



MEETING MINUTES

**Board of Health Meeting
Video Teleconference
April 12, 2021
5:45 p.m.**


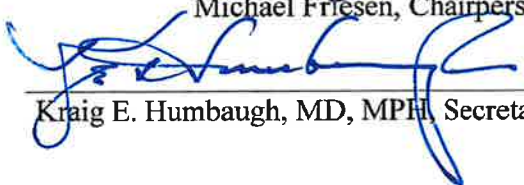
	<p>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Allen-Bryant, Mr. Cornett, Dr. Dossett, Commissioner Ford, Mr. Friesen, Dr. Hood, Mr. Jabbour, Dr. Jackson, Dr. Jasinski, Dr. Mason, Councilmember Reynolds, Dr. Zimmerman.</p> <p>OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Humbaugh, LFCHD Staff, LFCHD Council.</p>
TOPIC	DISCUSSION
Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Friesen called the meeting to order at 5:49 p.m.
Roll Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Foley called the roll. All Board of Health (BOH) members were present. A quorum was declared.
Request for Approval of the March 8, 2021 Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Mason made a motion to approve the March 8, 2021 minutes. Dr. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
Presentation of the 2021 Dr. Rice C. Leach Public Health Hero Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Friesen introduced Kevin Hall to present the Dr. Rice C. Leach Public Health Hero award. Mr. Hall said his favorite call of the year is the one in which he notifies the winner of the award. Mr. Hall said the award is being presented to Pastor Gaines and Consolidated Baptist Church, including all of their staff, volunteers, and members. The church has provided a location and facilities for Lexington-Fayette County Health Department (LFCHD) vaccination clinics. The facilities are equipped to welcome those with accessibility issues. The church gym is a great location for the clinics. LFCHD preparedness staff indicate that regular use of this space saves two hours of setup and two hours of teardown each time, which has led to more efficient vaccination clinics. LFCHD has asked for a lot by requesting this frequent use of church facilities, and the pastor and church have always been accommodating and supportive. This award is given as a recognition of the church for “helping Lexington be well”, which is our department’s mission. Consolidated Baptist has been a significant partner. Mr. Hall introduced Ms. Allen-Bryant. Ms. Allen-Bryant said she was very honored to be part of presenting this award to Pastor Gaines and Consolidated Baptist Church. Our previous commissioner, Dr. Rice C. Leach told Ms. Allen-Bryant that the work of Consolidated Baptist in community support is the epitome of public health. In his honor, and on behalf of the board, Ms. Allen-Bryant presented the 2021 Dr. Rice C. Leach Public Health Hero Award to Pastor Gaines and Consolidated Baptist Church.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Gaines said thank you to Ms. Allen-Bryant, the Board of Health, Mr. Hall and LFCHD for the award. Pastor Gaines and Billy Williams, Church Administrator, accepted the award on behalf of the entire staff of Consolidated Baptist. Pastor Gaines said when the church moved to 1625 Russell Cave Road in 2003, they said publicly at the time they would build community at the location. Partnership with LFCHD has helped them achieve that vision. They are grateful for the invitation to partner with the department. It is a joy for the entire congregation to support these public health efforts. Having met and remembering Dr. Leach added to the joy Pastor Gaines felt in receiving this award. Pastor Williams said thank you to LFCHD for the difference the department is making in the community and across the city and state. He said these connections with LFCHD staff have been a blessing. He appreciates every opportunity to welcome the community into their church. • Dr. Humbaugh said we are most grateful to Pastor Gaines and Consolidated Baptist Church. Their good work shows through in the many positive comments we receive about these clinics. Commissioner Ford thanked and congratulated Pastor Gaines and the church. He asked if the award would also be recognized by the city council. Mr. Hall said it would be celebrated during the April 22 council meeting. The council will issue a proclamation celebrating Pastor Gaines and Consolidated Baptist Church as the winners of the 2021 Dr. Rice C. Leach Public Health Hero Award.
<p>Request to Appoint Merit Council Candidates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Friesen introduced Dr. Humbaugh to present merit council candidates. Dr. Humbaugh said the council has five positions, two of which are currently vacant. The council oversees and provides checks and balances for our merit system, in partnership with LFCHD's Human Resources (HR) division. Service on the council requires civic-minded individuals with familiarity with either a civil service or HR system. He is presenting two candidates for consideration. • Dr. Humbaugh said candidate applications are in the board packet. Vonja Grabeel is the first candidate. She worked in the past at LFCHD as an environmentalist. She holds a Masters of Public Health and is a PhD candidate. She is an assistant professor at Eastern Kentucky University. She has supervisory and merit system experience. She also worked at the Department for Public Health. • The second candidate is Tina Thomas. Ms. Thomas is a human resources professional and recruiter and has served in those roles for the past twenty years at Lexmark. She brings experience in team building, training and coaching, and in agency strategic development. Dr. Humbaugh presented both candidates for approval by the Board of Health (BOH). • Dr. Hood made a motion to appoint Ms. Vonja Grabeel and Ms. Tina Thomas to the merit council. Dr. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. • Dr. Humbaugh thanked the board for approving the candidates. If board members are interested in attending, they may request additional

