

DATE: May 5, 2023
TO: Board of Health Members
FROM: Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN - Secretary
SUBJECT: Agenda for May 9, 2023

City of Middletown Board of Health & Environment will meet in regular session **May 9, 2023** at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C at the City Building with the following agenda. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call 513-425-1818.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL- Motion to excuse absent members

CITIZEN COMMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –April 2023

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT – April 2023

EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Prostate Cancer

OLD BUSINESS

1. PHAB
2. Tobacco21 (T21)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Travel Authorizations-None
2. Board Member Topic-Open Discussion

REPORTS

Health Commissioner
Medical Director
Director of Nursing
Environmental Health Director

ADJOURNMENT

The Next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2023 at 7:30am

It is the policy of the City of Middletown to make all public hearings and meetings accessible to all persons, in accordance with state and/or federal laws. If you have a disability which requires accommodation in order for you to attend and/or participate in this meeting, please contact us at 425-7851 or 425-7705 (TDD) at least forty-eight hours prior to the time of the meeting to advise the need for accommodation, and reasonable efforts shall be made to provide the same.

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes
April 11, 2023

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on April 11, 2023.

Members Present

Mayor, Nicole Condrey, BS, President
Jeff Bonnell
Sally Kash, MS, RN
Ruth Lolli
Joseph Richmond

Health Department Staff Present

Jackie Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Carla Ealy, BS, REHS
Chandra Corbin, BSN, RN
Chandra Corbin, BSN, RN
Amanda McDonald, Vital Statistics Registrar

Amy Sibcy

Dr. Scott Zollett, MD

Absent

None.

ROLL CALL

All board members were present.

RESIGNATION OF BOARD MEMBER

Mayor Condrey informed the board that Dr. Patrick had submitted his letter of resignation from the Board of Health.

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to accept Dr. Patrick's resignation from the Board of Health.

Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Bonnell, Kash, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- March 2023

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve the March 2023 Board of Health meeting minutes.

Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Bonnell, Kash, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT-March 2023

Motion: Mr. Richmond moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to receive and file the March 2023 Financial Report.

Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Bonnell, Kash, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

Education Presentation- Breast Cancer-Dr. Jennewine

Dr. Jennewine provided the board with an overview of breast cancer. Breast cancer is a cancer formed from cells of breast tissue. It is the second most common cancer diagnosis in women. There are several different types of breast cancer and women are affected much more than men. Breast cancer accounts for 30% of all new cases of cancer in the United States. One in eight women will develop breast cancer at some point throughout their lives with the highest incidence being between the ages of 70-74.

Symptoms of breast cancer include: a lump or thickening in breast tissue, changes in size/shape of breast, changes to the skin over the breast and newly inverted nipples. Risks and causes of breast cancer include: being a female, age, prior breast abnormality, family history, radiation exposure, obesity, alcohol use and hormone exposure.

Prevention efforts include: screening by breast exams and mammograms, alcohol moderation, maintaining a healthy weight and by limiting hormone exposure.

Breast cancer is diagnosed by breast exams, mammograms, ultrasounds, MRI or by a breast biopsy. Treatments include: surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, hormone blocking therapy and immunotherapy. There is a five-year survival rate of 90%.

OLD BUSINESS

PHAB

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that a Community Health Assessment (CHA) meeting will be held April 12th at the Butler County Educational Services building; Ms. Lolli will be joining the meeting on behalf of the Board of Health.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the CHA survey is still underway and thanked Mayor Condrey for promoting the survey at the City Council meeting. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that focus groups will begin shortly, stressing the importance of reaching targeted populations.

Tobacco 21 (T21)

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that she and Ms. Ealy met with Interact for Health. CMHD will begin licensing tobacco retailers January 2024, the license fee will be \$250. If tobacco retailers are caught selling to anyone under the age of 21, they will be fined and their license could be suspended.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that she and CMHD Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Ms. Hall, had accompanied City of Middletown Police on a raid of a vape shop where the store had inventory of Delta 8 and Delta 9 which is not permitted unless they are a dispensary.

Discussions

Mayor Condrey asked if CMHD would share information pertaining to violations and license revocations with other cities, stating that it would be easy for business to be shut down in Middletown and then open a shop nearby in a neighboring city.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the Health Commissioner Conference will be held at the end of April and she will bring the issue up for discussion at that time.

Mayor Condrey stated that she had met with the Hamilton and Fairfield mayors to discuss T21. The city of Hamilton went through planning and zoning and created buffers for tobacco retailers surrounding schools and parks. Mayor Condrey also discussed a retail density number, explaining that the city would only allow a certain number of tobacco retail establishments to operate within city limits. Mayor Condrey stated that the stores already operating would be grandfathered in, but that the law department could issue a moratorium and as those stores close or change ownership, the retail density number would be upheld.

Mayor Condrey stated that she would like to propose City of Middletown imposing a retail density number and possible buffer zone as well. The number of tobacco retailers would be about 1/3 of what is currently operating within the city, with one shop per 2,000 residents. Mayor Condrey stated that with current Ohio legislation, it does not look like sales of Kratom will be banned in Ohio anytime soon.

Mayor Condrey asked board members for their thoughts on imposing a retail density number.

Ms. Sibcy asked what the current population of "mom and pop" tobacco retailers were in the city.

Ms. Phillips Carter replied that of the approximate 70 tobacco retailers in the city, only about 7 of those are vape shops.

Ms. Sibcy commented that going from 70 tobacco retailers to 26 is a big difference.

Mayor Condrey stated that 1 shop per 2,000 residents, or 1 shop per 4,000 residents is the typical retail density number suggestion. Mayor Condrey stated that we would need a moratorium on the creation of vape store licenses.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that Public Health's mission is to protect people, the flavored tobacco products seem to target youth.

Dr. Zollett asked if there were laws in place preventing the sale to minors.

Mayor Condrey stated that it is illegal to sell tobacco/tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21.

Dr. Zollett stated that he sees no benefit to vape shops, the best practice would be to eliminate them entirely, but since we are unable to do that, we can limit the number of these stores that are operating. Dr. Zollett continued that sometimes you have to protect people from themselves.

Mayor Condrey stated that she would like to find a happy medium between protecting people and refraining from too much overreach.

Mr. Richmond stated that the city does not need any additional vape shops.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she appreciates the Mayor bringing good, healthy conversation in regards to T21.

Mayor Condrey asked if a retail density number was something the BOH would be in favor of imposing.

The board responded yes.

Mayor Condrey asked if the board would be interested in imposing a 1 shop per 2,000 resident range.

The board responded yes.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she will check with the law department on establishing a moratorium.

Mayor Condrey asked the board if they were interested in putting zoning restrictions in place.

Ms. Lolli replied that she was in favor of the idea.

Mayor Condrey stated that Hamilton already has a formula in place for it, and it might be nice to parallel our efforts with Hamilton.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of President Pro Tem

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the Clerk of Council has forwarded Dr. Patrick's resignation letter to City Council to let them know that the Board of Health has an open position. Once City Council has received applications, they will hold an executive session and send the proposed board member to the BOH. In the meantime, the BOH needs to elect a new President Pro Tem.

Mr. Bonnell volunteered to serve as President Pro Tem.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Mr. Richmond to appoint Mr. Bonnell President Pro Tem.

Roll call vote: Yes-5 (Kash, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

Travel Authorizations

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the spring Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) will be held in Columbus at the end of April.

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the travel request.

Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Bonnell, Kash, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

Approval of Grant Writer and Administrator Agreement

Ms. Phillips Carter explained to the board that CMHD is embarking on writing a grant for Workforce Development. This person will be contracted to write the grant on behalf of CMHD. This agreement can be discontinued at any time. It is the same grant the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator is contracted through.

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the Grant Writer and Administrator Agreement.

Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Bonnell, Kash, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

Name, Address, Phone, Health History (NAPH) Form Update

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that this form is updated annually in April and asked that all board members complete the form and return to Ms. McDonald.

2023 1st Quarter Report

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the 2023 1st Quarter Report was included in the packet as well as the 2022 1st Quarter Report for comparison.

REPORTS
Health Commissioner

- Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that OHIZ will be holding the “See My Neighborhood” bus ride towards the end of April. The bus ride will occur in census tracts 130, 131 and 132. City leaders, council members, county commissioners and the superintendent have been invited to participate in the bus ride.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she would like to give the health department staff kudos. Health department staff worked throughout the COVID pandemic while many other places were closed down or working remote, and the health department has retained all of its staff. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she values continued trainings and education for her staff and will be closing the health department periodically to allow all employees the opportunity to participate in trainings.

