

POLICY AND PROCEDURE				
SUBJECT/TITLE:	Ethical Decision Making			
SCOPE:	Identification of and Consideration and Resolution of Ethical Issues by GCHD			
CONTACT PERSON & DIVISION:	Jason McBride Health Commissioner, Administration			
ORIGINAL DATE ADOPTED:	6/12/18			
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#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Galion City Health District (GCHD) Public Health Ethics Process is to provide a mechanism for the division to identify and resolve ethical issues that arise from program, policies, interventions or employee/employer relations.

### SCOPE

The focus of the Public Health Ethics Process is the ethical analysis of issues related to public health policy, practice, programs, operations and not on individual or group behavior. All GCHD employees are invited to submit issues of public health ethical concern to the commissioner to be addressed at staff meetings.

### **PROCEDURES**

## A. Public Health Ethics Functions, Roles and Responsibilities

1. The function of the Public Health Ethics in staff meetings is to conduct the ethical analysis of ethical issues presented; the committee will review issues and advise actions that should be taken.

# B. Decision-Making Process

- 1. The staff meeting will utilize the Guide for Conducting Ethical Analysis (see Appendix 1) to facilitate the decision-making process for any ethical issue presented.
- 2. Public health ethical issues will be identified, analyzed and resolved using the above decision-making framework.
- 3. Guiding Principles include the following:
  - a. Ensure that a transparent process is developed that provides an opportunity for input from affected stakeholders and considers their interests.
  - b. Provide for the consideration of the best available in addressing each public health ethical issue.
  - c. Ensure that decisions can be re-evaluated as new information is made available.
  - d. Ensure a process of accountability for the decision-makers.

# C. Documentation

- 1. A review report will be issued to the Board of Health for review, approval and implementation.
- 2. The report will ensure all elements of concern are documented to resolve the issue.

# D. Confidentiality

All staff will abide by the Confidentiality Statement signed upon hire.



## **CONTRIBUTORS**

The following staff contributed to the authorship of this document:

- 1. Sara Houchins (contractor), Accreditation Coordinator, primary author
- 2. Jason McBride, Health Commissioner

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https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles

# **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix #1: Guideline for Conducting Ethical Analysis

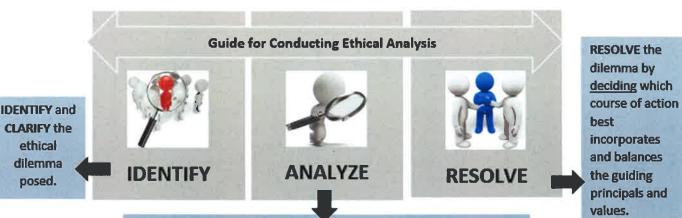
**SIGNATURES** 

Health Commissioner

	/
Jason McBride, MS, MPH, CHES	Date



### Appendix #1: Guidelines for Conducting Ethical Analysis



STEPS FOR ETHICAL ANALYSIS TO SUPPORT DECISION-MAKING (Review alternative courses of action and their consequences.)



ethical

dilemma

posed.

1. Analyze the ethical issue(s) in the situation.

Assess identities of stakeholders, what they have at stake in the case, and in the alternate course of action.

- What are the public health risks and harms of concern?
- · What are the public health goals?
- Who are the stakeholders and what are their moral claims?
- Is the source or scope of legal authority in question?
- Are precedent cases or the historical context relevant?
- Do professional codes of ethics provide guidance?



2. Evaluate the ethical dimensions of the alternate course(s) of action. Identify moral norms, general moral considerations, and ethical principles that may provide guidance about what to do.

- Utility: Does the public health action produce a balance of benefits over harm?
- Justice: Are benefits and burdens distributed fairly? Do legitimate representatives of affected groups have the opportunity to participate in the decision-making?
- Respect: Does the public health action respect individual choices and interests?
- Respect for public institutions: Does the public health action respect civic roles and values, such as transparency, honesty, trustworthiness, promise-keeping, protecting confidentiality, and protecting vulnerable individuals and communities from undue stigmatization?



3. Justify a particular public health action.

Present sufficient grounds or reasons for a course of action based on moral norms, ethical principles, professional codes, and previous cases.

- Effectiveness: Is the public health goal likely to be accomplished?
- Proportionality: Will the probable benefits of the action outweigh the infringed moral considerations?
- Necessity: Is it necessary to override the conflicting ethical claims in order to achieve the public health goal?
- Least infringement: Is the action the least restrictive and least intrusive?
- Public justification: Can public health agents offer public health justification for the action or policy that citizens, and in particular those most affected, can find acceptable?