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

APPROVED 9/22/21

BOARD OF HEALTH
 REGULAR MEETING
 At
 Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD)
 Clinton Office, Saint Johns

Conference Rooms A and B

Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at 9 a.m.

MINUTES

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

Members Present: Bruce DeLong, Chairperson; Dwight Washington; Chuck Murphy; Michael Beach

Members Absent: George Bailey and Adam Petersen, Vice Chairperson

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

Staff Absent: None

Guests: District residents in person and online

Bruce DeLong, Chairperson called the Regular Meeting of the Mid-Michigan District Board of Health (BOH) to order at 9:07 a.m. on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, at the Clinton Office of the MMDHD, Saint Johns, Michigan and online through Zoom Communications, Inc.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by B. DeLong.

A. AGENDA NOTES, REVIEW, AND REVISIONS:

Motion made by C. Murphy and seconded by D. Washington to approve the Agenda as presented and move Item E. 2. a. following L. Public Comment. Motion carried.

B. CONSENT ITEMS:

1. Meeting Minutes

- a. Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) Board of Directors Meeting held July 12, 2021
- b. Mid-Michigan District BOH Regular Meeting held July 21, 2021

Motion made by M. Beach and seconded by D. Washington to accept Meeting Minutes B. 1. a. and b. and place on file. Motion carried.

2. Communications

- a. Letter dated July 22, 2021 to Colleague from Katie Macomber, MPH, Director-Division of HIV and STI Programs, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) regarding HIV and STI services
- b. Letter dated July 27, 2021 to Bruce DeLong, Board of Health Chair from Alexis D. Travis, PhD, Senior Deputy Director, Public Health Administration, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) regarding approval of Liz Braddock to serve as the Health Officer for the MMDHD

Motion made by M. Beach and seconded by C. Murphy to accept Communications B. 2. a. and b. and place on file. Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Comments from district residents were heard by the BOH dissuading masking, vaccinations, and quarantine in schools.

D. BRANCH OFFICE EMPLOYEES: L. Braddock introduced Lonnie Smith, RS, the agency's new Director of Environmental Health. The BOH congratulated and welcomed him to his new position.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

B. DeLong explained that due to lack of a quorum, the Finance Committee did not meet; indicating that Finance Committee topics would be addressed by the full BOH.

1. Finance Committee – George Bailey, Chairperson (absent)

- a. MMDHD's Expenses for July 17 through August 13, 2021

Motion made by M. Beach and seconded by D. Washington to approve payment of the MMDHD's Expenses for July 17 through August 13, 2021 totaling \$501,351.48. Motion carried.

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

Motion made by M. Beach and seconded by D. Washington to accept and place the Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure Report for July 2021 on file. Motion carried.

c. Update on Accsense Vaccine Monitoring System

S. Doak reported that the annual fee that covers cloud maintenance for the Accsense Vaccine Monitoring System was \$720. She added that the cost of \$150 per month that the agency was paying for the current Sensaphones would no longer be paid thereby saving the agency \$1,800 per year, which covers the annual fee for the Accsense Vaccine Monitoring System.

Motion made by M. Beach and seconded by D. Washington to switch the vaccine monitoring system to Accsense. Motion carried.

d. Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) 2020 Actuarial Valuation Report

B. DeLong indicated that he had spoken with M. Selby on how the agency could address the agency's underfunded MERS retirement fund to reach a minimum of 90% funded. He said that M. Selby would develop a plan to increase the percentage funded by including a contribution amount in future budgets. M. Selby reported that currently, there was just over \$300,000 in fund balance for retirement and any surplus at the end of this fiscal year could be dedicated to retirement unfunded liability.

e. COVID-19 Funding Support

a. Administrative Services Supervisor

b. Community Health and Education Division (CHED) Supervisor

c. Upgrade Phone Systems

L. Braddock stated that the agency had received funding from the State of Michigan for COVID-19 for fiscal years 20/21, 21/22, and 22/23. She explained what the \$1.4 million funding could be used for, stating that \$650,000 had already been budgeted. L. Braddock reviewed the requests for the additional funding:

- Additional Supervisor related to pandemic and community support: \$100,000
- Reserve for overtime and double time needed for staff: \$85,000
- Reserve for supplies needed: \$250,000
- Reserve for hazard pay: \$75,000
- Reserve for contingencies: \$267,378

Additionally, L. Braddock stated that the agency was awarded \$1 million in funding from the MI Safer Schools Health Resource Advocates (HRA) for Sustained In-Person Learning that would support the school districts through the ISDs by providing funding for hiring nine Health Resource Advocates (three per county ISD) to provide frontline support to schools for prevention and consultation services related to COVID-19. L. Braddock explained that the agency would work with each county ISD to meet their individual needs.

L. Braddock also reported that the agency received funding to expand and sustain its public health workforce. This funding would be used to hire another supervisor to support workforce-related activities as well as equipment necessary to support upgrading the agency's phone system to a cloud-based system, which would improve remote working and call center capabilities. C. Murphy asked if the cloud-based phone system would go down if the agency lost internet service. M. Selby

replied that it could; however, the agency has a back-up vendor for internet service, but if both vendors went down, the agency would not have phone service.

