



MEETING MINUTES

Board of Health Meeting
Video Teleconference
August 9, 2021
5:45 p.m.

	<p>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Allen-Bryant, Mr. Cornett, Dr. Dossett, Mr. Friesen, Dr. Hood, Mr. Jabbour, Dr. Jackson, Dr. Mason, and 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. Councilmember Reynolds was absent. A quorum was declared.
Request for Approval of the July 12, 2021 Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The July 12, 2021 Board of Health (BOH) meeting minutes were considered. Mr. Jabbour made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Hood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
Presentation of 3 rd /4 th Quarter 2021 CARES Award Winner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Humbaugh announced Lexington-Fayette County Health Department (LFCHD) staff member Candice Johnson won the third and fourth quarter 2021 CARES award. The award recognizes a staff member who exemplifies one or more of our core CARES values: Caring, Accountability, Respect, Equity, and Service. Ms. Johnson’s nominator shared stories demonstrating she is a great example of these values. Ms. Johnson thanked Dr. Humbaugh and said it was an honor to receive this award. She said it is her pleasure to serve the community and her co-workers.
Tuberculosis (TB) Prevention & Control Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Humbaugh introduced Laura Collins, TB nurse coordinator, to discuss the LFCHD Tuberculosis (TB) Prevention and Control Program. Dr. Humbaugh noted Ms. Collins recently received the “Super T” award, which is a state-wide recognition for a public health professional who has made valuable contributions in controlling TB in Kentucky. Ms. Collins said the TB program is an essential public health service. Our patient populations are identified through partners including the Kentucky Refugee Ministry, Bluegrass Community Health Center, the Electronic Disease Network (EDN), and through patients diagnosed with TB in county hospitals. Positive cases are identified through a positive Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) or an Interferon-Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) test. Other local partners with whom we collaborate include hospital infection control and prevention nurses, pulmonary practices, congregate facility staff, and school health nurses. Ms. Collins shared data on the number of cases and number of individuals with TB over the past five years in Fayette County. We have averaged around 11 cases per year over the past four years. We

