



MEETING MINUTES

Board of Health Meeting
 650 Newtown Pike
 April 11, 2022
 5:45 p.m.

	<p>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Allen-Bryant, Mr. Cornett, Dr. Dossett, Dr. Feld, Mr. Friesen, Dr. Gomez, Dr. Hood, Mr. Jabbour, Dr. Jackson, Councilmember Reynolds, and Dr. Riley.</p> <p>OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. McCullough, LFCHD Staff, LFCHD Council.</p>
TOPIC	DISCUSSION
Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Friesen called the meeting to order at 5:52 p.m.
Roll Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Foley called the roll. A quorum was declared. Drs. Mason and Zimmerman were excused.
Request for Approval of the March 14, 2022, Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The March 14, 2022 Board of Health (BOH) meeting minutes were considered. Dr. Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Hood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
Presentation of the 2022 Dr. Rice C. Leach Public Health Hero Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Gomez presented the winners of the 2022 Dr. Rice C. Leach Public Health Hero Awards on behalf of the selection committee and the Board of Health. The winners were Chief Marc Bramlage and Dr. Sharon Walsh. Kevin Hall said this was the nineteenth year for the award. The award recognizes work that positively impacts public health in the community. Chief Bramlage and his team worked hands on with LFCHD staff to operate multiple vaccination clinics. Chief Bramlage helped match the right staff for each clinic, which operated covering a variety of age groups. Dr. Walsh and her team have not only assisted in getting naloxone kits distributed in the community, but also helped expand treatment capacity and bring more people into recovery programs. Mr. Friesen said, as Battalion Chief for Medical Services, Chief Bramlage has led his team through a variety of major and ongoing challenges, including fire and rescue, patient transport, and overdose response. Without the support of Chief Bramlage and his team, LFCHD could not have conducted the large number of COVID-19 vaccination clinics held over the past fifteen months. Thanks to the direct and continuing support of Chief Bramlage, Fayette County has consistently enjoyed one of the highest vaccination rates in the state of Kentucky. Chief Bramlage thanked the board for the award. He said the Lexington Fire Department has branched into community paramedicine and a new

	<p>role in public health. It was a natural fit to partner with the health department. Working together, we were able to get into places others could not, identify problems, and find solutions. He said it is an honor to be awarded for doing a job you love and that the award shows the strong bond the Lexington Fire Department has made with the health department to help protect the people of our community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Friesen said Dr. Sharon Walsh is a professor at the University of Kentucky (UK) and director of the Center on Drug and Alcohol Research. Dr. Walsh is the principal investigator on the landmark \$87 million HEALing Communities Study (HCS), the largest grant ever received by UK, to reduce opioid overdose deaths. Through her leadership of almost 100 HCS interdisciplinary team members, Dr. Walsh helped establish partnerships with behavioral health, healthcare, and 8 criminal justice agencies in Fayette County to implement an integrated set of evidence-based practices to combat the opioid epidemic. Fourteen new staff have been embedded in Fayette County agencies to expand capacity for medication treatment for opioid use disorder (MOUD). More than 4,600 naloxone units have been distributed in the community. • Dr. Walsh thanked the board. She said we was honored to receive this award in memory of Dr. Leach. She accepted the award on behalf of everyone working on the study, including around 30 UK faculty and around 60 UK staff members. She said the team has partnered with LFCHD, the paramedicine program, and treatment agencies, with the goal of reducing opioid overdose deaths.
<p>Commissioner of Health Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. McCullough presented the Commissioner of Health report. CDC COVID-19 community levels continue to show Fayette County in the low level. We are encouraged by that. About 95% of the country is in the low level, while less than 1% of counties across the United States are in the high level. Case numbers are declining, but have plateaued in terms of downward trajectory. Locally, the 7-day average is 20 cases per day. COVID-related deaths response-to-date are 589. Omicron is the only circulating variant in the US. The CDC is tracking three lineages of this variant. The BA2 “stealth” variant is the largest concern and represents about 72% of infections at this time. The highest proportion of cases are in the northeast and on the west coast. Preliminary evidence is that the variant is not more dangerous than other recent variants, but is about 30% more transmissible. Internationally, for the last two weeks, The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported a decreased in all reporting areas. • The CDC updated guidance on COVID boosters, to allow additional boosters for those over 50 and those moderately to severely immunocompromised. Those eligible should get a booster no sooner than four months after their last booster. • So far this flu season, we have had 172 flu cases, with about 15 last week. Most are flu A. There have been over 4,000 cases in Kentucky. Flu activity is considered widespread. There are more cases this year compared to last, but less than in previous years.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following discussions during the recent board retreat, we have decided to delay strategic planning until the Community Health Assessment (CHA) is completed. The CHA will provide data helpful to strategic planning. Strategic planning should begin later this year. • The new payroll system is in place. We are completing the second pay period with the new system. Overall, it has been successful. A few issues remain and are being addressed. • We had a hot water heater malfunction, which led to a two-day building closure while we obtained and installed a replacement hot water heater. The generator is being fenced in, which will complete the project. • A staff member in Human Resources passed away. This person touched many hearts and will be sorely missed. Grief counselors from Bluegrass Care Navigators provided support services following the loss.
Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive: Mr. Friesen said Dr. McCullough covered committee topics in his report. • Finance: Mr. Cornett said new members are welcome to join the finance committee. He introduced Cara Kay to present the finance report. Ms. Kay reported for the month of February a year-to-date (YTD) surplus of almost \$5.4 million dollars on a budgeted surplus of \$1.6 million. YTD for the response, we are at a deficit of \$365 thousand dollars. Response-to-date we have a deficit of around \$2.2 million dollars. We have received almost \$12.4 million in response reimbursements. We continue to receive reimbursements on a delayed basis. We have a little over \$33 million in our rainy day fund to help support our strategic plan. FY23 budget planning started. Ms. Kay will bring the budget to the board during the June meeting. • Marketing and Branding: No report. • Nominating/Bylaws: No report. • Program Outcomes/Evaluation: No report. • Policy Policy/Protocol: No report.
Open Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None presented.
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Friesen requested a motion to adjourn. Dr. Dossett made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Cornett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.



Michael Friesen, Chairperson



Joel McCullough, MD, MPH, MS, Secretary