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

**APPROVED 10/27/21**

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

Wednesday, September 22, 2021  
 9:00 a.m.

Board of Health and staff are invited to participate remotely due to the highly contagious COVID-19 virus. To participate by video, access Zoom at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84666735394?pwd=TXpMSGErRnk1dncyb2hHeFBFditTQT09> and use **Meeting ID 846 6673 5394; Passcode 199616**. To participate by phone, call **1-312-626-6799**; then enter the Meeting ID.

**MINUTES**

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

- Members Present: Bruce DeLong, Chair; Michael Beach; Dwight Washington; Chuck Murphy; George Bailey (Englewood, Florida); Adam Petersen, Vice Chairperson
- Members Absent: None
- 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); and Sarah Doak, Director of Community Health and Education
- Staff Absent: None
- Guests: Members of the Public; Bonnie Havlicek; Jane Keon

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, September 22, 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 Gratiot County’s local Emergency Declaration.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by B. DeLong.

**A. AGENDA NOTES, REVIEW, AND REVISIONS:**

B. DeLong requested that Teamsters Bonus Discussion be added as Item E. 2. b.; add Public Comment after I. New Business; and move I. 1. PBB Update to after Public Comment.

**Motion made by C. Murphy and seconded by M. Beach to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

B. CONSENT ITEMS:

1. Meeting Minutes

- a. Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) Board of Directors Meeting held August 9, 2021
- b. Mid-Michigan District Board of Health (BOH) Regular Meeting held August 25, 2021
- c. Mid-Michigan District BOH Closed Session Meeting held August 25, 2021

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

2. Communications – None

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments were provided by several Clinton County residents.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

a. PBB Update, *Presented By Bonnie Havlicek and Jane Keon*

Bonnie Havlicek provided an updated regarding PBB stating that Emory University had been partnering with MMDHD since about 2012. She commented that the current projects that Emory University was working on were initiated by public/community concerns, stating that the University tailors their research projects to address those concerns. Bonnie indicated that there was a long waiting list of people who wanted their blood tested for PBB levels; however, work on that project has been limited to those on the waiting list to ensure completion before grant funding runs out. Bonnie described their second project stating it was a clinical trial to determine if PBB could be eliminated from the body through weight loss noting that PBB was retained in fat. She said that 51 individuals have completed the trial, indicating 26 were active participants, noting Emory University was recruiting appointments for 24 more participants for the next six months. Bonnie said that Dr. Morse contributes to the project by reviewing the participants' laboratory information. She also stated that Sarah Doak and staff have been wonderful about using the space at the Clinton Branch Office. Bonnie mentioned that Emory's third study was an inter-generational study involving men with high PBB levels that have children from a woman that has not been exposed to PBB. Emory was looking at their children and grandchildren, particularly males. Bonnie reported that it appeared PBB was epigenetic meaning that it triggered signals on and off through the genes.

Bonnie said that Dr. Robert Hood has been brought on board the project to look at the half-life of PBB and how it decays. She indicated that Emory University was seeking a lead scientist to continue the work when Dr. Marcus retires. She reported that Emory University was looking at partnering with a small business to apply for a small business grant to develop a continuing medical education program video.

Jane Keon added that the MMDHD has been a whole partner in the project, along with other organizations such as the Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force, PBB Citizens Task Force, Alma

College, and Central Michigan University. Additionally, Jane said that individuals have been involved with giving presentations to the University of Michigan, which was a much broader audience than mid-Michigan. She provided an overview of the PBB catastrophe, summarizing that it was a Michigan problem. She mentioned that working with Emory University has been a godsend, commenting that Emory University had outstanding researchers that design their studies around what the community was most concerned about. Jane indicated that the PBB research has been challenging because data was stored in many different formats: paper, microfiche, old computers, newer computers. She indicated that Dr. Hood would use new software to bring all of the data into one source to help other researchers that could be interested in a study that has lasted 45 years.

