on posts and act on it.

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

**a. Presentation of EPI Updates**

Ms. Briscoe informed the Board that several incidents with bats occurred recently. We have had more reports with bats including a bat testing positive for rabies, issues with bats found in a middle school and a call from Putnam County Health Department regarding a bat found in a house (attic) where a four year old had a couple of scratches and physician was concerned whether the child had been bitten by a bat. CDC reports new data on rabies infections in the United States that bats rather than raccoons are more likely to transmit the

virus to humans. Dr. Rubin asked how these issues were handled. Ms. Briscoe stated that if the bat could be captured the state lab can test for rabies if not the child may be referred for rabies vaccinations (PEP). Environmental Health was following up with the school. Caution not to have bats as pets and avoid contact. If exposure is a concern, contact the health department.

b. **Cannabis Law**

Ms. Briscoe discussed with the Board some of the concerns on the county level with the requirements in the Cannabis Law.

8. **Unfinished Business**

a. **Public Comment Period**

None

Dr. Rubin noted the next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

9. **Adjournment**

Dr. Rubin motioned to adjourn seconded by Mr. Scalise. The Board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Young, DO, FAAFP  
Executive Director/Health Officer