Medical Director

Dr. Jennewine reported the March Communicable Disease cases.

Chlamydia infection	22
COVID-19	135
CP-CRE	1
E.Coli, Shiga-Toxin Producing	1
Gonococcal infection	5
Hepatitis B	4
Hepatitis C	6
Influenza-associated hospitalization	1
Syphilis	1

Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the board that the number of COVID cases continues to decrease. As cases of COVID decrease, so does the number of people requesting COVID vaccines. CMHD is still holding vaccine clinics bi-monthly. The vaccination clinic has been moved from Council Chambers to the Health Department on the 2nd floor of the City Building. CMHD is now only offering the bivalent booster vaccine.

Environmental Director

In Ms. Ealy's absence, Ms. Phillips Carter provided the board with the Environmental Health Director Report. Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that CMHD received plans for Steel City Pizza, Shell Gas Station and Mr. Hotdog.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that all food facilities have paid for their food license renewals.

CMHD is now in the process of licensing pools and campgrounds. There are 29 pool/spas and 2 campgrounds located in the city.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that CMHD had 5 students in the February Person-In- Charge Level 1 Food Safety Training Class. The next class is scheduled for April 20th.

Discussions

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) information that was requested at the last board meeting was included in the April board packet.

Mayor Condrey informed the board that neither the Fairfield or Hamilton mayors knew about SEP programs.

Mayor Condrey asked if there were any updates on the Amanda Area sewer connections.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that updates will be given at the next BOH meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 AM. The next meeting will be held on May 9, 2023 at 7:30 AM.

Jacquelyn D. Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Secretary

Nicole Condrey, President
City of Middletown Board of Health

City of Middletown Health Department April 2023 Financial Notes

Vital Statistics

- \$8,036.86 Revenue Earned
- 664 Certificates Sold
- 78 Burial permits Sold

Environmental

- \$5,455.00 Revenue Earned

Reimbursements

- Allotrac (MAC Billing) Reimbursement \$20,007.11

Grants/Agreements Reimbursements

- Allotrac (1QSFY23) \$20,007.11

Indigent Services

- \$20,000.00 budgeted for 2023
- 10 Applications approved through April 2023
 - 3 Overdoses
 - 1 Application approved May 1st
 - \$11,855.00 Indigent Services Budget Remaining

Current Grants

- Workforce Development (WF-22) 9/2021-6/2023
 - Total awarded \$180,000
 - Award left to bill \$39,310
- Enhanced Operations (EO-22) 8/2022-7/2023
 - Total awarded \$125,000
 - Award left to bill \$59,350.06
- Workforce Development (WF-23) 7/01/2023-11/30/2027
 - Multi-year project, 7/1/2023-11/30/2027
 - Award granted to CMHD \$435,000

City of Middletown Budgetary Control Report

Period Ending May 04, 2023

Health & Environmental Fund	Current Year Appropriation	Supplements & Transfers	Carryover & Encumbrance	Total Appropriated	Month-to-Date Expenses	Year-to-Date Expenses	Balance	Encumbrance	Combined Encumbrance	Remaining Budget Percent
Personnel Services										
228.450.51110 Salaries & Wages	\$565,079.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$565,079.00	\$43,170.33	\$172,442.88	\$392,636.12	\$0.00	\$392,636.12	69.5%
228.450.51211 Pers	\$79,111.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$79,111.00	\$6,070.92	\$24,052.24	\$55,058.76	\$0.00	\$55,058.76	69.6%
228.450.51220 Worker's Compensation	\$22,603.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,603.00	\$0.00	\$937.74	\$21,665.26	\$21,665.26	\$0.00	0.0%
228.450.51230 Group Health Insurance	\$103,148.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$103,148.00	\$8,595.65	\$34,382.60	\$68,765.40	\$8,595.65	\$60,169.75	58.3%
228.450.51270 Medicare City Share	\$8,194.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,194.00	\$603.85	\$2,414.48	\$5,779.52	\$0.00	\$5,779.52	70.5%
228.450.51275 Life Insurance	\$1,899.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,899.00	\$152.10	\$608.40	\$1,290.60	\$0.00	\$1,290.60	68.0%
Personnel Services Totals	\$780,034.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$780,034.00	\$58,592.85	\$234,838.34	\$545,195.66	\$30,260.91	\$514,934.75	66.0%
Contractual Services										
228.450.52110 Travel & Training	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$329.00	\$329.00	\$3,671.00	\$0.00	\$3,671.00	91.8%
228.450.52111 Mandatory Training (Finance Chg.)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	-\$50.00	\$0.00	-\$50.00	0.0%
228.450.52120 Employee Mileage	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$222.98	\$2,777.02	\$0.00	\$2,777.02	92.6%
228.450.52222 Telephone Line Charges	\$5,640.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,640.00	\$170.93	\$2,633.61	\$3,006.39	\$0.00	\$3,006.39	53.3%
228.450.52310 Municipal Garage Charges	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,003.51	\$2,496.49	\$0.00	\$2,496.49	71.3%
228.450.52480 Other Professional Services	\$41,085.00	\$0.00	\$4,877.99	\$45,962.99	\$874.10	\$4,275.09	\$41,687.90	\$4,877.99	\$36,809.91	80.1%
228.450.52481 Workforce Development Grant	\$33,398.00	\$0.00	\$37,651.23	\$71,049.23	\$2,697.00	\$12,363.64	\$58,685.59	\$45,099.54	\$13,586.05	19.1%
228.450.52488 Health Department COVID	\$121,000.00	\$0.00	\$14,625.00	\$135,625.00	\$437.50	\$1,854.23	\$133,770.77	\$13,825.00	\$119,945.77	88.4%
228.450.52490 Outside Printing	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$146.00	\$146.00	\$1,854.00	\$0.00	\$1,854.00	92.7%
228.450.52510 Maintenance of Equipment	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,632.46	\$6,367.54	\$0.00	\$6,367.54	79.6%
228.450.52820 Licenses & Permits	\$11,340.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,340.00	\$523.00	\$1,783.00	\$9,557.00	\$0.00	\$9,557.00	84.3%
228.450.52920 Memberships, Books & Periodicals	\$1,587.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,587.00	-\$19.44	\$388.00	\$1,199.00	\$0.00	\$1,199.00	75.6%
Contractual Services Total	\$234,550.00	\$0.00	\$57,154.22	\$291,704.22	\$5,208.09	\$26,681.52	\$265,022.70	\$63,802.53	\$201,220.17	69.0%
Commodities										
228.450.53100 Office Supplies	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$367.85	\$1,213.24	\$1,286.76	\$0.00	\$1,286.76	51.5%
228.450.53210 Food	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$85.95	\$114.05	\$0.00	\$114.05	57.0%
228.450.53610 Small Tools & Equipment	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$139.77	\$60.23	\$0.00	\$60.23	30.1%
228.450.53710 Chemicals & Labs	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$25.72	\$474.28	\$0.00	\$474.28	94.9%
Commodities Total	\$3,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,400.00	\$367.85	\$1,464.68	\$1,935.32	\$0.00	\$1,935.32	56.9%
Capital Expenses										
228.450.54310 Auto Depreciation	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$1,308.00	\$3,492.00	\$0.00	\$3,492.00	72.8%
Capital Expenses Total	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$1,308.00	\$3,492.00	\$0.00	\$3,492.00	72.8%
Health Fund Year-to-Date Totals	\$1,022,784.00	\$0.00	\$57,154.22	\$1,079,938.22	\$64,168.79	\$264,292.54	\$815,645.68	\$94,063.44	\$721,582.24	66.8%

*Municipal Garage Charges & Auto Depreciation Charges have not been loaded by Finance for this month. Expenses in these areas have been incurred.