D. Washington asked to them to provide three highlights learned from the study. Bonnie replied:

- High levels of PBB correlates to thyroid problems that can affect people that are very young, which becomes important for them to know that was a risk factor
- Higher risk of developing breast cancer – don't miss annual mammograms
- Applying what they have learned about the PBB chemicals to current chemicals, noting that the findings can help with current environmental exposures

D. BRANCH OFFICE EMPLOYEES: – None

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Finance Committee – George Bailey, Chairperson

a. MMDHD's Expenses for August 14 through September 10, 2021

**Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by A. Petersen to approve payment of the MMDHD's Expenses for August 14 through September 10, 2021, in the amount of \$446,284.90. Motion carried.**

b. MMDHD's Monthly Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure Report for August 2021 and Amended FY 20/21 Budget

**Motion made by G. Bailey to approve and place on file the MMDHD's Monthly Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure Report for August 2021 and the FY 20/21 Amended Budget. Motion seconded by D. Washington. Motion carried.**

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

M. Selby indicated that in July the MERS 2020 Actuarial Valuation Report was presented to the BOH showing that the agency's funded percentage had slipped to 76% representing an unfunded liability of \$3,619,064. She reported that the BOH requested that she develop a plan to bring the agency's percentage to 90% funded. Currently, M. Selby said that a fund balance reserve of \$323,830 could be sent to MERS immediately to fund part of the unfunded liability. Additionally, she said she would amend next year's budget to include \$312,786 to attempt to bring the funding up to 80%. She indicated the next phase would include building \$150,000 for MERS retirement into MMDHD's budgets over the next nine years to bring the percentage up to 90%. M. Beach asked if the agency would be able to sustain the funding. M. Selby replied that she reduced the amount for future years to \$150,000, noting that any surplus funding could be applied to retirement. M. Selby also indicated that in years with a deficit funding could be adjusted. A. Petersen asked if Montcalm

County's appropriation would be increased to make the \$312,000 payment. M. Selby replied that it would not be increased, but she would come back to the board with requests to adjust the budget.

A. Petersen asked what the agency's auditor recommended as the funded percentage. M. Selby replied that she has not discussed the unfunded liability with Yeo & Yeo; however, 80% was considered a base amount.

**Motion made by A. Petersen and seconded by D. Washington to approve using \$323,830 from the FY 20/21 surplus, budget \$312,786 next year to fund the MERS retirement, and accept the proposed 10-year payment plan. Motion carried.**

d. Full-Time Public Health Representative (PHR) Position for Environmental Health (EH)

L. Braddock explained that the agency was struggling to fill a part-time PHR position, indicating that two offers were declined due to the position being part time. Therefore, she requested that the position be reclassified as a full-time position with .4 FTE of the position supporting the COVID phone line. A. Petersen asked how the position would be funded. L. Braddock explained that the .4 FTE would be paid for with COVID funding and the rest of the position would be funded by a projected increase in services (EH fees).

**Motion made by M. Beach and seconded by D. Washington to approve hiring a full-time PHR for EH as proposed. Motion carried 5-1. (A. Petersen voted no)**

e. Bank Signatures on MMDHD Accounts

L. Braddock requested that Lonnie Smith, EH Division Director be added as a signatory on all MMDHD bank accounts as all Division Directors have authorization to sign checks.

**Motion made by A. Petersen and seconded by C. Murphy to approve adding Lonnie Smith, EH Director as a signatory on MMDHD's bank accounts. Motion carried.**

2. Personnel Committee – Dwight Washington, Chairperson

a. Non-Union Employees' Proposal

M. Selby reviewed the non-union employees' proposal:

- 1) A one-year wage increase of 2.5% for FY 21/22 (10/1/2021 – 09/30/2022).
- 2) Employees who carry the 24/7 emergency pager receive a monthly stipend of \$250 for the month that they have the pager.
- 3) A one-time bonus of \$1,000 in recognition of their efforts over the past year in handling the increased workload during the pandemic.
- 4) New hires have access to their vacation time after 30 days without a payback clause if they leave prior to their one-year anniversary. Additionally, remove the requirement to use 50% of accrued vacation during the year.

