



**CLINTON OFFICE**  
 1307 E. Townsend Rd.  
 Saint Johns, MI 48879-9036  
 (989) 224-2195

**GRATIOT OFFICE**  
 151 Commerce Dr.  
 Ithaca, MI 48847-1627  
 (989) 875-3681

**MONTCALM OFFICE**  
 615 N. State St.  
 Stanton, MI 48888-9702  
 (989) 831-5237

<b>BOARD OF HEALTH:</b>	Bruce DeLong	George Bailey	Michael R. Beach
	Dwight Washington, Ph.D.	Chuck Murphy	Adam Petersen

**APPROVED 7/21/2021**

Mid-Michigan District Health Department  
 BOARD OF HEALTH  
 REGULAR MEETING  
 Gratiot County, Ithaca, Michigan

Wednesday, June 23, 2021  
 9:00 a.m.

**MINUTES**

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

- Members Present: Bruce DeLong, Dwight Washington (Bath Township, Michigan), Chuck Murphy (Alma, Michigan), George Bailey, Adam Petersen, Vice Chairperson
- Members Absent: Michael Beach
- Staff Present: Mark W. (Marcus) Cheatham, Ph.D., Health Officer; Melissa Selby, Director of Administrative Services; Cynthia M. Partlo, Board Secretary; Jennifer E. Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP, Medical Director; Liz Braddock, Director of Environmental Health (EH); and Sarah Doak, Director of Community Health and Education
- Staff Absent: None
- Guests: Anne Hawkins-Badge

Bruce DeLong, Chairperson called the Regular Meeting of the Mid-Michigan District Board of Health (BOH) to order at 9:02 a.m. on Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at the Gratiot County Office of the Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD), Ithaca, Michigan, and online through Zoom Video Communications, Inc. to assure compliance with federal, state, and local Emergency Declarations in Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm Counties.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by B. DeLong.

A. AGENDA NOTES, REVIEW, AND REVISIONS:

**Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by A. Petersen to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

B. CONSENT ITEMS:

1. Meeting Minutes

- a. Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) Board of Directors Meeting held May 10, 2021
- b. Mid-Michigan District Board of Health (BOH) Regular Meeting held May 26, 2021
- c. Mid-Michigan District BOH Special Finance Committee Meeting held June 10, 2021
- d. Mid-Michigan District BOH Personnel Committee Meeting held June 16, 2021
- e. Mid-Michigan District BOH Personnel Committee Meeting held June 21, 2021; Michigan Nurses Association (MNA) Contract Negotiations
- f. Mid-Michigan District BOH Personnel Committee Meeting held June 21, 2021; Interviews for Health Officer Position

C. Partlo distributed handouts B. 1. e. and f.

**Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by A. Petersen to accept the Meeting Minutes B. 1. a. through f. and place on file. Motion carried.**

2. Communications – None

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS: – None

D. BRANCH OFFICE EMPLOYEES: – None

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Finance Committee – George Bailey, Chairperson

- a. MMDHD's Expenses for May 8 through June 4, 2021

**Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by A. Petersen to approve payment of the MMDHD's Expenses for May 8 through June 4, 2021, in the amount of \$475,755.61. Motion carried.**

- b. MMDHD's Monthly Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure Report for May 2021

**Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by A. Petersen to approve and place the Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure Report for May 2021 on file. Motion carried.**

- c. FY 21/22 Proposed Budget and Narrative

G. Bailey reported that a Special Finance Committee Meeting was held on June 10, 2021. M. Selby indicated that COVID funding was budgeted at just over \$400,000 in FY 21/22; however, she projected it could be less than this fiscal year. She reported that adjustments would be made in funding throughout the year if needed. She reviewed the County appropriations and service trends

indicating that there was about a \$20,000 total increase in county appropriations requested across the district. She said that the increase for Clinton County was \$11,000, a \$4,700 increase for Gratiot County, and a \$4,000 increase for Montcalm County based on the formula of 5-year rolling average service trends. M. Cheatham reported that State funding was increasing and that the County Administrators were aware of the agency's appropriation requests. M. Selby added that the MMDHD had not requested a budget increase in several years.

**Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by A. Petersen to approve the Proposed FY 21/22 Budget and Narrative. Motion carried.**

d. FY 21/22 Proposed Agency Fees

- 1) Community Health and Education Division (CHED)
- 2) Environmental Health (EH) Division

L. Braddock mentioned that food fees were not increased for FY 21/22 (highlighted in yellow), although other EH fees were increased by 1%.

**Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by A. Petersen to approve the agency fees as proposed for FY 21/22. Motion carried.**

2. Personnel Committee – Dwight Washington, Chairperson

a. Michigan Nurses Association (MNA) Negotiations

D. Washington reported that seven issues were brought to the Personnel Committee from the MNA that would be negotiated over the next few weeks.

b. Health Officer Recruitment

D. Washington provided an update regarding Health Officer Recruitment stating that the Personnel Committee got a good sense of the personalities of the candidates that applied for the Health Officer position and would be interviewing the candidates selected for a final interview on Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. A. Petersen mentioned that a Special BOH meeting might be called to select the new Health Officer as soon as possible after the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. He also stated that M. Cheatham could come back on a contractual basis to orient the new Health Officer if needed. C. Murphy suggested June 30<sup>th</sup> for the Special BOH Meeting to select a new Health Officer.

c. Marcus Cheatham Exit Interview

D. Washington indicated that the Personnel Committee conducted an exit interview with Marcus Cheatham stating that it went very well. He said that M. Cheatham commented that MMDHD staff worked very hard through the pandemic and recommended the new Health Officer and BOH focus on rebuilding staff morale.

B. DeLong asked if the BOH wanted to schedule the Special BOH Meeting today.

**Motion made by A. Petersen and seconded by C. Murphy to schedule a Special BOH Meeting to conduct an online only meeting at 8:30 a.m. on June 30, 2021, to consider selecting the new Health Officer for MMDHD. Motion carried.**

3. Program Committee – Michael Beach, Chairperson – Absent.
4. Mid-Central Coordinating Committee – Chuck Murphy – No Report.

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

1. COVID-19 – What Comes Next?

Dr. Morse provided an overview of what the future might hold regarding COVID-19. She said that it was projected that COVID-19 would become endemic like influenza. She indicated that most adults would eventually develop immunity to COVID-19. With time, Dr. Morse reported that COVID-19 would become an illness that most would encounter in childhood. She compared the COVID-19 pandemic to what happened after the 1918 influenza pandemic, noting that the influenza strain continued to mutate and circulate with influenza A becoming endemic. She explained that mathematical modeling was done to project what could happen by stopping or relaxing precautions too quickly before enough people were vaccinated stating that it could lead to large increases in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. She added that a gradual reopening was best, reporting that currently, almost every state has reopened.

She talked about herd immunity and indicated that discussion about it should cease because we do not know the level needed for herd immunity with COVID-19 at this time. She said that the focus should be on vaccinating everyone until the pandemic ends. She indicated that the debate continued whether children under 12 years of age needed to be vaccinated as risk to them with this illness was minimal; however, very rare side effects were possible with vaccinating this group and the Food and Drug Administration continues to evaluate. Dr. Morse reported that worldwide vaccination rates were only 12%, so COVID would continue to spread and mutate until global vaccinations improve.

Dr. Morse’s BOH Monthly Healthy Living Recommendations for July are:

1. There is no known immunity level when COVID-19 will be controlled. Focus on getting as many people vaccinated as quickly as possible.
2. Vaccination efforts must be worldwide to have lasting effects on COVID-19.
3. Non-pharmaceutical interventions against COVID-19 should be stopped gradually, as vaccination rates increase, and should be reinitiated if needed.
4. Test-trace-isolate work should continue even when cases of COVID-19 are low.

C. Murphy asked what the vaccination rate for the over 65 age group was. Dr. Morse replied that statewide, the rate was around 70%-80%. M. Cheatham added that district vaccination rates were slightly below the State average in Gratiot and Montcalm Counties and Clinton County was slightly above.

**Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by A. Petersen to approve the Medical Director’s Report and recommendations for July as presented and place them on file. Motion carried.**

G. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT:

M. Cheatham said farewell to the BOH as this was his last BOH meeting. B. DeLong indicated that he appreciated all the work that M. Cheatham had done. M. Cheatham commented that the Administrative Team was well prepared to manage the agency as he had stepped back during the last month. A. Petersen indicated that two candidates had experience with district health departments. The BOH expressed their confidence in the Administrative Team to manage the department until a new Health Officer was on board. There was discussion about appointing an interim Health Officer and the BOH agreed to consider that at their June 30<sup>th</sup> Special BOH Meeting.