04 MAY 2023

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT
 HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT ADMINISTRATION
 FOR THE PERIOD ENDED May 04, 2023

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	CURRENT YEAR APPROP'S	SUPP. APP'S & TRANSFERS	CARRY-OVER ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL			MTD-EXPENSE	YTD-EXPENSE	UNEXP-BALANCE	ENCUMBRANCE	Combined	
				APPROPRIATED	MTD-EXPENSE	YTD-EXPENSE					Unencumbered	REM-% Amount
§												
§	HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT ADMINISTRATION											
228.450.51110 SALARIES & WAGES	\$ 565,079.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 565,079.00	\$ 43,170.33	\$ 172,442.88	\$ 392,636.12	\$ 0.00	\$ 392,636.12	69.5%		
228.450.51120 OVERTIME WAGES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%		
228.450.51211 PERS	79,111.00	0.00	0.00	79,111.00	6,070.92	24,052.24	55,058.76	0.00	55,058.76	69.6%		
228.450.51220 WORKERS COMPENSATION	22,603.00	0.00	0.00	22,603.00	0.00	937.74	21,665.26	21,665.26	0.00	0.0%		
228.450.51230 GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE	103,148.00	0.00	0.00	103,148.00	8,595.65	34,382.60	68,765.40	8,595.65	60,169.75	58.3%		
228.450.51240 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%		
228.450.51270 MEDICARE-CITY SHARE	8,194.00	0.00	0.00	8,194.00	603.85	2,414.48	5,779.52	0.00	5,779.52	70.5%		
228.450.51275 LIFE INSURANCE	1,899.00	0.00	0.00	1,899.00	152.10	608.40	1,290.60	0.00	1,290.60	68.0%		
228.450.51290 EMPLOYEE AWARDS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%		
PERSONAL SERVICES	780,034.00	0.00	0.00	780,034.00	58,592.85	234,838.34	545,195.66	30,260.91	514,934.75	66.0%		
228.450.52110 TRAVEL & TRAINING	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	329.00	329.00	3,671.00	0.00	3,671.00	91.8%		
228.450.52111 MANDATORY TRAINING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	<50.00>	0.00	<50.00>	0.0%		
228.450.52120 EMPLOYEE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	222.98	2,777.02	0.00	2,777.02	92.6%		
228.450.52222 TELEPHONE LINE CHARGES - HEALTH A	5,640.00	0.00	0.00	5,640.00	170.93	2,633.61	3,006.39	0.00	3,006.39	53.3%		
228.450.52230 POSTAGE AND POSTAL CHARGES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%		
228.450.52310 MUNICIPAL GARAGE CHARGES	3,500.00	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	0.00	1,003.51	2,496.49	0.00	2,496.49	71.3%		
§												
§ 228.450.52340 EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE RENTAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%		
228.450.52410 LEGAL SERVICES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%		
228.450.52420 MEDICAL SERVICE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%		
228.450.52480 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	41,085.00	0.00	4,877.99	45,962.99	874.10	4,275.09	41,687.90	4,877.99	36,809.91	80.1%		
228.450.52481 WORKFORCE GRANT CONTRACTUAL SERVI	33,398.00	0.00	37,651.23	71,049.23	2,697.00	12,363.64	58,685.59	45,099.54	13,586.05	19.1%		
228.450.52482 SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%		
228.450.52488 HEALTH DEPT COVID-19 EXPENSES	121,000.00	0.00	14,625.00	135,625.00	437.50	1,854.23	133,770.77	13,825.00	119,945.77	88.4%		
228.450.52490 OUTSIDE PRINTING	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	146.00	146.00	1,854.00	0.00	1,854.00	92.7%		
228.450.52510 MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT	8,000.00	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	0.00	1,632.46	6,367.54	0.00	6,367.54	79.6%		
228.450.52680 MEDICAL LIABILITY INSURANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%		
228.450.52820 LICENSES AND PERMITS	11,340.00	0.00	0.00	11,340.00	523.00	1,783.00	9,557.00	0.00	9,557.00	84.3%		
228.450.52920 MEMBERSHIPS, BOOKS, PERIODICAL	1,587.00	0.00	0.00	1,587.00	<19.44>	388.00	1,199.00	0.00	1,199.00	75.6%		
228.450.52930 PHOTO SUPPLIES & PROCESSING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%		
228.450.52940 INDIGENT BURIALS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%		
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	234,550.00	0.00	57,154.22	291,704.22	5,208.09	26,681.52	265,022.70	63,802.53	201,220.17	69.0%		
228.450.53100 OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	367.85	1,213.24	1,286.76	0.00	1,286.76	51.5%		
228.450.53101 SUPPLIES FOR HIV GRANT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%		
228.450.53102 HARM REDUCTION SUPPLIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%		
228.450.53210 FOOD	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	85.95	114.05	0.00	114.05	57.0%		

04 MAY 2023

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT
HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT ADMINISTRATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED May 04, 2023

PAGE 002

	CURRENT YEAR APPROP'S	SUPP. APP'S & TRANSFERS	CARRY-OVER ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL			YTD-EXPENSE	UNEXP-BALANCE	ENCUMBRANCE	Combined	
				APPROPRIATED	MTD-EXPENSE	Amount				Unencumbered	REM-%
228.450.54310 AUTO & TRUCK DEPRECIATION	4,800.00	0.00	0.00	4,800.00	0.00	1,308.00	3,492.00	0.00	3,492.00	72.8%	
228.450.54320 OFFICE MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
228.450.54360 OTHER EQUIPMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
228.450.54370 COMPUTER SOFTWARE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
CAPITAL	4,800.00	0.00	0.00	4,800.00	0.00	1,308.00	3,492.00	0.00	3,492.00	72.8%	
TOTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION	1,022,784.00	0.00	57,154.22	1,079,938.22	64,168.79	264,292.54	815,645.68	94,063.44	721,582.24	66.8%	
GRAND TOTAL FUND 228	1,022,784.00	0.00	57,154.22	1,079,938.22	64,168.79	264,292.54	815,645.68	94,063.44	721,582.24	66.8%	

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Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44210

Date 04 May 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
VITAL STATISTICS	2023	JANUARY	8211.78		8211.78	
	2023	FEBRUARY	6931.82		15143.60	
	2023	MARCH	15077.02		30220.62	
	2023	APRIL	7890.19		38110.81	
	2022	JANUARY	9943.78		9943.78	
	2022	FEBRUARY	12804.90		22748.68	
	2022	MARCH	9988.38		32737.06	
	2022	APRIL	7246.66		39983.72	
	2022	MAY	12784.71		52768.43	
	2022	JUNE	8441.08		61209.51	
	2022	JULY	7882.86		69092.37	
	2022	AUGUST	11438.70		80531.07	
	2022	SEPTEMBER	7582.86		88113.93	
	2022	OCTOBER	9745.86		97859.79	
	2022	NOVEMBER	7424.42		105284.21	
	2022	DECEMBER	8203.78		113487.99	
	2021	JANUARY	10859.20		10859.20	
	2021	FEBRUARY	8137.22		18996.42	
	2021	MARCH	11431.46		30427.88	
	2021	APRIL	13803.40		44231.28	
	2021	MAY	8012.54		52243.82	
	2021	JUNE	10141.38		62385.20	
	2021	JULY	9711.26		72096.46	
	2021	AUGUST	10607.62		82704.08	
	2021	SEPTEMBER	8905.68		91609.76	
	2021	OCTOBER	9698.06		101307.82	
	2021	NOVEMBER	8431.80		109739.62	
	2021	DECEMBER	9935.12		119674.74	
	2020	JANUARY	10015.20		10015.20	
	2020	FEBRUARY	9483.04		19498.24	
	2020	MARCH	12877.27		32375.51	
	2020	APRIL	4432.06		36807.57	
	2020	MAY	5381.40		42188.97	
	2020	JUNE	9390.42		51579.39	
	2020	JULY	6208.34		57787.73	
	2020	AUGUST	10881.84		68669.57	
	2020	SEPTEMBER	9347.00		78016.57	
	2020	OCTOBER	9432.98		87449.55	
	2020	NOVEMBER	9382.42		96831.97	
	2020	DECEMBER	9515.10		106347.07	
	2019	JANUARY	8291.04		8291.04	
	2019	FEBRUARY	8104.16		16395.20	
	2019	MARCH	10480.58		26875.78	
	2019	APRIL	8680.02		35555.80	
	2019	MAY	8659.81		44215.61	
	2019	JUNE	11201.45		55417.06	
	2019	JULY	9050.64		64467.70	
	2019	AUGUST	10175.44		74643.14	
	2019	SEPTEMBER	8312.18		82955.32	
	2019	OCTOBER	8820.70		91776.02	
	2019	NOVEMBER	7834.30		99610.32	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44211

