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BOARD OF HEALTH:	Bruce DeLong Dwight Washington, Ph.D.	George Bailey Chuck Murphy	Betty Kellenberger Adam Petersen
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APPROVED 5/27/20

BOARD OF HEALTH
 REGULAR MEETING
 At
 Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD)
 Stanton, Michigan

Meeting held electronically through <https://join.freeconferencecall.com> due to COVID-19.

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 9 a.m.

MINUTES

We take action to protect, maintain, and improve the health of our community.

Members Present: Bruce DeLong, Dwight Washington, Chuck Murphy, Betty Kellenberger, and George Bailey (Chairperson)

Members Absent: Adam Petersen

Staff Present: Mark W. (Marcus) Cheatham, Ph.D., Health Officer; Melissa Selby, Director of Administrative Services; Cynthia M. Partlo, Board Secretary; Liz Braddock, Director of Environmental Health (EH); Sarah Doak, Director of Community Health and Education Division (CHED); and Jennifer E. Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP, Medical Director

Staff Absent: None

Guests: Elisabeth Waldon, Daily News Reporter; Rosemary Horvath, Gratiot County Herald Reporter; and Craig Lyons, Lansing State Journal Report

G. Bailey, Chairperson called the Regular Meeting of the Mid-Michigan District Board of Health (BOH) to order at 9:02 a.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, virtually through <https://join.freeconferencecall.com> due to the highly contagious COVID-19 and to assure compliance with federal, state, and local health guidance and requirements relating to the Governor’s Executive Order 2020-48.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by G. Bailey.

A. AGENDA NOTES, REVIEW, AND REVISIONS:

M. Cheatham stated that an update to his COVID-19 Briefing was available on the website.

**Motion made by B. Kellenberger and seconded by B. Murphy to approve the Agenda as presented.
 Motion carried.**

B. CONSENT ITEMS:

1. Meeting Minutes

- a. Mid-Michigan District Board of Appeals Hearing held February 5, 2020
- b. Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) Board of Directors Meeting held February 10, 2020
- c. Mid-Michigan District Board of Health Regular Meeting held February 26, 2020

2. Communications

- a. National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) NewsBrief, Winter 2020

Motion made by B. Kellenberger and seconded by C. Murphy to accept Meeting Minutes B. 1. a. through c. and Communications B. 2. a. and place on file.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

D. BRANCH OFFICE EMPLOYEES: None

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Finance Committee – Bruce DeLong, Chairperson

- a. MMDHD's Expenses for February 15 through April 10, 2020

Motion made by B. DeLong and seconded by B. Kellenberger to approve payment of the Mid-MMDHD's Expenses for February 15 through April 10, 2020, totaling \$965,223.30 (EV Summary-March \$468,824.38 and EV Summary-April \$496,398.92). Motion carried.

- b. COVID-19 Funding

M. Cheatham outlined the funding that the agency received for fighting COVID-19 stating that the agency received \$38,000 from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) initially; then, subsequently got \$125,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Authority (FEMA) and was expecting another \$30,000 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to use for working with long-term care facilities within the district. He also said that the agency was looking at lost revenue. M. Selby provided a brief summary of agency fees stating that another concern was receiving all of the funding that the agency was originally expecting. M. Cheatham stated that the agency might be able to apply for additional FEMA funding and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding.

- c. Food Service Licenses

B. DeLong stated that L. Braddock had a concern regarding late fees for food service licenses assessed after April 30, 2020. B. DeLong said that MDARD requested that the deadline be extended to June 30, 2020.

Motion made by B. DeLong and seconded by B. Kellenberger to waive the late fees for food service licenses to June 30, 2020 consistent with MDARD's request. Motion carried.

2. Personnel Committee – Betty Kellenberger, Chairperson – No Report.
3. Program Committee – Dwight Washington, Chairperson – No Report.
4. Mid-Central Coordinating Committee – Dwight Washington, Chairperson – No Report.

F. MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jennifer E. Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP

1. COVID-19

J. Morse provided an oral update of COVID-19 reporting that there were 2.5 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the world with 178,845 deaths in the United States and 776,093 cases representing 41,758 deaths. In Michigan, there were 32,967 confirmed cases, and 2,700 deaths. She indicated that the daily case count was 967, which was a decrease from previous daily counts.

