

Galion City Board of Health Health Commissioner's Monthly Report for February 2023

Fiscal/Funding

Jason attended a Finance sub-committee meeting for money to be reappropriated on a new PO for the new PHAB Accreditation Specialist. There was another ordinance for \$7,200 to be set aside for a yearly audit. After moving forward from the Finance sub-committee, both items were passed in the subsequent City Council meeting, which Jason also attended a few days later.

Administrative

Jason was able to attend an AOHC meeting in-person in Bowling Green. This was the first in-person meeting in several months, so it was good to meet with fellow Health Commissioners.

IT

To help our IT system be ready in case of emergency preparedness, Jason worked with our IT company (ES Consulting) to set up VPNs so that staff can work remotely, if for some reason we don't have access to our building for whatever reason. However, the way the current firewall is set up, there are only five staff who can have a VPN. Jason and ES Consulting have discussed switching to a different firewall which will allow for all staff to have their own VPN.

Training/Conferences

Jason received hours-long training from ODH on a website called EpiCenter, which helps public health professionals detect changing health conditions as they occur. He was also accepted into a New 2 Public Health Residency program, which provides about 120 hours of professional development activities. If he can receive special permission to use Workforce grant funding for the months past the pre-established deadline (which will likely get extended anyway), then he will start that residency program in April. It will provide about ten hours of training a month for a year, and would help Jason maintain his Certified Health Educator Specialist credential.

Emergency Preparedness

Jason and Andy attended an event at Crawford County Public Health called 'Plume of Doom'. It was a tabletop exercise (TTX) to discuss what we could do in a hypothetical situation of a chemical exposure and how to best help the community and coordinate our efforts. This was Jason's first time participating in a TTX.

Education/ Outreach

For child car seat safety classes, four classes were conducted, and five car seats were distributed to four different people. Our next shipment of car seats will come in May, and I will likely run out of car seats before that time. I may be able to get car seats from child car seat techs in neighboring counties.

Someone came to the health department who expressed interest in creating a Spring Safety Day event in May. Jason and this person, Melanie Mason, and her husband George had a great conversation about what can be done. Melanie and George moved back to this area recently, and Jason got her connected with people and resources to help her be successful. Melanie is interested in having Jason provide child car seat education at this event.

Staff

We were happy to have new employee Carrie Bednarz start working on February 20th. We are mindful of increasing the amount of training we provide new employees, and Jessica has done a great job helping Carrie with that. Though Carrie will typically work Thursdays and Fridays, she has been flexible with her schedule to come in on extra days for training and has also switched days with Jessica when she was unable to come in.

Accreditation

The new deadline to submit our paperwork for accreditation has been extended to May 15th. PHAB Accreditation Specialist Sara has made a lot of progress on the CHA addendum for Galion City. Sara is interested in spending

two or three days at the health department to make additional significant progress on the remaining accreditation requirements, in addition to all the remote work she has done. However, for Sara to be able to work at the health department, she needs the money from the first lump sum payment. The process for getting all the proper paperwork and getting the check issued has taken longer than Sara and our staff would prefer, but we are working through it as best as we can. We remain confident that we will be able to submit our paperwork before the deadline.