Date 04 May 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
VITAL STATISTICS SHIPPING CHAR	2023	JANUARY	134.35		134.35	
	2023	FEBRUARY	-203.92		-69.57	
	2023	MARCH	173.00		103.43	
	2023	APRIL	-124.85		-21.42	
	2022	JANUARY	53.60		53.60	
	2022	FEBRUARY	138.15		191.75	
	2022	MARCH	-27.05		164.70	
	2022	APRIL	89.50		254.20	
	2022	MAY	-134.45		119.75	
	2022	JUNE	223.70		343.45	
	2022	JULY	-184.21		159.24	
	2022	AUGUST	-62.85		96.39	
	2022	SEPTEMBER	45.05		141.44	
	2022	OCTOBER	391.55		532.99	
	2022	NOVEMBER	-316.50		216.49	
	2022	DECEMBER	93.60		310.09	
	2021	JANUARY	-3.10		-3.10	
	2021	FEBRUARY	-49.80		-52.90	
	2021	MARCH	43.60		-9.30	
	2021	APRIL	107.90		98.60	
	2021	MAY	-123.80		-25.20	
	2021	JUNE	126.75		101.55	
	2021	JULY	0.45		102.00	
	2021	AUGUST	-103.75		-1.75	
	2021	SEPTEMBER	58.15		56.40	
	2021	OCTOBER	-90.20		-33.80	
	2021	NOVEMBER	98.45		64.65	
	2021	DECEMBER	6.70		71.35	
	2020	JANUARY	80.10		80.10	
	2020	FEBRUARY	43.55		123.65	
	2020	MARCH	-3.10		120.55	
	2020	APRIL	204.60		325.15	
	2020	MAY	-260.40		64.75	
	2020	JUNE	-131.75		-67.00	
	2020	JULY	86.80		19.80	
	2020	AUGUST	-68.20		-48.40	
	2020	SEPTEMBER	15.50		-32.90	
	2020	OCTOBER	35.85		2.95	
	2020	NOVEMBER	-18.60		-15.65	
	2020	DECEMBER	-94.55		-110.20	
	2019	JANUARY	41.40		41.40	
	2019	FEBRUARY	51.75		93.15	
	2019	MARCH	-43.65		49.50	
	2019	APRIL	25.50		75.00	
	2019	MAY	-12.94		62.06	
	2019	JUNE	116.25		178.31	
	2019	JULY	44.10		222.41	
	2019	AUGUST	-7.80		214.61	
	2019	SEPTEMBER	-141.75		72.86	
	2019	OCTOBER	-40.20		32.66	
	2019	NOVEMBER	76.05		108.71	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44215

Date 04 May 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
PATERNITY AFFIDAVITS	2023	FEBRUARY		120.00		120.00
	2022	MARCH		80.00		80.00
	2022	JUNE		60.00		140.00
	2022	AUGUST		160.00		300.00
	2022	NOVEMBER		120.00		420.00
	2022	DECEMBER		20.00		440.00
	2021	FEBRUARY		160.00		160.00
	2021	MAY		40.00		200.00
	2021	DECEMBER		20.00		220.00
	2019	FEBRUARY		80.00		80.00
	2019	MAY		80.00		160.00
Total					940.00	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44281

Date 04 May 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
FSO RESTAURANT LICENSE	2023	JANUARY	848.00		848.00	
	2023	FEBRUARY	35233.00		36081.00	
	2023	MARCH	24797.19		60878.19	
	2023	APRIL	1072.50		61950.69	
	2022	JANUARY	323.00		323.00	
	2022	FEBRUARY	20502.50		20825.50	
	2022	MARCH	15041.50		35867.00	
	2022	APRIL	1560.25		37427.25	
	2022	MAY	70.50		37497.75	
	2022	JUNE	1211.50		38709.25	
	2022	JULY	1972.50		40681.75	
	2022	AUGUST	639.00		41320.75	
	2022	SEPTEMBER	643.50		41964.25	
	2022	OCTOBER	842.00		42806.25	
	2022	NOVEMBER	405.00		43211.25	
	2022	DECEMBER	900.00		44111.25	
	2021	JANUARY	199.36		199.36	
	2021	FEBRUARY	28067.00		28266.36	
	2021	MARCH	23096.00		51362.36	
	2021	APRIL	3939.50		55301.86	
	2021	MAY	1834.50		57136.36	
	2021	JUNE	1677.00		58813.36	
	2021	JULY	3537.50		62350.86	
	2021	AUGUST	1640.00		63990.86	
	2021	SEPTEMBER	946.00		64936.86	
	2021	OCTOBER	545.00		65481.86	
	2021	NOVEMBER	674.00		66155.86	
	2021	DECEMBER	567.00		66722.86	
	2020	JANUARY	795.00		795.00	
	2020	FEBRUARY	40896.32		41691.32	
	2020	MARCH	17632.75		59324.07	
	2020	APRIL	983.50		60307.57	
	2020	MAY	542.50		60850.07	
	2020	JUNE	507.00		61357.07	
	2020	JULY	1367.00		62724.07	
	2020	AUGUST	1470.00		64194.07	
	2020	SEPTEMBER	806.00		65000.07	
	2020	OCTOBER	-570.00		64430.07	
	2020	NOVEMBER	934.00		65364.07	
	2020	DECEMBER	1249.64		66613.71	
	2019	JANUARY	1179.00		1179.00	
	2019	FEBRUARY	36346.50		37525.50	
	2019	MARCH	23426.25		60951.75	
	2019	APRIL	817.50		61769.25	
	2019	MAY	1609.50		63378.75	
	2019	JUNE	1004.00		64382.75	
	2019	JULY	1029.50		65412.25	
	2019	AUGUST	506.00		65918.25	
	2019	SEPTEMBER	770.00		66688.25	
	2019	OCTOBER	93.00		66781.25	
	2019	NOVEMBER	393.50		67174.75	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44282

Date 04 May 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE	2023	JANUARY		300.00		300.00
	2023	FEBRUARY		13216.00		13516.00
	2023	MARCH		8676.75		22192.75
	2023	APRIL		482.50		22675.25
	2022	FEBRUARY		12010.00		12010.00
	2022	MARCH		3381.00		15391.00
	2022	APRIL		166.00		15557.00
	2022	MAY		300.00		15857.00
	2022	SEPTEMBER		84.00		15941.00
	2022	NOVEMBER		300.00		16241.00
	2022	DECEMBER		471.00		16712.00
	2021	FEBRUARY		12292.00		12292.00
	2021	MARCH		11461.00		23753.00
	2021	APRIL		391.00		24144.00
	2021	JUNE		421.50		24565.50
	2021	JULY		531.25		25096.75
	2021	AUGUST		717.00		25813.75
	2021	SEPTEMBER		185.00		25998.75
	2021	OCTOBER		370.00		26368.75
	2021	DECEMBER		323.00		26691.75
	2020	JANUARY		234.00		234.00
	2020	FEBRUARY		16938.00		17172.00
	2020	MARCH		7535.00		24707.00
	2020	APRIL		991.00		25698.00
	2020	JUNE		95.00		25793.00
	2020	SEPTEMBER		767.00		26560.00
	2020	OCTOBER		673.00		27233.00
	2020	NOVEMBER		580.00		27813.00
	2020	DECEMBER		185.00		27998.00
	2019	FEBRUARY		17873.00		17873.00
	2019	MARCH		6261.75		24134.75
	2019	APRIL		300.00		24434.75
	2019	MAY		185.00		24619.75
	2019	JULY		150.00		24769.75
	2019	SEPTEMBER		452.00		25221.75
	2019	OCTOBER		374.00		25595.75
	2019	NOVEMBER		335.00		25930.75

Total

120007.75

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44280

Account	Year	Month	Date 04 May 2023		
			Total	Month	Total YTD
VENDING LICENSE	2023	FEBRUARY		611.49	611.49
	2023	MARCH		37.06	648.55
	2022	FEBRUARY		51.96	51.96
	2022	MARCH		571.56	623.52
	2021	JANUARY		34.64	34.64
	2021	FEBRUARY		17.32	51.96
	2021	MARCH		629.52	681.48
	2021	APRIL		-23.32	658.16
	2020	FEBRUARY		617.52	617.52
	2020	MARCH		17.32	634.84
	2019	FEBRUARY		629.00	629.00
	2019	MARCH		106.25	735.25
Total				3300.32	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44284

Account	Year	Month	Date 04 May 2023		
			Total	Month	Total YTD
FOOD SAFETY CLASSES	2023	MARCH	210.00		210.00
	2021	OCTOBER	60.00		60.00
	2020	MARCH	150.00		150.00
	2019	JANUARY	300.00		300.00
	2019	MARCH	120.00		420.00
	2019	MAY	90.00		510.00
	2019	JULY	30.00		540.00
	2019	AUGUST	30.00		570.00
Total			990.00		