J. Morse reviewed PCR testing looking for genetic material in the SARS-CoV-2. She described the sampling process stating that false negative tests results can happen. She discussed the sensitivity of the test and concerns if a negative test result is received. She reported that there is a major shortage of the swabs and the liquid that the swab is placed in. However, the FDA recently approved a home test kit that would still need a prescription and would be delivered to states over the next several weeks. A rapid test is now widely available and being used that gives results in 15 minutes; however, in a Cleveland Clinic study where over 200 positive samples from PCR tests were used for the rapid test; only 85% of the tests were positive, meaning that 15% were false negative which is concerning. Antibody tests are now becoming widely available. She cautioned that a lot of them claim to be approved by the FDA; however, they are not which is a concern. She indicated that currently, there is uncertainty on how long immunity lasts.

She discussed the different strains of SARS called clades, stating that the different strains do not mean that the virus is getting worse. Dr. Morse reported that www.nextstrain.org/ncov displays every strain that has been mapped across the country. It shows the variance across the globe and how the virus has spread and changed.

Dr. Morse stated that deaths are reported in the county where the individual lived. Physicians will certify a death based on the person's medical conditions and then add COVID-19 if the person was lab-confirmed positive. Death reporting includes 1) immediate cause of death, 2) any conditions preceding, 3) intermediate causes of death, and 4) next list COVID-19 if lab-confirmed. If COVID-19 was not lab-confirmed, the death certificate might state COVID-19 probable. Deaths reported on the State's website are only deaths that were lab tested positive for COVID-19. The State is working on reporting separately probable deaths from COVID-19.

She also discussed congregate settings such as long-term care facilities, adult foster care homes, and prisons stating that those residents are high risk and extra precautions have been taken to help protect them. She said that once it's in the facility, it's very hard to control the spread.

Dr. Morse reported that in order to consider reopening, a steady reduction in cases would need to be seen for at least two weeks. Hospitals would need to treat patients consistently without any crisis care.

She also stated that we also need to be able to regularly test everyone to find cases and identify contacts. Currently, supplies for testing are not adequate.

D. Washington expressed several concerns regarding testing, preventing the spread, and reopening. He recommended a change to social behaviors. M. Cheatham added that he feels that large gatherings should be banned until there is a vaccine for COVID-19.

CORRECTED
5/27/20

C. Murphy asked why Michigan has **more than twice as many deaths compared to several States with about the same number of cases but fewer deaths.** ~~so many deaths.~~ Dr. Morse replied that Michigan has been very good with timeliness and completion of death reporting. She indicated that the CDC said that some states collect and report data differently or are not reporting timely nor completely.

D. Washington asked Dr. Morse if the current method of only testing the very sickest individuals is biased and how that is relevant. Dr. Morse explained that if everyone was tested, even those with mild illness, your death rate would decline. She said that in the future, the plan is to conduct antibody testing to determine the percentage of the population that was exposed.

M. Cheatham suggested that Dr. Morse's BOH Monthly Healthy Living Recommendation for April be repeated for May, which is:

- While the risk for SARS-CoV-2 infection in Michigan remains low at this time, continue to practice everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.
- Prior to any international travel, visit www.cdc.gov/travel for guidance regarding health advisories, precautions, and advice to ensure the safest travel possible.
- Help prevent stigma and discrimination in the community, workplaces, schools, etc. Do not make determinations of a persons of risk of SARS-CoV-2 based on race or country of origin and be sure to maintain confidentiality of people with confirmed coronavirus infection, or any other medical condition.

Motion made by D. Washington and seconded by B. Kellenberger to approve the BOH Monthly Healthy Living Recommendation for May as proposed and accept the Medical Director's Report as presented and place it on file. Motion carried.

G. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT:

1. MMDHD COVID-19 Response

M. Cheatham provided an update regarding COVID-19 stating that the agency was monitoring 1,191 cases (622 in Clinton, 326 in Gratiot, and 243 in Montcalm). He also reviewed a map showing the spread of COVID-19 among communities within our district. He also reviewed hospital data indicating that the hospitals serving our district are not overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients at this time. G. Bailey commented that the data was good information and requested that the BOH receive updated data at least weekly. M. Cheatham indicated that he thought County Commissioners were already receiving the data from their Emergency Operations Centers. G. Bailey and others indicated that they were not. He said he would make sure to send updates weekly to all BOH members.