	information from Ron Horseman or Laura Foley.
Commissioner's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Humbaugh presented the commissioner's report. Dr. Humbaugh reminded board members whose terms expire at the end of June to contact Mr. Friesen and Ms. Foley if they wish to continue serving on the board. • House Bill 8, the level-dollar funding bill for the Kentucky Employee Retirement System (KERS) was passed. The system was renamed the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority (KPPA). Our liability will now be spread out over 30 years. The bill also provides subsidies. Contributions are no longer tied to salaries, which will help us grow our agency. It will also improve strategic planning. Senate Bill 8 allows for philosophical exemptions to childhood vaccination requirements for schools. • First floor renovations in the public health clinic are essentially complete. Dr. Humbaugh encouraged board members to visit the clinic next time they are in our building. A grant award paid for most of the renovations. We are close to signing a contract with the vendor who will install our new generator, which will help us be more prepared during emergency response. • We have had nearly 34,000 COVID-19 cases and 300 deaths since the pandemic began. Cases and deaths were down last month. 75% of Lexington nursing home residents have received vaccinations. Cases in the last two weeks have plateaued at around 30 cases per day. The United Kingdom COVID-19 variant is in circulation in Lexington. There are fewer case investigations, though cases are more complex due to people engaging in more activities with others. Quarantines are also more complex; however, those who are fully vaccinated need not quarantine. We continue to urge businesses to follow the governor's executive orders regarding pandemic response. • We are one of the top three counties in Kentucky in terms of vaccine coverage, with 31% having had a chance to be fully vaccinated. Over 40% of those 18 and older have been vaccinated. Over 70% of those age 65 and older have been vaccinated. Community immunity will require a higher overall percentage. Consolidated Baptist and other community partners have been most helpful. In addition, Dr. Humbaugh offered kudos to the University of Kentucky and Baptist Hospital who have been the largest vaccinators in our community. The regional site operated by Kroger at the Horse Park has also been successful in providing mass vaccinations. LFCHD has given nearly 24,000 vaccinations since December 23, 2020. Around 14,000 were first dose vaccinations. More than 10,000 have completed their vaccination series. Demographics for those vaccinated indicate around 60% are female, 25% are 65 or older, 12% are African-American, and 5% are Hispanic. We are missing race and ethnicity information for around 13%, largely due to that information not being shared during registration. We vaccinated over 100 inmates at the detention center last week. The department has also held clinics focused on the homeless.