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44283

Date 04 May 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE	2023	JANUARY	2337.50		2337.50	
	2023	FEBRUARY	205.00		2542.50	
	2023	MARCH	155.00		2697.50	
	2023	APRIL	47.23		2744.73	
	2022	JANUARY	1361.25		1361.25	
	2022	MARCH	802.98		2164.23	
	2022	MAY	130.00		2294.23	
	2022	JUNE	120.00		2414.23	
	2022	SEPTEMBER	287.05		2701.28	
	2022	OCTOBER	100.00		2801.28	
	2022	DECEMBER	1940.00		4741.28	
	2021	JANUARY	1730.00		1730.00	
	2021	FEBRUARY	1180.00		2910.00	
	2021	MARCH	295.00		3205.00	
	2021	APRIL	2742.56		5947.56	
	2021	MAY	15.00		5962.56	
	2021	JULY	65.00		6027.56	
	2021	AUGUST	180.00		6207.56	
	2021	SEPTEMBER	3324.45		9532.01	
	2021	OCTOBER	-74.00		9458.01	
	2021	NOVEMBER	406.00		9864.01	
	2021	DECEMBER	1750.00		11614.01	
	2020	JANUARY	6583.25		6583.25	
	2020	FEBRUARY	3840.00		10423.25	
	2020	MARCH	3190.28		13613.53	
	2020	APRIL	2075.00		15688.53	
	2020	MAY	340.00		16028.53	
	2020	JUNE	1315.00		17343.53	
	2020	JULY	180.00		17523.53	
	2020	AUGUST	140.00		17663.53	
	2020	SEPTEMBER	156.62		17820.15	
	2020	DECEMBER	1340.00		19160.15	
	2019	JANUARY	2530.25		2530.25	
	2019	FEBRUARY	476.25		3006.50	
	2019	APRIL	188.75		3195.25	
	2019	MAY	15.00		3210.25	
	2019	JUNE	45.00		3255.25	
	2019	AUGUST	240.00		3495.25	
	2019	SEPTEMBER	208.25		3703.50	
	2019	OCTOBER	2450.00		6153.50	
	2019	NOVEMBER	4995.00		11148.50	
	2019	DECEMBER	8935.00		20083.50	

Total

58343.67

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44285

Date 04 May 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
SWIMMING POOL/SPA	2023	APRIL	3160.00		3160.00	
	2022	APRIL	3920.00		3920.00	
	2022	MAY	1829.00		5749.00	
	2022	JUNE	275.00		6024.00	
	2022	JULY	283.00		6307.00	
	2021	APRIL	3700.00		3700.00	
	2021	MAY	1945.00		5645.00	
	2020	APRIL	2320.00		2320.00	
	2020	MAY	660.00		2980.00	
	2020	JUNE	1985.00		4965.00	
	2020	JULY	440.00		5405.00	
	2020	AUGUST	220.00		5625.00	
	2019	APRIL	4440.00		4440.00	
	2019	MAY	1545.00		5985.00	
Total			26722.00			

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44286

Account	Year	Month	Date 04 May 2023		
			Total	Month	Total YTD
TATTOO LICENSE	2023	JANUARY	562.50	562.50	562.50
	2022	JANUARY	562.50	562.50	562.50
	2022	JUNE	250.00	812.50	812.50
	2022	DECEMBER	1500.00	2312.50	2312.50
	2021	JANUARY	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
	2021	JULY	250.00	1250.00	1250.00
	2021	NOVEMBER	500.00	1750.00	1750.00
	2021	DECEMBER	750.00	2500.00	2500.00
	2020	JANUARY	812.50	812.50	812.50
	2020	AUGUST	250.00	1062.50	1062.50
	2020	DECEMBER	500.00	1562.50	1562.50
	2019	JANUARY	1250.00	1250.00	1250.00
	2019	DECEMBER	750.00	2000.00	2000.00
Total			8937.50		

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44287

Account	Year	Month	Date 04 May 2023		
			Total	Month	Total YTD
PARK/CAMPS LICENSE FEES	2023	APRIL	163.00		163.00
	2022	MARCH	100.00		100.00
	2022	APRIL	113.00		213.00
	2021	APRIL	213.00		213.00
	2020	APRIL	100.00		100.00
	2020	MAY	113.00		213.00
	2019	APRIL	100.00		100.00
Total			902.00		

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.49100

Account	Year	Month	Date 04 May 2023		
			Total	Month	Total YTD
REIMBURSEMENTS	2023	JANUARY	7756.78		7756.78
	2023	MARCH	3314.59		11071.37
	2023	APRIL	3622.37		14693.74
	2022	JANUARY	451.92		451.92
	2022	FEBRUARY	775.00		1226.92
	2022	MARCH	12263.09		13490.01
	2022	APRIL	56288.07		69778.08
	2022	MAY	4509.89		74287.97
	2022	JUNE	22525.43		96813.40
	2022	SEPTEMBER	20564.64		117378.04
	2022	OCTOBER	3964.75		121342.79
	2022	DECEMBER	15386.55		136729.34
	2021	JANUARY	250.00		250.00
	2021	FEBRUARY	1667.10		1917.10
	2021	MARCH	11270.58		13187.68
	2021	APRIL	134.34		13322.02
	2021	MAY	3685.00		17007.02
	2021	JUNE	46169.56		63176.58
	2021	JULY	2325.00		65501.58
	2021	AUGUST	8990.39		74491.97
	2021	SEPTEMBER	19569.42		94061.39
	2021	OCTOBER	1935.97		95997.36
	2021	NOVEMBER	1800.00		97797.36
	2021	DECEMBER	69141.70		166939.06
	2020	FEBRUARY	9708.10		9708.10
	2020	MARCH	33887.93		43596.03
	2020	MAY	8285.37		51881.40
	2020	JULY	10493.82		62375.22
	2020	AUGUST	6512.59		68887.81
	2020	SEPTEMBER	26994.04		95881.85
	2020	OCTOBER	3943.65		99825.50
	2020	NOVEMBER	8662.57		108488.07
	2020	DECEMBER	25465.01		133953.08
	2019	JANUARY	580.00		580.00
	2019	FEBRUARY	1515.48		2095.48
	2019	MAY	1578.76		3674.24
	2019	JULY	24524.57		28198.81
	2019	AUGUST	1336.04		29534.85
	2019	OCTOBER	43347.25		72882.10
	2019	NOVEMBER	348.39		73230.49
	2019	DECEMBER	3241.04		76471.53
Total				528786.75	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44225

Date 04 May 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
IMMUNIZATION CLINICS	2022	MARCH	1200.00		1200.00	
	2022	DECEMBER	3000.00		4200.00	
	2021	DECEMBER	3000.00		3000.00	
	2020	DECEMBER	3000.00		3000.00	
	2019	JANUARY	40.00		40.00	
	2019	FEBRUARY	150.00		190.00	
	2019	MARCH	300.00		490.00	
	2019	APRIL	20.00		510.00	
	2019	JULY	40.00		550.00	
	2019	OCTOBER	3000.00		3550.00	
Total			13750.00			

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.43370

Account	Year	Month	Date 04 May 2023		
			Total	Month	Total YTD
PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEV GR2023		MARCH	35650.42		35650.42
	2022	JUNE	47808.32		47808.32
	2022	SEPTEMBER	26792.77		74601.09
	2022	DECEMBER	30438.44		105039.53
Total			140689.95		

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.43368

Account	Year	Month	Date 04 May 2023		
			Total	Month	Total YTD
COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING GRANT	2023	MARCH	6538.40		6538.40
	2022	JANUARY	98050.00	98050.00	
	2022	MAY	52157.10	150207.10	
	2021	OCTOBER	9282.75	9282.75	
	2020	AUGUST	19071.07	19071.07	
	2020	OCTOBER	66715.14	85786.21	
	2020	NOVEMBER	49304.97	135091.18	
	2020	DECEMBER	32856.00	167947.18	
Total			333975.43		

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.43330

Account	Year	Month	Date 04 May 2023		
			Total	Month	Total YTD
STATE HEALTH SUBSIDY	2023	FEBRUARY	20100.36		20100.36
	2023	MARCH	9329.20		29429.56
	2022	MAY	9333.70		9333.70
	2021	APRIL	9135.25		9135.25
	2020	MARCH	9135.25		9135.25
	2019	JULY	9135.25		9135.25
Total		66169.01			

