



CLINTON OFFICE		GRATIOT OFFICE		MONTCALM OFFICE	
1307 E. Townsend Rd. Saint Johns, MI 48879-9036 (989) 224-2195		151 Commerce Dr. Ithaca, MI 48847-1627 (989) 875-3681		615 N. State St. Stanton, MI 48888-9702 (989) 831-5237	
BOARD OF HEALTH:	Bruce DeLong		George Bailey	Betty Kellenberger	
	Dwight Washington, Ph.D.		Chuck Murphy	Adam Petersen	

APPROVED 5/27/20

BOARD OF HEALTH
SPECIAL MEETING

Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD)
Meeting held electronically through <https://freeconferencecall.com> due to COVID-19.

Wednesday, May 6, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

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

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

Members Absent: Adam Petersen

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

Staff Absent: None

Guests: Elisabeth Waldon, Reporter, The Daily News; Craig Lyons, Reporter, Lansing State Journal; and Doug Brecht, Seville Township Trustee

G. Bailey, Chairperson called the Special Meeting of the Mid-Michigan District Board of Health (BOH) to order at 9:00 a.m., on Wednesday, May 6, 2020. The meeting was held electronically considering 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.

A. AGENDA NOTES, REVIEW, AND REVISIONS:

M. Cheatham mentioned that he would like to add two topics as items F. and G.:

- F. Sneeze Guards in Offices and Payment For; and
- G. MMDHD Emergency Order for Businesses Not to be Open.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

C. BUDGET FORECAST:

M. Cheatham reviewed the budget forecast showing the agency's financial impact from COVID-19 stating that staff were anticipating a deficit of \$358,000 by September 30, 2020. He reported that most Environmental Health (EH) and Health Education fees have not been received. Additionally, the agency has not been able to bill for Medicaid at usual levels which would reduce the agency's full cost reimbursement amount at the end of the year.

M. Cheatham explained that local health departments have expressed to the State that the small amount of funding received for COVID-19 response is much smaller than the revenue losses that health departments are taking. Additionally, he added that the agency was considering the ability to bill staff overtime to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He stated that cuts to the health department were being considered in the face of the most important work the agency has ever done.

G. Bailey commented that he believes pent-up demand exists that would come back to MMDHD. For Gratiot County, he was hopeful that 75% of the revenues could be recouped.

M. Selby stated that she had a difficult time estimating the budget considering the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Safe Order because some EH and CSHED services could be provided even though the offices are closed to the public. She was hopeful that G. Bailey's prediction that pent-up demand exists would be correct.

D. PROGRAM TRENDS:

M. Cheatham reviewed agency program trends noting that the agency has done a good job providing agency services remotely such as Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Family Planning, and Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) to the public during the stay home, stay safe period. He also reported that the agency has not been able to provide immunizations, as well as many EH programs such as food services; however, the agency has received some revenue for food service licenses. He reported that the EH staff have been issuing permits for septic repairs and "out-of-water" emergency requests.

M. Cheatham reviewed staff hours logged for COVID-19, stating that as of April 25, 2020 hours logged by staff were 3,917.02.

E. DISCUSSION OF REOPENING:

1. COVID-19 Workplace Toolkit

M. Cheatham provided an overview of the COVID-19 Workplace Toolkit stating that the agency wanted to help businesses that will be re-opening. He stressed that businesses won't be operating as usual. He reviewed the nine basic steps for businesses considering re-opening.

C. Murphy had a few questions regarding the toolkit. Dr. Morse explained that the document was a very rough draft that she hadn't reviewed yet. She made notes regarding

the suggested changes from BOH members and stated that the document would be revised before being distributed.

D. Washington suggested a few modifications to the toolkit as well, stating that a peeve of his is the use of the term “social distancing” when it really should be “spatial distancing”. He believes that social distancing implies that humans need to stay away from one another; however, human contact is really necessary; therefore, he believes the change in terminology implies to maintain a 6 to 10 ft. distance from one another that would help us understand and better connect with one another. Dr. Morse thank D. Washington for his comment stating that she thought it was a great suggestion. She indicated that she would share that with others adding that was a very powerful statement that might help individuals with their mental health. C. Murphy added that he supported the change to spatial distancing as well.

D. Washington asked M. Cheatham when businesses could expect access to the toolkit. M. Cheatham replied that the toolkit was being worked on by staff between their COVID-19 response as they have time; noting it would be completed as soon as possible.

F. SNEEZE GUARDS:

G. Bailey said that Gratiot County has a source for obtaining sneeze guards. He suggested M. Cheatham get in touch with Tony Miller.

G. WHAT TO EXPECT:

M. Cheatham said that a certain amount of asymptomatic spread should be expected and that testing sometimes does not detect symptoms. No matter how diligent businesses are with following the guidelines, it is believed that the virus would return. He explained that the role of the local health department is to carry on its mandated services and conduct contact tracing. MMDHD is operating under emergency order 2020-70. He also expressed that the agency's role was to educate the public and businesses on prevention and how they can operate safely.

M. Cheatham said that the agency would be starting to provide some EH services this week. However, some businesses were violating the Executive Orders, which undermines efforts to keep our communities safe. He requested the BOH's support and guidance on how to proceed with enforcement, so businesses don't have to be shut down in a few weeks.

G. Bailey commented that private parks, such as Leisure Lakes in Gratiot County were allowed to be open. He said that he is a member at a private campground in Newaygo County and reviewed the guidelines for using the campground, stating that it has been working quite well with everyone following the rules. B. DeLong stated that he has a difficult time supporting enforcement action against small businesses.

M. Cheatham said that the Michigan Economic Recovery Council was working on strategies for re-opening the economy and was developing recommendations in conjunction with the University of Michigan for opening in phases based on data. He encouraged the BOH and public to pay attention to the work of the Council; supporting their recommendations. Dr. Morse indicated that their website address was just released today by the Michigan Association for

Local Public Health: www.Blmcovid19.com/businessbestpractices. G. Bailey asked C. Partlo to forward the website information to the BOH. She indicated she would do so.

G. Bailey asked if L. Braddock could get in touch with Tish Mallory of Seville Township regarding some concerns that she has regarding Riverdale's septic systems. M. Cheatham stated that L. Braddock had been in touch with Ms. Mallory but would pass along the request.

G. Bailey and B. DeLong expressed concern that small businesses aren't allowed to be open when the big box stores can, even though they sell some of the same products. D. Washington supported the comment regarding small businesses but expressed that we were in the fight stage and needed to keep the curve from spiking again. B. DeLong commented that he believes that the virus is real but that there is overreaction.

Dr. Morse summarized that COVID-19 is not like influenza; there is no preventative methods, no approved vaccine, or treatment. COVID-19 is much more contagious than influenza. If the economy is opened too quickly, there could be major outbreaks again at workplaces and the community; then we'll have to shut down the economy again which could come with great resistance and civic unrest. She stated that there is one opportunity to do this right; there will not be a second chance. If we don't phase the reopening in so we can quell outbreaks, Michigan could experience another huge outbreak.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. G. Bailey requested a roll call vote. C. Partlo called the roll: **B. Kellenberger-Yes; C. Murphy-Yes; B. DeLong-Yes; D. Washington-Yes; and G. Bailey – Yes. Motion carried 5-0. A. Petersen was absent.**

Respectfully Submitted,



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