Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health

Minutes of January 14, 2025, regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on January 14, 2025, at 12:00pm in the City/County Building, 2nd Floor Courtroom, Wheeling West Virginia.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Elisabeth Slater, Ty Thorngate, Tom Tuttle, Dr. Mathew Wood, and Erik Harris. Staff present included Howard Gamble, Administrator of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department, County Health Officer Dr. William S. Przybysz and WOCHD HOPE Program staff Dr. William Mercer.

The meeting was called to order by Board of Health Chairman Dr. John Holloway.

The meeting agenda was adjusted. The Board of Health held a discussion on the Project HOPE Program. The Board was provided with information regarding the separation of Project HOPE from the WOCHD. The administrator reached out to the WV Ethics Commission and the WV State Auditor's Office for guidance. A separation document was provided to the Board including draft advertisement and application form.

A recommendation was made to form a sub committee by Board Chairman Dr. Holloway consisting of Dr. Holloway, Elisabeth Slater and Howard Gamble. A tentative meeting date was established by the group.

Minutes of November 12, 2024, regular meeting were distributed to members prior to the meeting. Minutes were approved.

Dr. Przybysz gave an update on the current flu season and need to get vaccinated. Dr. Przybysz also discussed other reporting diseases.

The administrator gave a report on department programs and services.

In November, 2024 the administrator was informed that the March Board of Health meeting will need to be moved due to City/County renovations. A location will be provided to Board members prior to the meeting.

Clinical

A statewide influenza vaccination coverage document was provided to the Board. Two very important data points are that only 18% of the total population in WV is currently vaccinated for influenza. Second is that Ohio County has the largest percentage of individuals who have been vaccinated in WV.

The Board was provided with a 2024 WV Animal Rabies Surveillance Report.

The health department anticipates that in late Spring the office will need to move to a temporary location in the City County Building in order for the offices to be worked on by the County Commission. This is part of a larger building project. At this time the City of Wheeling (3rd floor offices) has moved into the temporary offices to allow for work to be done in that area.

The Board was provided with 2023 and 2024 data on the department's needle exchange program. The number of needles and encounters did increase in 2024.

The administrator provided to Board members the organization chart of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department. The chart is approved annually by the Board. The Board approved the organization chart.

In partnership with the Marshall County Health Department, the WOCHD will now offer a more extensive CPR community training program. Starting in February the health department will be conducting Heartsaver CPR & First Aid and BLS (Basic Life Support) CPR. The cost of the class will be $50.00 per person for the Heartsaver CPR & First Aid and $25.00 for the BLS CPR. Each class will be limited to 6 people. The first class is set for February 13th starting at 8:30am.

The Board was provided with the WOCHD Financial Review, which included the November and December 2024 financials. The financials were approved.

The Board of Health did not need an Executive Session.

With no other business before the Board, the Board moved for adjournment. The next regular Board of Health meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2025.

SUBMITTED BY

William S. Przybysz, MD, Health Officer
March 11, 2025

APPROVED BY

John D Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
March 11, 2025