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.43367

Date 04 May 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE GRANT	2022	MARCH	24022.00		24022.00	
	2021	JANUARY	8990.39		8990.39	
	2021	FEBRUARY	20000.00		28990.39	
	2021	MARCH	5000.00		33990.39	
	2021	AUGUST	18459.61		52450.00	
	2021	SEPTEMBER	229857.75		282307.75	
	2021	OCTOBER	-9282.75		273025.00	
	2021	NOVEMBER	98382.00		371407.00	
	2020	AUGUST	14903.27		14903.27	
	2020	SEPTEMBER	10268.82		25172.09	
	2020	OCTOBER	37951.91		63124.00	
	2020	DECEMBER	235997.00		299121.00	
Total			694550.00			

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.43332

Date 04 May 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
BUREAU CHILDRENS MEDICAL HANDI	2022	NOVEMBER	700.00		700.00	
	2019	JANUARY	430.00		430.00	
	2019	FEBRUARY	1320.00		1750.00	
	2019	MARCH	190.00		1940.00	
	2019	APRIL	820.00		2760.00	
	2019	MAY	930.00		3690.00	
	2019	JUNE	510.00		4200.00	
	2019	JULY	1740.00		5940.00	
	2019	AUGUST	810.00		6750.00	
	2019	SEPTEMBER	1090.00		7840.00	
	2019	OCTOBER	1350.00		9190.00	
	2019	NOVEMBER	10.00		9200.00	
Total			9900.00			

Health Commissioner Notes

April 2023

T21 Update

- Meeting with Kristina Latta to clarify Interact grant application and density and youth serving areas distance exp: parks, schools, libraries etc.
- Discussed Delta 8 and 9 issues and Moratorium on tobacco shops
- Must contain .3% or less THC

Grant OHIZ

- Continue to meet with Ambassadors
- "See my Neighborhood" Bus ride 4/20 success over 50 people in attendance
- Walk n Talk 4/29 successful approx. 30 in attendance
- Next walk 5/6 11 am

City of Middletown

- Continue to Meet w/ CM
- "Not in Middletown" meeting w/ CM and Rhonda Molina

BC Housing Meetings Continue

- Meeting for unhouse to be determined waiting on dates from Dr Rasmus MHARS Director

BC Cares

- Continue to meet to discuss county wide issues and initiatives and issues
- Meet w/ C. Carpenter, E. Balster, D. Bates, S. Rasmus, T. Smith

OneOhio Opiate Meetings Continue

- Continue to meet with Butler County
- Next meeting on 5/18

PHAB

- Community Health Ax (CHA) Survey is closed total 888 surveys are back
- Focus groups to begin once we land on priorities
- Next meeting 5/10

FCFC Council

- Ex Committee
- Full Council-SWOT with the Mental Health Board

Internal Meetings and Task

- Staff Meeting/Workforce Development
- Monthly CMHD staff meeting – Safety discussion,
- Active shooter video, Avoid, Deny, Defend (ADD), discussed our plan
- Weekly Sr. Staff Meetings
- Submitted Workforce Development Grant
- New Workforce Development Grant-possible summer interns, health educator
- Discussions on Community initiatives, Grants, CBI, Community Foundation



Butler County Monthly Communicable Disease Surveillance Report

April of 2023

Jordan Luttrell-Freeman, MPH

Luttrell-freemanj@butlercountyohio.org

Notifiable Communicable Diseases

Summary:

- Number of Disease Cases Reported in Butler County: 631
- Most Frequently Reported: COVID-19, Chlamydia, Hepatitis C, Gonococcal infection, and Hepatitis B.

Table 1. Comparison of Reported Cases of Confirmed or Probable Notifiable Communicable Diseases, April 2023 (excluding Chlamydia infection and gonorrhea)

	Reported Cases	Rate per 100,000	Rate Ratio	Confidence Interval
State of Ohio (excluding BC)	18,988	166.4	-	-
Butler County	492	126.0	0.757	0.693-0.828

Interpretation: The residents of Butler County were 24% less likely to be the subject of a notifiable disease report when compared to the rest of Ohio as a whole. These results are statistically significant. (excluding Chlamydia infection and Gonorrhea)

Table 2.* Communicable Diseases by Jurisdiction (April 2023)

Jurisdiction	Count	Rate per 100,000	Change from Previous Month
Butler County General Health District	395	143.1	↓41.0% from March 2023 (n=669)
Middletown City Health Department	104	203.8	↓40.9% from March 2023 (n=176)
City of Hamilton Health Department	132	208.2	↓33.0% from March 2023 (n=197)
Butler County (all inclusive)	631	161.6	↓39.4% from March 2023 (n=1,042)

Table 3.* Butler County Reportable Diseases by Subgroups (April 2023)

Reportable Disease Subgroup	Count	Trend
Viral Hepatitis (B and C)	48	↓11.1% from March 2023 (n=54)
Sexually-Transmitted Infections (Chlamydia infection, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and HIV)	139	↓4.1% from March 2023 (n=145)
Enteric Diseases (Hepatitis A, Amebiasis, Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, Cyclosporiasis, STEC, Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis, Vibriosis and Yersiniosis)	15	↑87.5% from March 2023 (n=8)
Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (COVID-19, influenza-associated hospitalizations, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , Bacterial meningitis, Mumps, Pertussis, invasive <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , Tetanus, and Varicella)	414	↓49.1% from March 2023 (n=814)

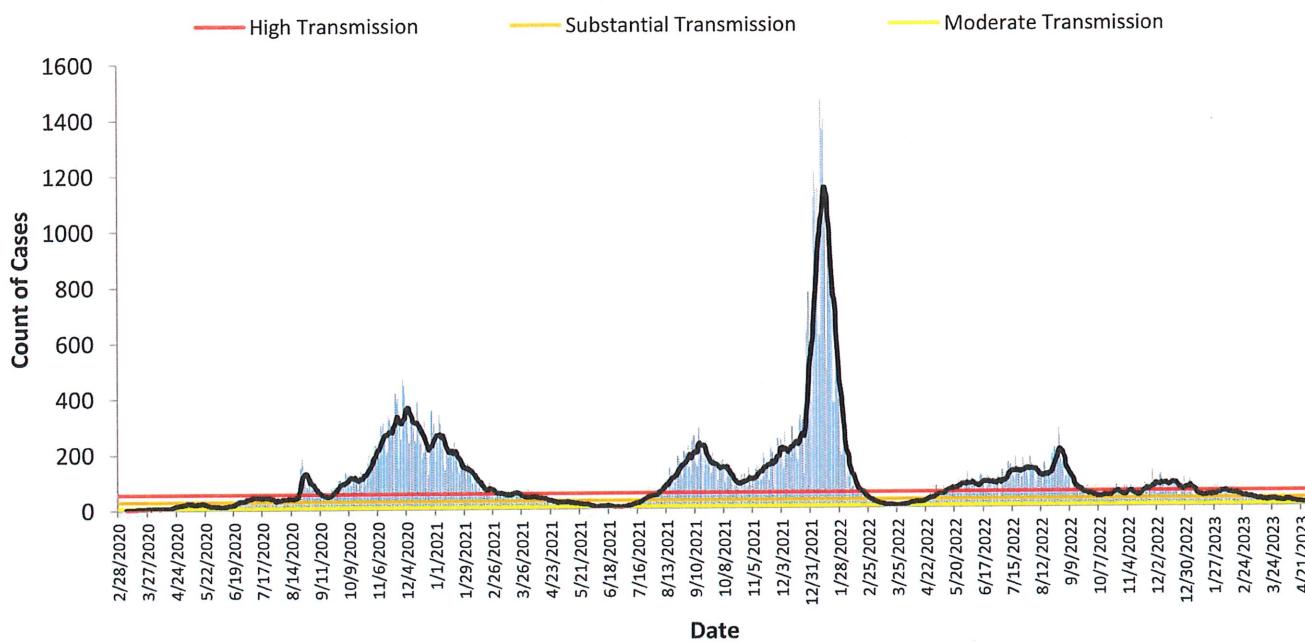
*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported.

*COVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of April 1-30, 2023 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 5/2/2023

Table 4.* Diseases Reported in Butler County (April 2023)

Jurisdictions	Butler County General Health District	Middletown City Health Department	City of Hamilton Health Department	Butler County (all inclusive)
Campylobacteriosis	1	1	0	2
Chlamydia infection	60	25	24	109
COVID-19	278	59	70	407
CP-CRE	3	1	2	6
Cryptosporidiosis	1	0	0	1
Giardiasis	1	0	1	2
Gonococcal infection	11	6	7	24
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	3	0	0	3
Hepatitis A	1	0	0	1
Hepatitis B	10	3	4	17
Hepatitis C	8	8	15	31
HIV	3	0	1	4
Influenza-associated hospitalization	1	0	1	2
Legionellosis	1	0	0	1
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	2	0	0	2
Meningitis - bacterial (Not N. meningitidis)	0	0	1	1
Pertussis	1	0	1	2
Salmonellosis	6	0	2	8
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	1	0	0	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae	0	0	1	1
Syphilis	1	1	0	2
Tuberculosis	0	0	1	1
Varicella	1	0	1	2
Vibriosis (not cholera)	1	0	0	1
Total	395	104	132	132

Figure 1. Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Date of Event 2020-2023*



*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported. Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported. COVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of April 1-30, 2023 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODH) on 5/2/2023

Butler County Reportable Disease Surveillance

Table 6 outlines Butler County's select, reportable disease counts by year, that were classified as either "probable" or "confirmed" during the years of 2017 through 2022 and provides a 5-year average (2018-2022) column for comparison. Graph includes those diseases that represent a consistent threat to public health.

Table 6.* Reported Probable/Confirmed Cases in Butler County (2017–2023)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5 Year Avg.	Up to 3/31/2023
Amebiasis	2	1	0	1	1	1	0
Botulism- wound	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Brucellosis	0	0	0	2	0	<1	0
Candida auris (not reportable prior to 2019)	-	0	0	1	13	-	3
Campylobacteriosis	33	45	30	35	48	38.2	9
Chlamydia infection	1,592	1,631	1,512	1,406	1359	1,500	422
COVID-19 (not reportable prior to 2020)	-	-	26,420	39,521	49323	38,421.33	3,971
CP- CRE (not reportable prior to 2019)	-	4	10	11	12	9.25	11
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	1	2	0	1	1	1	0
Cryptosporidiosis	6	4	6	5	7	5.6	2
Cyclosporiasis	4	2	0	0	1	1.4	0
Dengue	0	1	0	1	1	0.6	0
E. coli, Shiga-Toxin Producing	14	11	14	15	17	14.2	3
Ehrlichiosis-Ehrlichia chaffeensis	0	0	1	1	1	<1	0
Giardiasis	12	12	4	14	7	9.8	5
Gonococcal Infection	668	732	651	480	473	600.8	107
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	17	10	7	6	11	10.2	7
Hemolytic uremic syndrome	0	0	0	1	0	<1	0
Hepatitis A	304	104	2	1	0	82.2	0
Hepatitis B - acute/chronic/perinatal	166	109	67	85	78	101	35
Hepatitis C – acute/chronic/perinatal	750	552	486	434	390	522.4	118
HIV	43	24	17	58	38	36	13
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	479	325	266	18	306	278.8	27
Legionellosis – Legionnaires' Disease	16	17	10	9	15	13.4	4
Hansen's disease	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Listeriosis	1	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Lyme Disease	4	3	2	0	2	2.2	0
Malaria	2	2	2	1	3	2	0
Meningitis – aseptic/viral	16	25	9	14	10	14.8	4
Meningitis – bacterial (not N. meningitidis)	3	4	3	3	11	4.8	2
Meningococcal dz. – Neisseria meningitidis	0	0	0	0	0	<1	0
MIS-C associated with COVID-19	-	-	-	15	7	-	1
Mpox (not reportable prior to 2022)	-	-	-	-	4	-	0
Mumps	2	1	0	0	0	<1	0
Pertussis	16	38	13	3	3	14.6	2
Salmonellosis	32	32	20	26	34	28.8	16
Salmonella Typhi (Typhoid Fever)	0	0	0	2	0	<1	0
Shigellosis	45	7	8	3	6	13.8	1
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (including RMSF)	0	0	2	0	1	<1	0
Streptococcal – Group A – invasive	23	24	27	24	34	26.4	16
Streptococcal – Group B – in newborn	3	0	1	0	1	1	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae – Invasive	54	59	31	33	40	43.4	13
Syphilis (all stages)	47	11	17	23	45	28.6	15
Tuberculosis (active)	2	8	6	7	8	6.2	0
Varicella	13	14	1	5	8	8.2	5
Vibriosis (not Cholera)	2	1	0	2	2	1.4	1
West Nile Virus Disease	0	0	0	0	0	<1	0
Yersiniosis	0	1	0	1	2	<1	3

*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported.

^aCOVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of April 1-30, 2023 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 5/2/2023



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General Health District

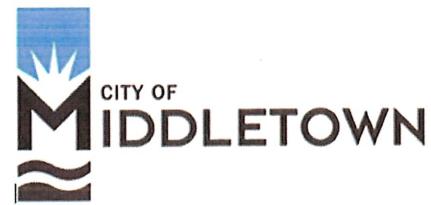


Figure 1: Middletown SSP Site Visitors by Month for 2022 and 2023

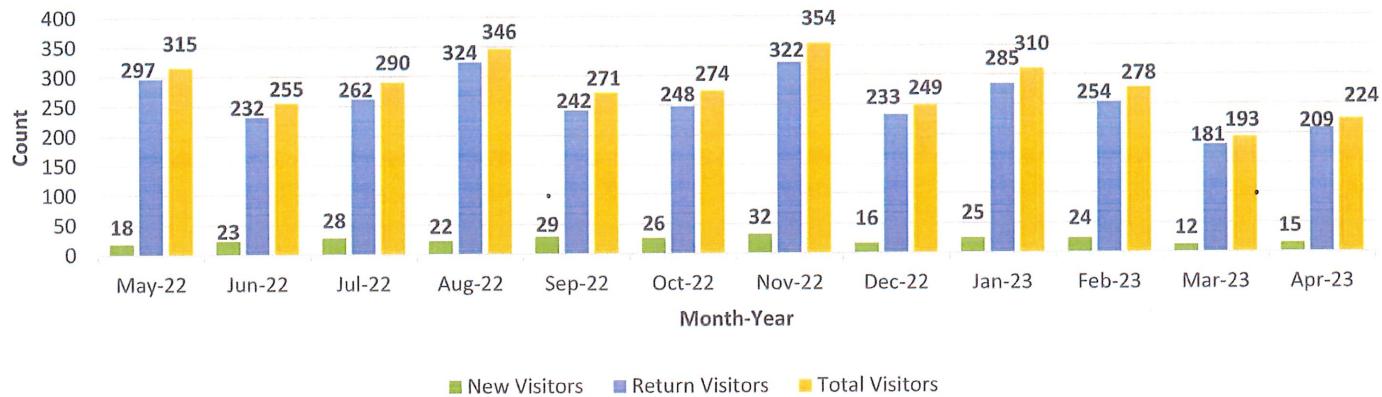


Figure 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Middletown SSP Site for 2022 and 2023

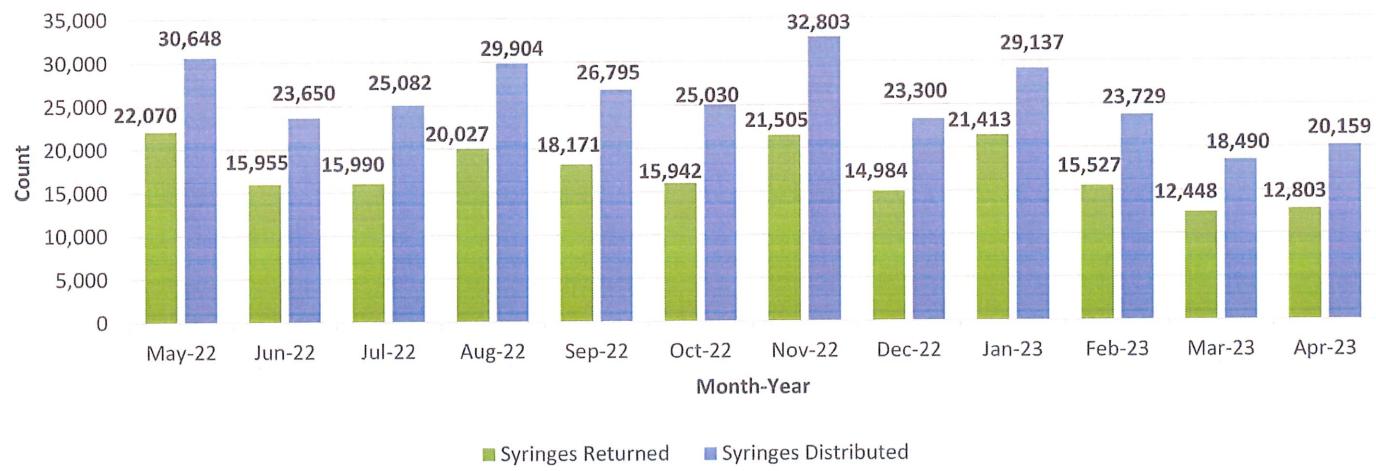


Table 1: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Visitors' Home County of Residence for the Middletown SSP Site for April 2023

