

Galion City Board of Health
Galion City Health Department, 113 Harding Way East, Galion
Tuesday, October 14, 2014 7:30am
Regular meeting

Present: Mr. Tom O'Leary, Mayor, City of Galion/Board of Health President; Mr. Dennis Long, Vice President; Ms. Wendy Kerr, CNP, Board member; Ms. Katelyn Strickler, Board member; Ms. Sandy Crossland, Director of Nursing; Ms. Stephanie Zmuda, RS, Health Commissioner
Guests: Matt Echelberry, Galion Inquirer; Terry Turner, Big Plate Diner

1. Call to Order

Mr. O'Leary called the meeting to order at 7:38 am.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Terry Turner was present on behalf of Big Plate Diner reference a recent food service inspection. Rather than add to an already lengthy agenda, though, Board members requested a status report during next month's meeting. Mr. Schilling made a motion that the agenda be approved as presented, seconded by Ms. Kerr. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Kerr made a motion that the minutes from the September 9, 2014, regular meeting of the Galion City Board of Health be approved, as well as the minutes from the September 30, 2014, special meeting with the Galion City and Crawford County Boards of Health. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schilling, and passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. Old Business

4.1 Tri-Agency Tobacco Control Campaign

Ms. Zmuda again shared that Suzanne Binau requested support for the tobacco control campaign of a tri-agency partnership, Tobacco Control Partners, for which she is currently the Grassroots Coordinator. At issue is a proposed \$1/pack increase in taxes on cigarettes; equalization of taxes on other tobacco products; and investment of 12¢ of the \$1 tax increase in tobacco use prevention and cessation programs. In answer to Mr. O'Leary's question last month, Ms. Zmuda advised the remaining 88¢ will go to the state's general revenue fund to help offset proposed tax cuts. Mr. O'Leary responded that the allocation is "backwards," and that the increased revenues could be used to help fund local health departments' accreditation efforts. Mr. Long expressed concern last month about people who are already having difficulty making ends meet bearing additional tax burden. Historically each time there is a large increase in tobacco tax, usage decreases. Since usage rates are highest among the poor and uneducated, a majority of those who quit are among the poorest in our communities. Ms. Binau provided information that tobacco cessation is a mandatory part of prevention in every insurance plan under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), with no cost to the insured. Mr. O'Leary voiced his misgivings about coverage by the ACA when many who are required to participate are not doing so. Mr. Schilling made a motion to allow Ms. Zmuda to write a letter of support for the campaign, seconded by Ms. Kerr. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. New Business

5.1 Monthly Financial Reports

Financial reports for the month of September were reviewed.

5.2 Communicable Disease Prevention & Control Reports

Ms. Crossland presented communicable disease reports for the month of September, including 4 new cases of Chlamydia and 3 new cases of Hepatitis C. Chlamydia numbers can be somewhat deceiving because cases are always entered as new, even if the patient has previously been diagnosed. Questions asked were: can repeat diagnoses be tracked? How would a repeat period be defined (e.g. 1 year, 2 years)? Mr. O'Leary asked what we are doing about the diagnoses. Mr. Long said the cases aren't our clients per se; we are passing numbers (in a reporting/surveillance role). Mr. O'Leary stated while we aren't the direct service provider, high numbers of STDs are a serious problem and we are in charge of outcomes.

Approximately one-quarter of our flu vaccine has been received. It is unknown why pharmacy chains have received their vaccine while local health departments struggle with shortages. Among 1st flu clinic attendees 75% were aged 65 or older. The flu immunization program represents one of our largest expenditures of funding and staff time, however the question whether we a key provider is difficult to answer because it is difficult to get usable information from the pharmacy chains.

5.3 Agency Monthly Report

Crawford County General Health District employee Michael Graves is being trained in epidemiology and is currently covering Galion via the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant. He now has access to Galion records in the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) in order for him to assist with surveillance, and he will lead outbreak investigations in Galion and Crawford County. The quarterly time study in the Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) program fell on the week of September 10; time spent providing non-direct, reimbursable services—planning, outreach, advertising—will be the basis for reimbursement to the department. An initial planning meeting took place in September for the countywide Community Health Assessment coming in 2015.

5.4 Medical Director Contract

Sarah Metzger, M.D., has expressed interest in becoming the Medical Director for Galion City Health Department. A draft contract was presented for review. Ms. Strickler made a motion that the Board enter into the contract with Dr. Metzger, seconded by Ms. Kerr. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5.5 Environmental Health Services Contract

Ms. Joette Moore, R.S., has expressed interest in providing environmental health services in the food safety program as an independent contractor. A draft contract was presented for review. Mr. Schilling made a motion that the Board enter into the contract with Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Long. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5.6 Future of Public Health at Galion City/Budget 2015

There is an immediate need for staffing in the environmental division; a Director of Environmental Health must be named prior to December 31 in order to meet the minimum qualifications for receipt of our state subsidy. Ms. Zmuda presented accreditation information and timelines and requested confirmation from the Board about

whether to pursue accreditation or not. Board members spoke in favor of pursuing accreditation. Time is of the essence in building collaborative relationships and working toward accreditation, as new reporting that speaks to accreditation efforts comes due as early as March 1, 2015. Ms. Zmuda said it will be very difficult for Galion to become accredited as a stand-alone local health department without some provision for shared services or merger. Discussion followed. Mr. Long shared concerns about loss of services and a lack of presence in Galion if the department merges with Crawford County, especially if there is a move toward regionalization, when lack of transportation is already a limitation for some citizens. Mr. Schilling questioned whether we should look at other potential partners, and advised that staff get away from providing direct services in favor of facilitating health promotion programs and partnerships. Ms. Kerr expressed interest in proposals for new governance models. Mr. O'Leary is interested in accreditation and a governance model that makes sense for and fits this county, and in county citizens making the decisions. Mr. Schilling indicated Jerry Morasko, President and CEO of Avita Health System, is willing to facilitate the next joint Board meeting.

6. Adjournment

Mr. Schilling made a motion that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mr. Long. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 am.

7. Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 7:30-9:30 am at Galion City Health Department

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Zmuda, RS, Health Commissioner

Tom O'Leary, President/Mayor