M. Selby mentioned that she planned to prepare budget amendments – one for FY 20/21 to be provided at the September BOH meeting and another for FY 21/22 to be provided at the October BOH meeting to include the additional funding received.

Motion made by M. Beach and seconded by C. Murphy to hire additional staff including two supervisors (one for the Community Health and Education Division [CHED] and the other for the Administrative Services [AS] Division) and authorize an upgrade to the agency's phone system as proposed at a cost of approximately \$160,000, if grant funding is approved, to support MMDHD's ongoing public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Motion carried.

f. New Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) Position

L. Braddock indicated that the demands on the EH Division have increased over the last few years stating that the agency must be able to meet Minimum Program Requirements. She stated that with the additional funding streams, MMDHD could absorb the cost of \$70,000 for a new EHS. Additionally, service trends supported the need for an additional EHS and would reduce overtime costs. M. Beach asked if the agency could sustain the position beyond FY 20/21. L. Braddock replied that the EH Division assesses fees for services that would help to support the position. M. Selby added that the agency has seen an increase in Essential Local Public Health Services (ELPHS) funding from the State which would also help to support this position.

Motion made by C. Murphy and seconded by M. Beach to approve a new 1.0 FTE EHS position as proposed with the approximate annual cost of \$70,000 covered by COVID-19 funding. Motion carried.

2. Personnel Committee – Dwight Washington, Chairperson

a. Michigan Nurses Association (MNA) Contract Negotiations

B. DeLong indicated that the topic would be considered after public comment at the end of the Agenda.

3. Program Committee – Michael Beach, Chairperson – No Report.

4. Mid-Central Coordinating Committee – Chuck Murphy – No Report.

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

a. COVID-19 Update

Dr. Morse indicated that she did not have a written report prepared due to increasing COVID-19 cases. She reported that she has worked closely with the schools regarding masking indicated that she recommended masks in schools because that was the safest for students and teachers. She stated that masking currently was not required and stated that a mask mandate by the health department would likely not occur. She said that based on public comment heard, there appeared to be a second pandemic of misinformation going on as well as there was a lot of incorrect science circulating. Dr. Morse indicated that there was good evidence that the benefits of masks outweigh the risks. She said

that the health department exists to protect the public and fighting a battle of misinformation was really challenging.

D. Washington said that his understanding of COVID-19 was that it was a respiratory infection spread by moisture droplets in our breath. Dr. Morse explained that when people breathe, and especially when they talk, respiratory droplets are created that are usually between 5 micrometers and 110 micrometers. She said that some droplets evaporate, some stay in the air and get inhaled by others, and some drop to surfaces. The smaller the droplets, the deeper that they get inhaled into the lungs. Dr. Morse explained that masks catch the droplets going out, but also catch the droplets on the intake. The biggest benefit with masking was catching them going out. D. Washington asked if droplets on surfaces were still concerning. Dr. Morse replied that more data has been studied regarding COVID-19 on surfaces and rates of transmission were very low. Regular routine cleaning has been found to be sufficient with disinfectants being used in areas occupied by a COVID-19 positive person. D. Washington asked if certain masks were better than others. Dr. Morse replied that specific guidance regarding masks have been given to the schools; however, she would prefer to see any kind of face covering rather than no mask.

Dr. Morse did not have a monthly healthy living recommendation for September.

G. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT:

1. COVID-19 Update

L. Braddock reviewed her Health Officer's report stating that some of the information had changed since she wrote the report. She indicated that the health department continues to offer the COVID-19 vaccinations at branch offices and community events; however, the agency was now offering the Pfizer vaccine to residents 12 years of age and older. She reported that the district's vaccination rate was 50%; with Clinton County at 59.4%, Gratiot County at 44% and Montcalm at 40%, indicating about a 2% increase for each county since last month (fully vaccinated individuals aged 12 and over). Furthermore, residents that are immunocompromised can now receive a third dose of the vaccine if it has been 28 days since receiving their second dose. She mentioned that the transmission rates for COVID-19 continue to increase due to the Delta variant, and she encouraged the public to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

She reported that harmful algal blooms have been confirmed at the Paul Hubscher Park in Sumner. Water testing this week confirmed continued detection of the harmful algal toxin microcystin, so the MMDHD issued a public health advisory recommending that the public stay away from areas of the lake where the blooms are present. She said that the health department also recommends that pets stay out of the water. She reviewed the symptoms caused by breathing or swallowing water containing harmful algal blooms or their toxins, stating that dogs can become ill or die after contact with harmful algal blooms.

L. Braddock stated that the State of Michigan has released information regarding low childhood immunization rates. She reported that Michigan has seen a decline in vaccination coverage due to the COVID-19 pandemic stating that as of June 2021 only 54.7 of Michigan Children 19 through 35 months of age were fully immunized with the recommended vaccines. L. Braddock reviewed data for the district reporting that immunization rates were higher than the State, although somewhat lower than the district's pre-pandemic rates.

