

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
Minutes  
November 10, 2020

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in remote and regular session at 7:30 AM on November 10, 2020.

Members Present

Mayor Nicole Condrey, BS, President  
Jeff Bonnell  
Margie Davis, RN  
Charlene Kurtz, BSN, RN  
Sally Kash, MS, RN  
Dr. Ken Patrick, DVM  
David Schul

Health Department Staff Present

Jackie Phillips, MPH, BSN, RN  
Carla Ealy, RS  
Chandra Corbin, BSN, RN  
Amanda McDonald

Absent and Excused

Dr. Anita Scott Jones, Ed.D., MBA, BS

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ROLL CALL

**Motion:** Ms. Kurtz moved, seconded by Ms. Kash to excuse Dr. Scott Jones.

**Roll call Vote:** Yes-6 (Bonnell, Davis, Kurtz, Kash, Patrick, Schul). No-0. **Motion passed.**

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-October 2020

**Motion:** Dr. Patrick moved, seconded by Ms. Kash to approve the October 2020 Board of Health Meeting Minutes.

**Roll call Vote:** Yes-6 (Bonnell, Davis, Kurtz, Kash, Patrick, Schul). No-0. **Motion passed.**

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT- October 2020

**Motion:** Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Kurtz to receive and file the October 2020 Financial Report.

**Roll call Vote:** Yes-6 (Bonnell, Davis, Kurtz, Kash, Patrick, Schul). No-0. **Motion passed.**

EDUCATION PRESENTATION- Preventative Screenings

Dr. Jennewine educated the board on the importance of preventative screenings and the effects that the COVID pandemic has had on preventive services thus far. Dr. Jennewine stated that most preventive services include heart disease and cancer screenings, with some preventive testing starting as early as 18 years of age. Cervical and testicular cancers are screened for annually beginning in one's 20's, while breast cancer and colon cancers are screened for annually beginning at age 40. Typically, lipid levels are checked every 5 years after age 20, and hypertension is measured at every doctor appointment. Regular check-ups also include vaccinations such as: influenza, pneumococcal, and shingles.

Dr. Jennewine informed the board that data available thus far indicates that from March-May 2020, breast cancer screenings are down 89% and colorectal screenings are down 85%. The six most commonly diagnosed cancers are being reported at 43% lower for the first six months of the pandemic when compared to the six months prior. Breast cancer was reported at 52% less in March and April when compared to January and February. Dr. Jennewine states that while

the number of cancers being reported is lower, it is not that the actual rate of cancers has decreased. It is thought that due to patients missing their preventive screenings, cancers are going undiagnosed which will lead to a poorer outcome and overall increase in mortality rate. Many patients that had already been diagnosed with cancers were forced to either delay their radiation or chemotherapy treatments, or receive treatment at a lesser rate in an effort to preserve their immune system in the case of COVID infection.

Dr. Jennewine stated that emergency room visits were down 23% from March-May when compared to visits prior to the pandemic. These visits would have included treatment for illnesses such as heart attacks and strokes. Dr. Jennewine reiterated that although the number of patients seeking treatment has decreased, the number of illnesses is not thought to have decreased. These patients most likely suffered heart attacks at home and while they still survived, due to the absence of early interventions they will most likely suffer a poorer outcome, quality of life, and there will be an overall higher rate of mortality. Dr. Jennewine stated that it is likely that these higher rates of mortality will be seen over a ten year period as a continued effect of the preventive services missed due to the COVID pandemic.

Mr. Schul inquired if there has been an increase in blood donations. Dr. Jennewine replied that anecdotally, he has seen an increase in his patients donating plasma, but there is no data available yet as to if there has been a real increase in blood donation.

Ms. Phillips informed the board that Mayor Condrey will be working with Blue Star Families to host a blood drive at Towne Mall on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be 52 total time slots available for participants to donate.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### PHAB

Ms. Phillips informed the board that the PHAB site visit has been scheduled for February 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Phillips asked board members to make themselves available on these dates, as the site visitors will want to speak with board members as well as health department staff.

##### COVID 19

Ms. Phillips informed the board that pop up COVID testing will be available at Fort Hamilton Hospital on November 18<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm. This testing is available in response to the city of Hamilton agreeing to have their wastewater tested for the COVID virus, and the levels of the virus that were found in the wastewater. This testing is available to anyone in the community, whether they are symptomatic or not, in an effort to gain an accurate picture of the prevalence of the virus within the community.

Ms. Corbin added that the city of Middletown is averaging anywhere from 25-40 new cases of COVID daily. Ms. Corbin stated that though the initial exposure is suspected to be community acquired, the virus is rapidly spreading throughout households. City of Middletown has seen a large increase in the number of quarantined individuals both through schools or employers.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Travel Authorizations

None.

#### REPORTS

##### Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips informed the board that she met with the Middletown Youth Council. Ms. Phillips stated that the youth interviewed her, asking great questions and it was a wonderful experience. Ms. Phillips informed the board that Mayor Condrey will be giving her Mayor Address to the youth council.

Ms. Phillips informed the board the next harm reduction meeting will be held today, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Medical Director**

Dr. Jennewine reported the October communicable disease numbers.

Chlamydia infection	35
COVID-19	433
Gonococcal Infection	11
Hepatitis B	4
Hepatitis C	8
Salmonellosis	1
Streptococcal Group A-invasive	2

**Director of Nursing**

Ms. Corbin informed the board that she has been calling children with medical handicaps in an effort to build the CMH program back up.

Ms. Corbin stated that ODH is sending an additional 200 influenza vaccines to CMHD. Once the vaccines have been received, we will be administering as many as possible to higher risk populations. Ms. Phillips added that we will continue to work with Mary Robb, RN, of SHALOM to help administer vaccinations to high risk populations.

**Environmental Director**

Ms. Ealy informed the board that the first round of standard inspections for all food facilities has been completed, the second round is still underway. There were two facilities in Middletown that have not reopened after the mandatory shut down orders were issued in March by the governor. Those facilities are Golden Corral and The Meadows, we have not received any information indicating when they will reopen.

Ms. Ealy stated that it is her goal to complete the five-year septic inspections by the end of 2020, weather permitting.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that CMHD has received the results of the pool survey conducted by ODH in January 2020. CMHD passed the survey, ODH had noted that there was no enforcement policy in place. That was incorrect, CMHD does have an enforcement plan in place, Ms. Ealy notified ODH of their error.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that we are still receiving "mask" complaints. The majority of these complaints are made concerning patrons not wearing masks, but we are also receiving complaints indicating that employees are either not wearing masks or wearing masks incorrectly.

Mayor Condrey inquired if food safety classes could be offered virtually. Ms. Ealy stated that the classes would be able to be held via ZOOM, or possibly still in-person depending on the number of attendees.

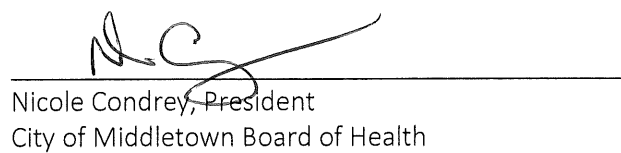
Mr. Schul stated that he would like to share with the board a very positive encounter that an acquaintance had with Ms. Phillips after testing positive for COVID. Mr. Schul stated that the patient was very complimentary about the health department and Ms. Phillips particularly.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 AM. The next meeting will be held on December 8, 2020 at 7:30 AM.



Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN  
Secretary



Nicole Condrey, President  
City of Middletown Board of Health