In addition, M. Selby indicated that due to the MNA wage band adjustments, the 10b Supervisor wage band for non-union staff needed to be adjusted. She reviewed the revised 10b wage band with the board.

**Motion made by D. Washington and seconded by C. Murphy to approve the non-union employees' proposal as presented. Motion carried.**

b. Teamsters Bonus Discussion

M. Selby explained that MNA and Non-Union have been approved for the \$1,000 bonus; therefore, she requested the \$1,000 bonus for the Teamsters Local 214 unit. A. Petersen asked if this would be paid from COVID funding. M. Selby confirmed that it would be.

**Motion made by A. Petersen and seconded by D. Washington to offer the Teamsters employees a \$1,000 bonus to be paid from COVID funding. Motion carried.**

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, FAAFP

1. COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

Dr. Morse provided an update to her report stating that the State provided new guidance for quarantine in schools noting that modifications may be made to quarantine days if masking was in place to reduce time out of school. She stated that all options provided by the State have been added to MMDHD's website.

a. COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters

Dr. Morse indicated that since she wrote her report, new information was published regarding boosters and the Pfizer BioNTech trial of COVID-19 vaccine in children 5 to 11 years. She explained the purpose of boosters and third doses stating that a booster was given to those whose immunity was dropping. She said that a third dose or an additional dose should be given to those individuals with poor immune systems. She indicated that the health department was providing third doses currently to residents that are immunocompromised. She stated that the decision to provide booster doses involved many considerations. Additionally, she said there was a global need to control COVID-19 and some countries still had no vaccine. Dr. Morse said that the World Health Organization had asked for a hold on providing booster doses until the world received the initial dose of vaccine.

Dr. Morse reported that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Booster Work Group met on September 1<sup>st</sup> to consider boosters. She mentioned that the group felt that individuals 65 years and older would benefit from a booster as well as healthcare personnel due to their exposure and need to keep them healthy to provide care. Dr. Morse reported that the FDA Advisory Committee agreed that the FDA should authorize the use of Pfizer vaccine boosters for individuals 65 years and older at high risk as well as healthcare personnel at least 6 months after the 2-dose series was given. She noted that the ACIP continues to meet, and Pfizer would still need official FDA approval for the vaccine booster. She reported that at this time, there was no meeting scheduled to discuss boosters for Moderna, stating that Johnson & Johnson still had not applied for a booster.

C. Murphy stated that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended a booster only for the vulnerable and healthcare personnel, but the general public should not get it. Dr. Morse commented that at this time, not everyone needed to get a booster, because the risk of hospitalization and death was not being seen in the vaccinated general population. However, she did state that the benefit most needed right now was for the older population and healthcare workers. Additionally, Dr. Morse said that if the virus kept spreading throughout the world, the virus would keep mutating and variants would keep occurring. She advised that if we want to protect the United States against COVID-19, global protection would need to be considered in order to end this pandemic.

b. COVID-19 Vaccine Use in Children

Dr. Morse also provided an update regarding COVID-19 vaccine use in children under 12 reporting that there was an urgency to get the vaccine approved due to the numbers of illness being seen. She mentioned that the FDA required specific data from Pfizer on the safety and efficacy of the vaccine for younger children before approval would be given. Dr. Morse indicated that since her original report was written, Pfizer has presented data in children aged 5 to 11 years to the FDA. She explained that the FDA was concerned because a small increase of mild myocarditis was occurring mainly in older teens and young adults. She said that the latest published data showed 291 cases were seen out of 11.5 million second doses. Those figures were compared with COVID-19 cases in children and Dr. Morse reported that myocarditis was 38 times higher with COVID-19 infections than the risk from vaccination. B. DeLong asked Dr. Morse to explain myocarditis. She explained that the myocardium was your heart muscle and myocarditis was inflammation around the heart muscle or activation of the immune system caused by viral conditions.