	<p>We vaccinated around 25 homebound residents last week, as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting today, LFCHD is using the Janssen product, which is a one-dose vaccine, for those participating in our harm reduction services. We continue to provide second doses of the Moderna vaccine. Availability of the Janssen vaccine has been inconsistent. A few clinics across the country have ceased using Janssen at this time due to the prevalence of known side effects. We will continue to monitor the situation. • We continue to monitor travelers returning to Lexington from Guinea and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which are experiencing an Ebola outbreak. Two recent travelers were determined to be low risk. They have agreed to contact us if any symptoms present within 21 days after their last potential exposure in Africa. • Dr. Humbaugh is pleased staff are participating again this year in the community supported agriculture (CSA) program. The Green Team and LFCHD committee chairs are working together to develop a community garden, which we hope harm reduction participants may be able to enjoy. We are also moving toward completing the mural for 650 Newtown Pike. In March, we had the second largest monthly number of visitors to the Needle Exchange Program in the history of the program. Dr. Humbaugh has spoken with officers about visioning a “new normal” for LFCHD as the pandemic winds down.
Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive: Mr. Friesen reported the committee discussed the topics Dr. Humbaugh shared in his report. • Finance: Mr. Cornett asked Ms. Kay to present the Finance Committee report. Ms. Kay reported a surplus of \$7.36 million compared to a budgeted surplus of \$5.78 million. Year-to-date revenues were 113% of plan while operating expenses were 105% of plan. Current cash account balances of \$29.26 million were up from \$22.79 million the same time last year. Inflows and outflows related to the COVID-19 response continue to a large factor in department finances. Response revenue streams will continue through the end of the fiscal year. We will review options in preparing the FY22 budget. The budget will be presented for approval in June. House Bill 8 carries additional subsidies for quasi-governmental agencies, which should result in a net positive in the new year. We are considering potential salary increases and/or lump sum payments for staff in the FY22 budget, as well. The Finance Committee decided to end COVID-related pay differentials after June 30, 2021. The committee decided the comp time cap will be lifted through the end of the current fiscal year. There will be transition of insurance as we onboard a new Commissioner of Health. Certain LFCHD billing processes require a Kentucky-licensed physician for approval. This may necessitate a physician to assist during transition. Mr. Friesen thanked Ms. Kay for her report. He said he was pleased we did not elect to leave the pension system last year, since a better resolution of our liabilities is now in sight. • Marketing and Branding: No report. • Nominating/Bylaws: No report.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Outcomes/Evaluation: No report. • Policy Policy/Protocol: No report. • Ad Hoc: Mr. Friesen reported the committee is making progress and reviewing potential Commissioner of Health candidates.
Communications Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hall presented the Communications Report. The mural artist is working with LexArts on the timeline to complete the process, with a goal of completing the mural before Dr. Humbaugh's departure. We continue to seek new ways to encourage participation in vaccine clinics. There were increases when new phases were opened. Outreach to vulnerable populations continues, as well. Bilingual staff are on hand during clinics to assist those who speak Spanish. We have promoted the Janssen product as an option for those who do not like shots, since the product is a single-dose vaccine. Support of response efforts increased as vaccines have become available. There have been many positive comments on social media about LFCHD vaccination clinics. Councilmember Reynolds has helped distribute 1,500 vaccination clinic flyers. Ms. Allen-Bryant has participated in many interviews promoting the clinics, as well. We celebrated National Public Health Week last week. Celebrations were shared on social media. Every day of the week, the Employee Association had a message and gift for staff. Reaccreditation was also celebrated with posts and a gift.
Open Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Friesen opened the floor for open comments. None were presented. • Mr. Cornett made a motion that the Board of Health enter into and conduct a closed session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c), specifically, to discuss proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the Board of Health and/or the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Health Department. The discussion would be limited to potential claims against LFCHD related to certain financial and tax-related issues. Councilmember Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board entered closed session at 6:54 p.m. • Dr. Jackson made a motion to exit the board closed session. Mr. Cornett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board exited the closed session at 7:08 p.m.
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Friesen requested a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Reynolds made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Dossett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.


 Michael Friesen, Chairperson

 Kraig E. Humbaugh, MD, MPH, Secretary