

Trumbull County Board of Health – Special Meeting
November 24, 2020 – 1:00 PM
176 Chestnut Ave. NE * Warren, Ohio

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting was held via a Zoom Conference Call. Not all participants may have attended the meeting in person. The meeting was also live streamed on the health district's Facebook Page.

BOARD MEMBERS: Gregory Dubos
Dr. Harold Firster
Kathy Salapata, RN
John "Jack" Simon, Jr.
John Messersmith, President Pro Tempore
Robert Biery, Jr., President

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Thomas Borocz

STAFF: Frank Migliozi, MPH, REHS/RS, Health Commissioner
Kristofer Wilster, MPH, REHS/RS, Director of Environmental Health
Jenna Amerine, MPH, CHES, Grant Coordinator
Daniel Dean, MBA, CTA, IT Specialist/Fiscal Officer
Johnna Ben, Administrative Coordinator

OTHERS: Robert Kokor, Legal Counsel

MINUTES

- I. The Meeting was Called to Order, the Pledge of Allegiance was said, and Roll Call was Taken.
- II. **Adoption of Agenda:** *MOTION: 20-148* made by Mr. Dubos, second by Dr. Firster to adopt the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Dubos – Yes
Dr. Firster – Yes
Mrs. Salapata – Yes
Mr. Simon – Yes
Mr. Messersmith – Yes
Mr. Biery – Yes

Motion carried.

- III. **New Business:** A. COVID-19 Public Health Advisory for Trumbull County – Mr. Migliozi reported to the Board that Trumbull County is experiencing a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases, our seven-day average has increased from 195 per week to 1,031 per week within the last three weeks. Trumbull County's total case count is 4,806 since the beginning of the pandemic, with 2,329 of those cases being reported in the last three weeks, which means 48.5% of our county's total cases have occurred in the last three weeks. Our number of hospitalizations have increased, hospitals are near capacity,

and the hospitals and schools are experiencing staffing issues due to COVID-19. Our positivity rate has increased from 2.7% to 11.5% within the last four weeks. Our agency has put things in place to handle contact tracing, data entry, and other COVID-19 issues, but the pandemic is still consuming our department. Due to all that cited, a public health advisory for Trumbull County was developed in conjunction with the EOC, and Mr. Migliozi requested that the Board approve issuance of this advisory.

Chief James Pantalone of the EOC stated that he worked closely with the Mr. Migliozi and is in support of the advisory. Robert Marino, Trumbull County Educational Service Center Superintendent, stated that Mr. Migliozi was accurately portraying what the school superintendents are experiencing. Adding that they would re-evaluate sports at the end of the order. Chief George Snyder, also of the EOC, added that the EOC did not make the decision lightly to recommend issuance of this public health advisory, that they were in full support, and strongly supported issuance of the advisory. Van Nelson, from TCAP, thanked the Board and the Health Commissioner for making the hard decisions that have had to be made due to COVID-19, and stated that Head Start has been struggling also to maintain class safety and staffing due to the pandemic.

Atty. Kokor stated that he had reviewed the advisory with the prosecutor's office, and they were okay with issuance of the advisory, as other counties have issued similar advisories. Mr. Simon questioned as to what the prosecutor's office was okaying, and questioned the support of the prosecutor's office and law enforcement. Atty. Kokor stated that the health district has had the cooperation with Prosecutor Dennis Watkins, and he is working with the prosecutor's office now on a known case regarding COVID.

Mr. Migliozi added that Mayor Doug Franklin, Safety Service Director Eddie Colbert and John May, Warren City Health District are also in support of issuance of this advisory, and Warren City has plans to adopt a health advisory also.

Mrs. Salapata asked if there is support from the Trumbull County Commissioners? Mr. Migliozi stated that they do participate on the EOC, and that they did give their input and pledged their support. Commissioner Fuda stated that he was in total support and agreement with the advisory.

Mr. Dubos asked how many other counties adopted a public health advisory? Mr. Migliozi stated that nearby counties of Mahoning, Portage, Wayne, and Cuyahoga, several in northwest Ohio and many in northeast Ohio have all issued public health advisories.

Dr. Firster asked for clarification and understanding of what the advisory meant? Would there be enforcement, or was this just lip service? Mr. Migliozi stated that it would raise awareness of the critical level of the pandemic, and would also serve as a tool for the schools to act and make a shift to virtual learning; however, the advisory is not an order. It is only a tool that can be used to raise awareness of what is going on in our community. Things cannot be sustained much longer in our county if the increase of cases persist. Mr. Migliozi added that he understood Dr. Firster's concern, but he did not believe it was just lip service. The information in the advisory can be used as a tool to help other agencies, and gives the opportunity and ability to start to make the switch to remote learning and workplaces.

MOTION: 20-149 made by Mrs. Salapata, second by Mr. Messersmith to approve the issuance of the public health advisory as presented.

Mr. Simon stated that he applauded the health commissioner and the schools, but did not agree that the health district is getting cooperation from law enforcement. Mr. Simon further added that he felt that the advisory didn't go far enough, language should be changed to "shall", and wished that there was enforcement support from Columbus on down to locally.

There were no citizens' comments regarding the advisory.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Dubos – Yes
Dr. Firster – Yes
Mrs. Salapata – Yes
Mr. Simon – Yes
Mr. Messersmith – Yes
Mr. Biery – Yes

Motion carried.

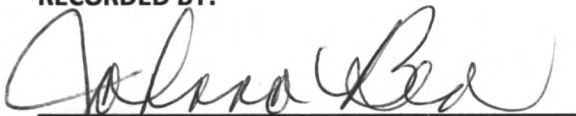
IV. Adjournment: MOTION: 20-150 made by Mr. Messersmith, second by Dr. Firster to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Dubos – Yes
Dr. Firster – Yes
Mrs. Salapata – Yes
Mr. Simon – Yes
Mr. Messersmith – Yes
Mr. Biery – Yes

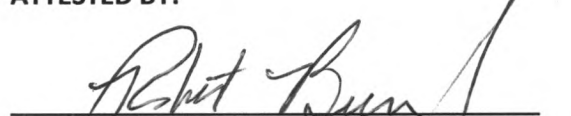
Motion carried. (Adjournment 4:15 PM)

RECORDED BY:



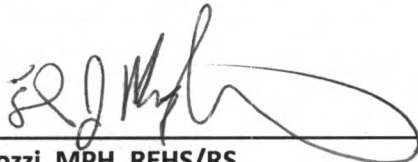
Johanna Ben
Administrative Coordinator
Trumbull County Combined Health District

ATTESTED BY:



Robert Biery, Jr.
President
Trumbull County Board of Health

For



Frank Migliozi, MPH, REHS/RS
Health Commissioner & Secretary
Trumbull County Board of Health