C. Murphy asked if there were any studies regarding antibodies. Dr. Morse replied that specific high-tech tests that can measure specific antibodies and can determine vaccine effectiveness were not available to the general public. She indicated that it still was not recommended to use antibody testing to determine if someone had immunity or if they previously had COVID-19.

D. Washington asked if there had been a shift in policy for students and teachers that are sick. Dr. Morse explained the new guidance stating that she holds weekly meetings with the schools and provides data and resources for them to aid in their decisions. She added that schools were increasing pressure for the health department to follow the Public Health Law.

Dr. Morse's BOH Monthly Healthy Living Recommendations for October are:

1. *Continue to encourage and support COVID-19 vaccination following the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).*
2. *While vaccinations are safe and effective when used properly, overuse/misuse could have adverse reactions and side effects. This is one reason it is important that evidence-based decisions are made and followed.*

**Motion made by D. Washington and seconded by M. Beach to approve the Medical Director's Report and recommendations for October as presented and place them on file. Motion carried.**

G. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT:

L. Braddock stated that she did not have a written report this month but provided a brief update. She stated that the agency was working with Gratiot County to fix some of the building HVAC issues hoping to utilize American Recovery Act (ARA) funds. Additionally, she said the agency was working with Clinton County on long-term architectural planning, indicating that a five-year Lease was signed with Clinton County for the space occupied by My Community Dental Centers, Inc. (MCDC), noting that the space occupancy would be reviewed annually.

C. Murphy asked if the health department was involved in the issue with the Clinton County bus driver that was fired due to wearing a mask below her nose. L. Braddock replied that she did not know anything about the issue, and it was not brought up at yesterday's Clinton County Commissioners Meeting. B. DeLong indicated that the bus mask mandate was a federal requirement outside of the health department's jurisdiction. C. Murphy recommended that the public contact their congressman to express their concerns. A. Petersen asked if a press release could be issued that the agency had nothing to do with the issue. L. Braddock stated that she would like to research the issue first before issuing a press release. She said she would notify the BOH on what she finds out. D. Washington cautioned that the health department should concentrate on its necessary business and stay out of issues outside its jurisdiction.

1. Agreements Signed, August 20 – September 15, 2021

The topic was provided for information only.

H. OLD BUSINESS:

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

No update provided.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comments were provided by two Clinton County residents.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

2. Emerging Issues

a. None

J. LEGISLATIVE ACTION: None

K. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

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

2. MMDHD Staffing Report

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

1. 100 Acts of Kindness: Going The Extra Mile, *Daily News*, August 21, 2021

2. Parents, Community Members Speak Out Against Face Masks, Vaccines During Greenville School Board Meeting, *Daily News*, August 26, 2021

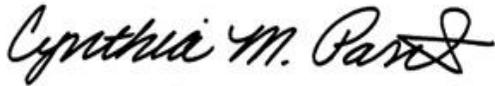
3. 100 Acts of Kindness: Planting Kindness Flowers, *Daily News*, August 28, 2021

4. Fulton High One Of Nine School-Related COVID Outbreaks, *Morning Sun*, August 31, 2021
5. COVID Outbreak Prompts Ithaca K-6 Mask Order, *Morning Sun*, September 3, 2021
6. 100 Acts Of Kindness: Sitting With A Friend, *Daily News*, September 4, 2021
7. 100 Acts Of Kindness: The Giving Tree, *Daily News*, September 11, 2021
8. Health Department Phone Survey Is Not A Scam, *Daily News*, September 11, 2021
9. [Health Department Urges Universal Masking In Schools](#), *Morning Sun*, September 13, 2021
10. Now Is A Great Time To Get Caught Up On Missed Immunizations, *Daily News*, September 14, 2021

M. AGENCY NEWSLETTERS: None

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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