C. Murphy asked if MMDHD had data for the percentage of residents 16 and over that have received the COVID-19 vaccine because last month, the data was reported for ages 16 and over. Dr. Morse reported that the vaccination rates for 16 and over were: 45.9% for Gratiot, 61% for Clinton, and 43.9% for Montcalm.

D. Washington asked for clarification regarding the COVID-19 booster whether it was needed in 8 months or 28 days. Dr. Morse clarified that the CDC has predicted that those that received the COVID-19 vaccines would need a booster after 8 months; however, has not been formally recommended. She said that an announcement would be made soon by the CDC. Dr. Morse reported that currently, the third booster dose was only recommended for those with moderate to severe immunocompromising conditions and recommended no sooner than 28 days after receiving the second dose. Dr. Morse said that at this time there was no recommendation for a booster for those that received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Additionally, D. Washington asked if there was treatment for harmful algal blooms. L. Braddock indicated that the algal bloom would likely dissipate eventually with cooler weather or winds circulating the water. However, she suspected that the issue at Paul Hubscher Park was from farm runoff combined with the extremely hot weather.

C. Murphy stated that Florida has begun antibody testing. He asked if Michigan had any plans to conduct antibody testing. Dr. Morse explained that there was a lot of unknowns regarding antibody testing because it was cross reactive with other coronaviruses. She added that antibody testing could provide you a false sense of security.

2. [Michigan's Premier Public Health Conference](#), October 27-28, 2021, Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids

L. Braddock encouraged BOH members to attend the Michigan's Premier Public Health Conference and said that if interested to let her know.

3. Agreements Signed, July 17 – August 20, 2021

L. Braddock mentioned that the topic was provided for information only.

4. Staff Wellbeing In-Service, Thursday, September 29, 2021, Gratiot-Isabella RESD, Ithaca

L. Braddock invited the BOH members to attend the staff wellbeing in-service on Thursday, September 29th from 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon at the Gratiot-Isabella RESD in Ithaca.

H. OLD BUSINESS:

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

L. Braddock provided an update on food service fees for FY 20/21 indicating that all of the district's restaurants have paid.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

1. National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) Virtual Annual Conference, August 2-3, 2021

D. Washington indicated that he attended the Annual Conference virtually commenting that he did not care for virtual conferences.

2. Emerging Issues – None

J. LEGISLATIVE ACTION: None

K. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Mid-Michigan District BOH Action Items, July 2021
2. MMDHD Staffing Report

L. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Two residents provided public comments.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

2. Personnel Committee – Dwight Washington, Chairperson
 - a. Michigan Nurses Association (MNA) Contract Negotiations

B. DeLong indicated that the BOH was going into closed session to discuss labor negotiations.

Motion made by M. Beach and seconded by D. Washington to go into closed session at 10:10 a.m. to discuss labor negotiations. B. DeLong requested C. Partlo to call the roll:

Board Member	Yes	No
G. Bailey		
M. Beach	✓	
C. Murphy	✓	
A. Petersen		
D. Washington	✓	
B. DeLong	✓	

Motion carried 4-0.

The BOH returned to open session at 10:33 a.m.

Motion made by M. Beach and seconded by C. Murphy to accept the Agreement between the MMDHD and the MNA effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024 as proposed. Motion carried.

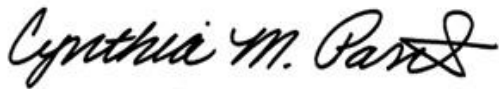
F. RELATED NEWS ARTICLES AND LINKS:

1. Ionia, Montcalm School District Unsure of COVID-19 Restrictions For Upcoming School Year, *Daily News*, July 17, 2021
2. 100 Acts of Kindness: Embarrassed, *Daily News*, July 31, 2021
3. CDC Recommends Masking In High-Risk Counties, *Gratiot County Herald*, August 5, 2021
4. New Health Officer Named At MMDHD, *Gratiot County Herald*, August 5, 2021
5. CC-C Board Oks COVID Protocol Based On Health Department Requirements, *Daily News*, August 11, 2021
6. [Toilet Water Is Fouling Michigan's Water. State Eyes Loans To Fix Septics](#), Bridge Michigan, August 11, 2021
7. Greenville Public Schools Release COVID-19 Plan For Upcoming School Year, *Daily News*, August 12, 2021
8. Sheridan Discharges Treated Wastewater Early, *Daily News*, August 12, 2021
9. Montcalm Community College 'Closely Monitoring' COVID Rates, *Daily News*, August 13, 2021
10. 100 Acts Of Kindness: Fifth-Grade Pen Pals, *Daily News*, August 16, 2021
11. At Michigan Lakes, Check Water For Algae Before Diving In, *Daily News*, August 16, 2021
12. Harmful Toxins Detected At County Park, *Gratiot County Herald*, August 19, 2021

G. AGENCY NEWSLETTERS: None

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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