M. Cheatham reviewed MMDHD employee safety indicating that most staff were working from home. He said that some essential agency services were still being provided. He reviewed those services and

mentioned that a group of nurses have been conducting contract tracing. He thanked the BOH for approving Office 365 just in time to virtually conduct business. Changes to the call center were also explained to the BOH.

M. Cheatham also talked about communication and outreach with the public, indicating that he was aware that the public feels that MMDHD has not been communicating well with them. He indicated that the agency has been working on distributing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) left over from H1N1, in addition to receiving a shipment from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). M. Cheatham said that the agency would be focusing efforts to distribute PPE to nursing homes and long-term care facilities within the district.

M. Cheatham also said that the agency was doing enforcement of the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Safe Order within the district. He added that the agency circulated information to businesses to help them understand the requirements of the Governor's order. He also added that the agency has established plans to shelter quarantine individuals positive for COVID-19 (mild illness).

M. Cheatham discussed the possibility of opening the economy back up stating that currently there is a huge gap in healthcare providers reporting cases to public health. This needs to improve in order to open the economy back up. He described the definition of a probable case noting that the definition has been expanded instructing clinicians to notify public health of all probable COVID-19 cases. If this happens, it won't mean that COVID-19 is getting worse, it will mean that reporting to public health is getting better, which is needed to for the economy to reopen.

G. Bailey asked if there is a positive case, does it remain on the positive case count or does it fall off when recovered or if there is a death? M. Cheatham replied that was true because currently there isn't a definition for recovered cases. G. Bailey stated that was very confusing for the public. Dr. Morse explained the process for determining recovered cases stating that it is an intensive labor process to follow-up with those individuals. She added that all communicable diseases are reported by the total positive cases. G. Bailey added that he was trying to gather all of the information he can in order to make an informed decision about opening Gratiot County. C. Murphy added that he believed that most businesses were following the guidelines sent out by the health department.

D. Washington suggested an award for businesses following COVID-19 best practices award. M. Cheatham said that there was no thought of that; however, he suggested doing that in partnership with other agencies. G. Bailey and C. Murphy suggested working with the Chamber of Commerce to take the lead and assist with nominations. He requested that M. Cheatham contact the Chambers to let them know that the MMDHD would be contacting them for assistance with recognition. He indicated that the requirements of the Governor's Stay Safe, Stay Home order could be used; although those requirements frequently change.

2. Agreements Signed, February 20 through April 16, 2020

The topic was informational.

3. Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Management Evaluation, WIC Food Costs

The topic was informational.

4. FY 19/20 Quarterly Service Report (QSR), Second Quarter (January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020

The topic was informational.

H. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Riverdale Update

L. Braddock provided an update regarding Riverdale's inadequate septic systems stating that the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has issued a second violation notice. Seville Township responded and suggested that EGLE and the health department schedule a virtual meeting in May or June or an in-person meeting in June or July to discuss the issue. L. Braddock added that she was waiting on EGLE to take the lead on this. C. Murphy added that Seville Township is waiting to hear from EGLE.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

1. G. Bailey asked for a Special Meeting on May 6, 2020 at 9 a.m. to talk about the COVID-19 situation and be provided updates. Dr. Morse mentioned that she would also participate and if there's anything specific that the BOH would like to discuss, to please let her know through C. Partlo or M. Cheatham. M. Cheatham added that two things he is concerned about are:

Motion made by B. Delong and seconded by C. Murphy to schedule a virtual special meeting on May 6, 2020 at 9 a.m. Motion carried.

2. Emerging Issues

a. PFAS Investigations

L. Braddock notified the BOH that EGLE was conducting quarterly samples out of the Central Montcalm Public Schools, specifically the high school. In Ionia County, the site that borders Montcalm County has had no further detections. She reported that the investigation has now moved to the Village of Palo. In Clinton County, a second round of sampling was being conducted at the Grand Ledge facility in Clinton County. Homeowners have been notified; and she added that the National Guard requested access to sampling.

