



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  
September 11, 2024, 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  
Dr. Teresa Wood  
Tina Childers

**Board Members Absent**

Dr. Allen Shaw

**STAFF PRESENT**

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner; Mary Smith, WIC Director; Baylie Blevins, Health Promotion and Planning Director; Jamie Ehorn, Administrative Services Director; Rachel Moresea, Environmental Health Director; Gale Neville, Nursing Director; Dr. Steven Kapetansky, Medical Director; Paula Grunkemeyer, WIC Dietetic Technician

**OTHERS PRESENT**

N/A

A quorum was established. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

N/A

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The meeting minutes from the board meeting on August 14, 2024, were presented for approval. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**INTRODUCTION OF STAFF:** Mary Smith, WIC Director, introduced Paula Grunkemeyer as the new WIC Dietetic Technician. Mrs. Grunkemeyer has prior experience in Vinton and Hocking County Health Departments.

**FEATURED PROGRAM:** Baylie Blevins, Health Promotion and Planning Director, presented on the Safe Communities Grant. Mrs. Blevins reviewed the goals of the program, campaigns used throughout the year, community partners, current crash data in Fairfield County, a look back at activities and accomplishments for the current grant year and a look forward at the new grant year.

### **HEARINGS & VARIANCES**

Rachel Moresea, Environmental Director, presented a variance request for 13957 Custers Point NE, Thornville for the location of the well due to site restrictions. The existing property had a shared well and homeowner would like their own well. Mrs. Moresea is recommending an annual water sampling.

**Tina Childers made a motion to approve the variance request for 13957 Custers Point NE, Thornville, from OAC 3701-28-07 for the distance requirements for a private water system. Dr. Teresa Wood seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**

### **DIVISION REPORTS**

#### **Environmental Health Report**

Rachel Moresea, Environmental Health Director provided a written report to the Board. Sweet Corn Festival temporary inspections went well. There were cooling issues found during the inspections due to hot weather, but all problems were corrected. Two nuisance complaints were abated, several are scheduled for re-inspection at the end of September.

#### **Nursing Report**

Gale Neville, Nursing Director provided a written report to the Board. Back to school clinics are winding down. Flu, COVID-19 and RSV clinics are starting up. Crystal Warner, our new immunization nurse, has 33 clinics scheduled. Shannon Mentzer, Newborn Home Visiting Nurse, received a referral from the Perinatal Cluster and she continues to work with the Perinatal Leadership Group. Lyme disease cases are still a problem and will be for a while. COVID-19 numbers continue to increase. Some COVID-19 vaccine has been received and additional vaccine has been ordered. COVID-19 is now being reported under respiratory virus activity guidelines instead of its own classification.

#### **WIC Report**

Mary Smith, WIC Director, provided a written report to the Board. The Ohio Department of Health increased the WIC award again to \$541,730 for FY25, this is an increase of \$54,252 from

FY24. Dietetic Technician, Paula Grunkemeyer, has been hired to replace Kari Saunders. An offer was made to a Dietitian for the other open position, she accepted and later declined the position.

### **Planning and Promotion Report**

Baylie Blevins, Health Promotion Director, provided a written report to the Board. Health Educators continue to busy with community events. Presentations were given by Health Educators on Tobacco and Project Dawn at local events. Twenty-four community members were recruited to conduct the bike path audits for the AARP grant, including the park superintendent and mobility manager. The FY25 Safe Communities grant was approved and starts on October 1st. Shannon Mentzer and Hannah Josefczyk are taking car seat training/certification classes. The Fall Harvest for Health event is coming up at the end of the month. We co-hosted the Overdose Awareness event.

### **Health Commissioner's Report**

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner, provided a written report to the Board. The power controller unit needs replaced on the mosquito sprayer. We are currently using a loaner sprayer from Clarke Mosquito. Our mosquito interns went back to school in August. Employees, Claire Donley and McCray Wooten have continued spraying in the evenings. Positive West Nile Virus mosquitos were found in 3 of our mosquito traps. We are taking over the car seat program from the Family and Children First Council starting October 1st. The car seats are free, but there is no funding for staff time. Mr. Ebel did an Interview with Spectrum Cable news, and he spoke at the Overdose Awareness event. Association of Ohio Health Commissioners are working to get public health funding in the state budget this year; \$65M is being requested for public health funding from the governor's office.

Re-accreditation opens in March of 2025, and we have 90 days to respond once it opens.

Mr. Ebel and Mrs. Moresea will not be available for the October board meeting. The board agreed to tentatively move the October board meeting to the 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **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.**

### **PERSONNEL:**

End of Probation for Mackenzie Kaminski, Epidemiologist.

### **BOARD MEMBER / MEDICAL DIRECTOR COMMENTS:**

Dr. Steven Kapetansky stated that West Nile virus cases are moving closer to Fairfield County.

Health Commissioner evaluation process was reviewed by Dr. Michele Morrone. Dr. Morrone created an online test survey/evaluation form for board members to complete. Dr. Wood requested a comment section for “exceeds” or “does not meet”. Mr. Ebel will submit a list of his accomplishments. The board will consolidate all the survey/evaluation responses and create one evaluation for Mr. Ebel. Another test survey version will be sent out by Dr. Morrone.

Mrs. Moresea will be a featured speaker at the Southeast Ohio Environmental Conference in September.

Mr. Ebel emailed the county regarding the vehicle tracking program to see if they are interested in participating with us, he has not received a reply.

Mrs. Blevins explained the tracking process for project dawn kits at schools, including how they are replaced when expired and how and what information is reported when they are used.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** October 16, 2024, 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 Tina Childers. Dr. Teresa Woods seconded the motion at 5:15 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