M. Selby mentioned that her and M. Cheatham discussed bringing in a speaker in September for staff this year as the past 15 months have been trying for staff. She stated that the Michigan Health Endowment Fund provided funding for local health departments through the MALPH in the amount of \$4,500 to do something for staff. M. Selby said that she checked into a speaker that was highly recommended by a supervisor and the cost for his services would be \$8,000. She wanted to get feedback from the BOH about this expense to discuss a holistic approach to wellness with staff. M. Selby explained the training stating that following the program, staff would have a 12-month subscription to access the survey and tools. B. DeLong asked if the plan was to do an in-person staff in-service with lunch, etc. M. Selby replied that was her intent. The BOH expressed their approval to proceed forward with the training, stating that it was a good idea.

1. COVID-19 Update

No report.

2. Michigan Premier Public Health Conference, October 27-28, 2021, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids

B. DeLong mentioned to notify C. Partlo if interested in attending the Michigan's Premier Public Health Conference in October.

H. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update on EH FY 20/21 Food Service Establishment Fees

L. Braddock provided an overview of the FY 20/21 food service establishment fees and Senate Bills 353 and 354 that propose to waive State and local fees for the entire food industry. She said that progress was on hold while the legislature was working with the Michigan Restaurant Association and the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) to tie funding to the bills. L. Braddock indicated that she would continue to provide updates.

2. Update on Staff Remote Work

M. Selby stated that the policies regarding telecommuting were not included in the BOH packet. She said that some jobs were not suited to remote work; however, staff were given a deadline to submit a request to work remotely. She stated that requests were granted based on agency needs indicating that staff work would be a hybrid model. B. DeLong indicated that Clinton County was doing the same process, and he indicated that if staff complaints begin remote work should end. He stressed the need for employees to come back to work. M. Selby mentioned that telework was a 90-day trial period. G. Bailey requested an update on how the program was working.

3. Update on PFAS, Residential Sampling at Capital Region International Airport, DeWitt Township

L. Braddock provided an update regarding PFAS sampling around the area of the Capital Region International Airport, stating that the first homes that were tested closest to the plume had non-detection of PFAS in the initial sampling. She reported that an additional 30 homes further away from the plume were being sampled as well. L. Braddock stated that residents from the initial sampling would be receiving a letter regarding their non-detect results.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Emerging Issues

a. L. Braddock reported that work has begun on the beach water monitoring of six lakes within the district. One issue of elevated E. Coli was identified at Park Lake beach in Bath Township and a water quality advisory was issued stating the water was unsafe for total body contact. She said that Bath Township has also posted a no swimming notice and closed the beach. L. Braddock indicated that after meeting with Bath Township, they committed to addressing the wild fowl issue that likely was the cause of the E. Coli. L. Braddock said that as part of the grant award, samples would be sent to Michigan State to detect for human E. Coli, although she suspected that none would be found since the lake was on a sewer system. G. Bailey asked the names of the six lakes being sampled in the district. L. Braddock replied that the lakes being sampled were Crystal Lake (Montcalm), Hubscher County Park and Reed County Park (Gratiot), Francis Motz Park (Clinton), Park Lake in Bath Township, and Lake Ovid. Additionally, L. Braddock stated that the agency received another grant through the United States Geological Survey to conduct sampling on Lake Victoria, a private lake in Clinton County. She summarized that the agency has a two-year contract and different lakes could be tested next year. D. Washington thanked L. Braddock for her work in Bath Township and with community groups to clear up the E. Coli issue at Park Lake.

J. LEGISLATIVE ACTION: None

K. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Mid-Michigan District BOH Action Items, May 2021

2. MMDHD Staffing Report

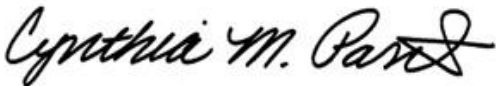
L. RELATED NEWS ARTICLES AND LINKS: – <https://www.mmdhd.org/2021-board-of-health/>

1. Recreational Marijuana Tax Revenue Goes To Local Substance Abuse Services, *Daily News*, May 26, 2021
2. Montcalm Prevention Coalition Equips Youths To Live And Lead Healthy Lives, *Daily News*, June 5, 2021
3. Assessing Montcalm County’s Health Needs, Resources, *Daily News*, June 9, 2021
4. Bill To Aid Eateries Spurs Query, *Lansing State Journal*, June 14, 2021

M. AGENCY NEWSLETTERS: None

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia M. Partlo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Cynthia M. Partlo, Board Secretary  
For Bruce DeLong, Chairperson  
Mid-Michigan District Board of Health