J. LEGISLATIVE ACTION: None

K. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Mid-Michigan District BOH Action Items, February 2020 (*none for March*)
2. Staffing Report

L. RELATED NEWS ARTICLES AND LINKS: <https://www.mmdhd.org/2020-board-of-health/>

1. Montcalm County May Hire Second Animal Control Officer, *Daily News*, February 19, 2020
2. What's In The Runoff? Promise And Doubt Surround Fecal Source Tracking Technique, *Gratiot County Herald*, February 20, 2020
3. Meeting To Discuss Palo PFAS Set For Feb. 27, *Daily News*, February 22, 2020
4. Upper Pine River Watershed Management Plan Showcased During Annual Meeting, *Gratiot County Herald*, February 26, 2020

5. Palo PFAS Study Finding 'Good News', *Daily News*, February 29, 2020
6. Community Effort In Riverdale Falls Short, *Gratiot County Herald*, March 4, 2020
7. Toxic Algae & Waterborne Disease: Human Health Risks Associated With Pine River Pollution, *Gratiot County Herald*, March 11, 2020
8. Prepare For, But Don't Panic Over COVID-19, *Lakeview Area News*, March 12, 2020
9. Proactive Approach, *Daily News*, March 12, 2020
10. Greenville Schools, MCC Taking Measures To Prepare For Coronavirus In Michigan, *Daily News*, March 12, 2020
11. Commission On Aging Agencies Working To Help Senior Citizens, *Daily News*, March 14, 2020
12. Local Woman Discusses Life In Quarantine For COVID-19, *Daily News*, March 14, 2020
13. Board of Commissioners Extend State of Emergency, *Gratiot County Herald*, March 18, 2020
14. Cases of COVID-19 In County Rise To 5, *Lansing State Journal*, March 18, 2020
15. State of Emergency, *Gratiot County Herald*, March 18, 2020
16. Funeral Home Limits Attendance At Visitations, Services, *Daily News*, March 19, 2020
17. Health Department Warns of COVID-19 Related Phone Scam, *Daily News*, March 19, 2020
18. COVID-19 Phone Scam, *Lakeview Area News*, March 19, 2020
19. On The Front Lines Of Virus Battle In Lansing, *Lansing State Journal*, March 22, 2020
20. COVID-19 Testing Stats Difficult To Come By, *Daily News*, March 25, 2020
21. Greenville High School Student Diagnosed With COVID-19, *Daily News*, March 27, 2020
22. Montcalm County Reports Third COVID-19 Case, Ionia county Has Two, *Daily News*, March 27, 2020
23. How Some Cities Flattened The Curve During The 1918 Flu Pandemic, *National Geographic*, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/2020/03/how-cities-flattened-curve-1918-spanish-flu-pandemic-coronavirus/>, March 27, 2020
24. 'We Don't Know Where It Came From', *Daily News*, March 28, 2020
25. [Clinton County Is Experiencing High Number of COVID-19 Cases Per Capita](#), *WLNS.Com*, March 31, 2020
26. COVID-19 Testing In Gratiot: Who, How and Where?, *Gratiot County Herald*, April 2, 2020
27. Lansing Area Has Its First Deaths, *Lansing State Journal*, April 2, 2020
28. Greenville Girl Feeling Better After 'Exhausting' Week, *Daily News*, April 4, 2020
29. Greenville Schools Thank Community For Support, *Daily News*, April 4, 2020
30. Officials: Lansing 'Reserving Capacity', *Lansing State Journal*, April 5, 2020
31. Health Department Reports First COVID-19 Death In Montcalm County, *Daily News*, April 8, 2020
32. COVID-19 Cases On The Rise In Gratiot, Neighboring Counties, *Gratiot County News*, April 8, 2020
33. COVID-19 Numbers Keep Climbing, *Lansing State Journal*, April 10, 2020
34. A Silver Lining?, *Daily News*, April 11, 2020
35. COVID-19 Deaths Higher In Eaton, Clinton, *Lansing State Journal*, April 11, 2020
36. 10 New Cases In Ingham County, *Lansing State Journal*, April 12, 2020
37. Virtual Support, Addiction Support Meetings Are Available 24 Hours A Day Online, *Daily News*, April 15, 2020
38. 4 Deaths At Senior Facility Reported, *Lansing State Journal*, April 16, 2020
39. 2 Lansing-Area Residents Die From Virus, Bring Total To 17, *Lansing State Journal*, April 17, 2020

M. AGENCY NEWSLETTERS: – None

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia M. Partlo, Board Secretary
 For George Bailey, Chairperson
 Mid-Michigan District Board of Health