



Fairfield County
**Health
Department**

R. Joseph Ebel RS, MS, MBA
Health Commissioner

BOARD OF HEALTH RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Fairfield County Health Department
Minutes of the Board of Health
January 8, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION: Fairfield County Health Department (FCHD), 1550 Sheridan Dr., Ste. 100, Lancaster

The meeting was called to order by Brian Oliver at 4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

Brian Oliver
Dr. Michele Morrone
Tina Childers
Dr. Teresa Wood

Board Members Absent

Dr. Allen Shaw

STAFF PRESENT

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner; Rachel Moresea, Environmental Health Director; Mary Smith, WIC Director; Baylie Blevins, Health Promotion and Planning Director; Jamie Ehorn, Administrative Services Director; Gale Neville, Nursing Director; Madeline Cook, Communicable Disease Specialist;

OTHERS PRESENT

Scott and Sherri Hatten, Jackie Howard (ADAMH), Toni Ashton (ADAMH), Marcy Fields (ADAMH)

A quorum was established. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes from the board meeting on December 11, 2024, were presented for approval. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Scott Hatten of 11789 Snyder Church Rd. NW, Baltimore addressed the board and provided a packet for the board for review, including photos and surveys of his property. His neighbor's septic system encroaches on his property, and he would like it removed. Mr. Ebel explained that Fairfield County Health Department (FCHD) was waiting for a copy of the pin survey to locate the property lines. Mr. Hatten provided a copy of the pin survey and when the snow is gone, FCHD will confirm where the pins are and if the neighbor's leach lines cross Mr. Hatten's property.

FEATURED PRESENTATION

The 2024 Public Health Guardian award was presented to Toni Ashton of ADAMH. A proclamation was read by Board President, Brian Oliver. Mrs. Ashton thanked the Board for the award and said the work being done is team effort.

Planning and Promotion Report

Baylie Blevins, Health Promotion Director, provided a written report to the Board. FCHD gave away our first car seat with the NBHV program. Notice of award was received for both the MRC grant and CIAG Drowning Prevention grant. Moxley Public Health was chosen as the community health assessment vendor. Dr. Wood mentioned a volunteer appreciation opportunity at the Combustion Brewery on January 11th that would be good for us to attend. The re-accreditation application has opened. We have three months to submit our application.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Madeline Cook was introduced as our new Communicable Disease Specialist. She shadowed some of our staff last month and attended the December board meeting.

HEARINGS & VARIANCES

Rachel Moresea, Environmental Director, presented a variance for 13565 Queen Rd. NE, Thornville for the distance requirement from a well to an easement. This is a small lot with overhead power lines. The location of the well is not the required distance of 10' away from the power line. We are recommending approval if the installer is aware of the risk when installing the well. The location of the well would still be outside the easement.

Dr. Teresa Wood made a motion to approve the variance for 13565 Queen Rd. NE, Thornville for the distance requirement from a well to an easement, upon notification to the power company. Tina Childers seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Moresea spoke to the board about septage hauler, Wheeler Septic Systems. ORC requires pumping reports to be turned into the health department every 60 days and this was not done until the end of the year. We are requiring a copy of their liability insurance coverage because it expires on January 10, 2025.

DIVISION REPORTS

Environmental Health Report

Mrs. Moresea provided a written report to the Board. Environmental Health Specialists are preparing for food Licensing season. Mrs. Moresea discussed a grant from the Ohio Attorney General's office that we are applying for to help clean up dump sites or provide signs, gates, barriers or other structures to deter future illegal dumping.

Tina Childers asked what our options were to move forward with the nuisance on Tarkiln Rd. Mrs. Moresea will follow up with the prosecutor on next steps.

We are working on the new HealthSpace program. Modules for Solid Waste and Vector monitoring are being added. Training will take place after the licensing period.

Nursing Report

Gale Neville, Nursing Director, provided a written report to the Board. We are interviewing for the Community Health Worker position. The Newborn Home Visiting program is still slow. We continue to have issues with people not letting us in their home. Shannon has been trained by Community Action and is currently training with Judy on Help Me Grow visits. STDs are down from 2023. Flu numbers are going up and we may see an increase for a while longer.

WIC Report

Mary Smith, WIC Director, provided a written report to the Board. Caseload down slightly for December, however, the caseload increased in Pickerington. Jordan Miller returned from leave and is back part-time.

Health Commissioner's Report

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner, provided a written report to the Board. We ended with a \$889,000 gain on cash position. The 2025 budget has been updated and there are a few changes. We are working on the 2026 budget for approval at the February meeting. Mr. Ebel and Mrs. Ehorn met with the County Administrator about the interest on our funds, she will follow up with the County Treasurer to see if this is an option for us.

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND BILLS

Jamie Ehorn, Administrative Services Director provided financial reports and a bill list to the Board for approval.

Dr. Teresa Wood made a motion to approve the financial report and bill list. Dr. Michele Morrone seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Ehorn presented Resolution 2025-01 to the Board for approval. This resolution is to appropriate unappropriated funds to the Sewage and Enhanced Operations funds.

Tina Childers made a motion to approve resolution 2025-01. Dr. Teresa Wood seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Ehorn presented a revised procurement policy which increases the competitive bidding threshold to \$75,000.

Tina Childers made a motion to approve the revised procurement policy. Dr. Michele Morrone seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL

End of Probation for Public Health Nurse, Crystal Warner.

ADAMH Comments: Marcy Fields from ADAMH addressed the board and provided updates on their projects. The STARLight Center fulfills a promise to the community to provide a safe, welcoming place where residents can receive immediate help with mental health and substance use crises. The doors are open, and they are taking referrals. Work has started on the Venture Project; It will have 24 units and will assist with the county’s homeless issue. This facility will take about a year to construct.

BOARD MEMBER / MEDICAL DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

Brian Oliver attended an OTA meeting. There was good attendance at the meeting, and he was able to promote health department programs. The information he provided was well received. Mr. Oliver encouraged attendance at the upcoming District Advisory Council meetings.

Dr. Teresa Wood’s board of health membership term expires in March, she is still considering renewing her membership.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: February 12, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Fairfield County Health Department, 1550 Sheridan Drive, Ste. 100, Lancaster

ADJOURN The Board of Health Meeting adjourned on a motion by Dr. Michele Morrone. Tina Childers seconded the motion at 5:17 p.m. Motion passed.

Approved:	
Signature and date on file _____	Date: _____ Brian Oliver, Board President
Signature and date on file _____	Date: _____ R. Joseph Ebel, Health Commissioner