	<p>have already seen 11 cases this year. She also shared some demographic information, which showed the majority of cases are in the age group from 15-34 years old and are among white males not born in the United States. Ms. Collins also shared case comparisons between Fayette and Jefferson counties and the United States. Fayette County had 10 cases in 2020, while Jefferson County had 25. Across the United States, there were 7,163 cases. These numbers demonstrate a case rate per 100,000 of 3.1 in Fayette County and 3.3 in Jefferson County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Collins shared challenges the program faces, which include the false belief that TB no longer exists, language barriers, homelessness, lack of reliable transportation, time constraints, and comorbidities. Solutions to these challenges include education, incentives, linkage to care, and legal consultation. Directly Observed Therapy (DOT), particularly through video connections, has been invaluable during the pandemic. DOT allows staff to ensure patients take medications according to their treatment plans. • The total annual TB budget last year was about \$658 thousand dollars. Medication costs were around \$10 thousand dollars. About \$62 thousand dollars were received through federal grants, while the rest of revenue came from tax appropriations and from billing insurance for clinic and home DOT visits. • Dr. Humbaugh offered kudos to the TB team, who have continued to do good work throughout the pandemic. One of the core functions of public health is to control TB in the community. LFCHE does prevention, surveillance, and treatment of TB in the community.
<p>Commissioner's Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Humbaugh presented the commissioner's report. He welcomed everyone to the August BOH meeting. We currently have three vacancies on the board. We have recommended candidates for the vacancies. The city council may consider these recommendations soon. • LFCHE has had an unusually high number of personnel resignations. The job market is strong right now, which can make it more challenging to fill positions and to retain staff. We hope to conduct a market survey in the fall to determine if any adjustments need to be made to our pay scale. Local contractors are assisting with the increased workload resulting from the spike in COVID-19 cases we are now experiencing. The Kentucky Department for Public Health has also approved the hiring of additional regional response staff. • We revised our dress code policy allow staff more choice with attire and hair color. Most LFCHE attire can be worn on a regular basis. We revised our medical dispensation policy. We implemented a new telework policy and revised our unplanned closure policy. • Parking lot safety has been more of an issue lately. We have added new signage to remind people to slow down and to watch for people in the parking lot. Speed bumps remain in place. We plan to wash and seal windows of the building at 650 Newtown Pike and to install the new generator and mural soon.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● COVID-19 cases numbers increased significantly in July, largely due to the delta variant. At the beginning of July, we were seeing less than 10 cases per day. We are now seeing around 115 cases per day. We have restarted response efforts on Saturdays. We remained closed on Sundays. We plan to hire five new contractors each week until staffing is sufficient for response needs. About 25% of new cases were in fully vaccinated individuals. Increases in hospitalizations and deaths tend to lag behind identification of higher case numbers. Hospitalizations and deaths occur mostly in the unvaccinated. We have not seen an increase in outbreaks in long-term care (LTC) facilities, likely due to the high percentage of fully vaccinated LTC residents. We are offering all three vaccine products via same-day appointments in our clinic on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Two-thirds of Lexington residents are fully vaccinated, according to the CDC. Numbers are lower for children and young adults, so we will continue to encourage vaccination for residents in age groups approved for vaccination. We continue to support recommendations on masking from the CDC. We are requiring masks for staff and visitors while inside our facilities. We are considering offering an incentive to LFCHD employees who provide documentation showing they are vaccinated against COVID-19. We are exploring the possibility of offering a limited number of COVID-19 tests for the homebound. We continue to evaluate our public health priorities as the pandemic response continues. ● As happens every summer, we have had an increase in demand for foodservice inspections and for mosquito surveillance.
Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Executive: No report. ● Finance: Mr. Cornett said the finance committee voted in favor of a resolution to increase the salary of the Commissioner of Health. This will bring the salary more in line with the market rate. Mr. Cornett said the resolution will be presented later in in this meeting. Cara Kay reported LFCHD continues to be in good financial position. Fiscal year financials showed a surplus of \$5.6 million compared to a budgeted deficit of \$450 thousand. Current cash account balances of \$27 million were up from \$22 million this time last year. Response reimbursements continue to come in, though they arrive on a delayed basis. We anticipate being reimbursed for all COVID-19 related expenses. We have some LFCHD supervisory staff and some contractors that are working on the weekends. ● Marketing and Branding: No report. ● Nominating/Bylaws: No report. ● Program Outcomes/Evaluation: No report. ● Policy Policy/Protocol: No report. ● Ad Hoc: Mr. Friesen said he will serve as chair of the committee going forward, due to Ms. Allen-Bryant moving into a new role as representative for the mayor on the Board of Health. Ms. McNamara is working to identify additional candidates for Commissioner of Health. Interviews have not yet been conducted.

Communications Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hall presented the communications report. The LFCHD rabies vaccination clinic is coming soon. Flyers are available in English and Spanish. At this time, masks are being recommended during the clinic, but not required. • We are providing the community information on breakthrough COVID-19 cases. We are seeing a small number of breakthrough cases. These cases are often less severe and do not require hospitalization. About 90% of hospitalizations are among the unvaccinated and those not fully vaccinated. • Mr. Hall said Laura Collins has completed several media interviews about our TB program, and he appreciated her presentation.
Resolution Regarding Commissioner of Health Salary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Friesen reported the finance committee voted to recommend an increase to the Commissioner of Health salary to align more closely with the market rate. He said he appreciates Dr. Humbaugh has agreed to stay for a additional period of time, while the search for a new commissioner continues. • Mr. Cornett made a motion to approve the resolution to increase Commissioner of Health salary. Mr. Jabbour seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
Open Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None presented.
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Friesen requested a motion to adjourn. Dr. Hood made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jabbour seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.


 Michael Friesen, Chairperson

 Kraig E. Humbaugh, MD, MPH, Secretary