County	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Butler County, OH	11,436	18,319	62.43%
Hamilton County, OH	0	40	0.00%
Montgomery County, OH	25	280	8.93%
Preble County, OH	456	450	101.33%
Scioto County, OH	15	40	37.50%
Warren County, OH	871	1,030	84.57%
Total	12,803	20,159	63.51%

Source: Access Counseling Regional Harm Reduction Collaborative Middletown Syringe Service Program Site, Data is provisional and subject to change, Data obtained April 28, 2023



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General Health District



CITY OF
MIDDLETOWN

Table 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Zip Code - City for the Middletown SSP Site by Butler County Visitors' Home Residence for April 2023

Zip Code - City	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Middletown			
45042	2,193	3,900	56.23%
45044	8,377	10,489	79.86%
Middletown Total	10,570	14,389	73.46%
Hamilton			
45011	471	2,940	16.02%
45013	115	580	19.83%
45015	130	180	72.22%
Hamilton Total	716	3,700	19.35%
45056 - Oxford	0	40	0.00%
45067 - Trenton	150	190	78.95%
Butler County Total	11,436	18,319	62.43%

Figure 3: Naloxone Kits and Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed by Month for the Middletown SSP Site for 2022 and 2023



Source: Access Counseling Regional Harm Reduction Collaborative Middletown Syringe Service Program Site, Data is provisional and subject to change, Data obtained April 28, 2023

Syringe Service Program (SSP)

Syringe Service Program hours and opportunities for education, prevention and rehabilitation services:

Oxford

Wednesdays

11:00 AM - 1:00PM

12 West Church Street, Oxford, 45056

Services offered in parking lot

Fairfield

Thursdays

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM,

3000 Mack Road, Fairfield, 45014,

Services offered in back parking lot

Middletown

Fridays

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

4464 S. Dixie Highway, Middletown, 45005

Services offered at back of property near fence



City of Middletown Health Department
Middletown, Ohio

A Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

Smoking Complaint Spreadsheet

For April 2023

	Business Name	Date	Notice of Report	Dismissed	Notice of Violation (30 Days)	Letter of Warning (15 Days)	Civil Fine Letter	Violation Contested	Notice of Hearing	Additional Comments
1	Cracker Barrel	3/31/23	X							Complaint states that employees are vaping in break room. To be investigated.
2										
3										

Notes:

Billy T's owes \$1200 in fines, unpaid.

Buster's Bar owes \$200 in fines, unpaid.

City of Middletown Health Department

April 2023

Vital Statistics

	MONTHLY	YTD
Birth Certificates Filed	61	258
Death Certificates Filed	94	354
Birth Certificates Issued	324	1414
Death Certificates Issued	340	1425
Indigent Cremation Services	0	10

Deaths Filed

Accidental		
Drug Overdose	0	8
Falls	0	6
Motor Vehicle	4	4
Exposure to Elements	0	2
Choking	0	0
Homicide	0	2
Suicide	0	2
COVID-19 Related Deaths	0	3
Could Not Be Determined	0	0
Pending Investigation	11	11

**Totals reflect City of Middletown residents that died inside of city limits only

Environmental Inspections

	MONTHLY	YTD
Food Service Operations(FSO)	41	126
Retail Food Establishments(RFE)	19	62
Prelicense/Consultations	5	24
Sewage Inspections	1	1
School Inspections	7	12
Vending Locations	0	0
Temporary FSO/RFE	1	2
Mobile FSO/RFE	5	10
Complaints	5	21
Smoking Complaint Inspections	0	1
Swimming Pools	0	29
Tattoo	0	0
Temp Park/Park Camp	0	0
Jail Inspection	0	0
Site Visit (Septic)	0	0
Well Inspection	0	0

Level 1 Certification Training

Number of Attendees

0

Animal Bite Events

Dog

15

31

Cat

1

4

Bat

0

0

Raccoon-Animal Exposure

1

1

[Home](#) > [Health Information](#) > [Kratom](#)

Kratom

Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) is a tree in the coffee family, found in Thailand and neighboring countries. Traditionally, in Southeast Asia, people have chewed its leaves or made them into a tea that is used to fight fatigue and improve work productivity. Kratom has also traditionally been used during religious ceremonies and to treat symptoms such as pain and diarrhea, sometimes as a substitute for opium.

Two compounds from kratom, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, interact with opioid receptors in the brain. People who use kratom have reported both stimulant-like effects (increased energy, alertness, rapid heart rate) and effects like those of opioids and sedatives (relaxation, pain relief, confusion).

Some people in Western countries use kratom to try to treat pain or manage opioid withdrawal symptoms.

Research on kratom is in its early stages. Much remains to be learned about the short- and long-term effects of kratom in the body, its safety, and whether it may have therapeutic uses.

Bottom Line

- Very little research in people has evaluated the health effects of kratom; additional research is currently in progress. People have reported using kratom to manage opioid withdrawal symptoms and cravings, and researchers are studying whether kratom is helpful for this purpose. However, kratom has not been shown to be safe and effective for this or any other medical use.
- Kratom is currently legal and accessible online and in stores in many areas of the United States. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has listed kratom as a “drug of concern,” but kratom and kratom compounds are not listed in the U.S. schedule of controlled substances. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved kratom as safe and effective for any medical purpose.
- Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, kratom is considered a new dietary ingredient since it was not marketed as a dietary ingredient in the United States before October 15, 1994; evidence of safety is required for new dietary ingredients. The FDA has seized some shipments of kratom products labeled as dietary supplements.

Safety

- Although people may use kratom to try to overcome opioid addiction, kratom itself may have the potential to be addictive. Regular kratom users may experience withdrawal symptoms if they stop using it.
- A variety of side effects of kratom have been reported. They include mild effects, such as nausea, constipation, dizziness, and drowsiness, and rare but serious effects such as seizures, high blood pressure, and liver problems.
- Fatal overdoses from kratom alone appear to be extremely rare. The use of kratom in combination with other drugs has been linked to deaths and severe adverse effects such as liver problems. More research is needed on drug interactions involving kratom.
- The long-term effects of kratom use are not well understood. There have been reports that long-term use of large doses of kratom may cause serious liver problems in some people.
- Harmful contaminants such as heavy metals and disease-causing bacteria have been found in some kratom products.

For More Information

NCCIH Clearinghouse

The NCCIH Clearinghouse provides information on NCCIH and complementary and integrative health approaches, including publications and searches of Federal databases of scientific and medical literature. The Clearinghouse does not provide medical advice, treatment recommendations, or referrals to practitioners.

Toll-free in the U.S.: 1-888-644-6226

Telecommunications relay service (TRS): 7-1-1

Website: <https://www.nccih.nih.gov>

Email: info@nccih.nih.gov (link sends email)

Know the Science

NCCIH and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) provide tools to help you understand the basics and terminology of scientific research so you can make well-informed decisions about your health. [Know the Science](#) features a variety of materials, including interactive modules, quizzes, and videos, as well as links to informative content from Federal resources designed to help consumers make sense of health information.

[Explaining How Research Works](#) (NIH)

[Know the Science: 9 Questions To Help You Make Sense of Health Research](#)

[Understanding Clinical Studies \(NIH\)](#)

PubMed®

A service of the National Library of Medicine, PubMed® contains publication information and (in most cases) brief summaries of articles from scientific and medical journals. For guidance from NCCIH on using PubMed, see [How To Find Information About Complementary Health Approaches on PubMed](#).

Website: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>

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Last Updated: April 2022



INTERACT FOR HEALTH

- Tobacco 21 Policy Evaluation:
- Results and Lessons Learned

• MAY 1, 2023

SCAN To Register



**Join us for a
webinar on
May 1st**

**1:00–2:00 pm
(EST)**

Presenters



Dr. Maryse Amin, PhD, MS
Assistant Health
Commissioner, Cincinnati
Health Department



Kristina Latta
Chief Operating Officer,
Envision Partnerships



Wendy Hyde
OH/MI Regional Director,
Preventing Tobacco
Addiction Foundation



Megan Folkerth
Program Director of Health
Policy and Systems,
Interact for Health



Kelley Adcock
Senior Director of
Data and Learning,
Interact for Health

Interact for Health is
pleased to share a new
report:
**Tobacco 21 Policy
Evaluation: Reducing
Youth Tobacco Use
Through Policy
Change in Greater
Cincinnati.**



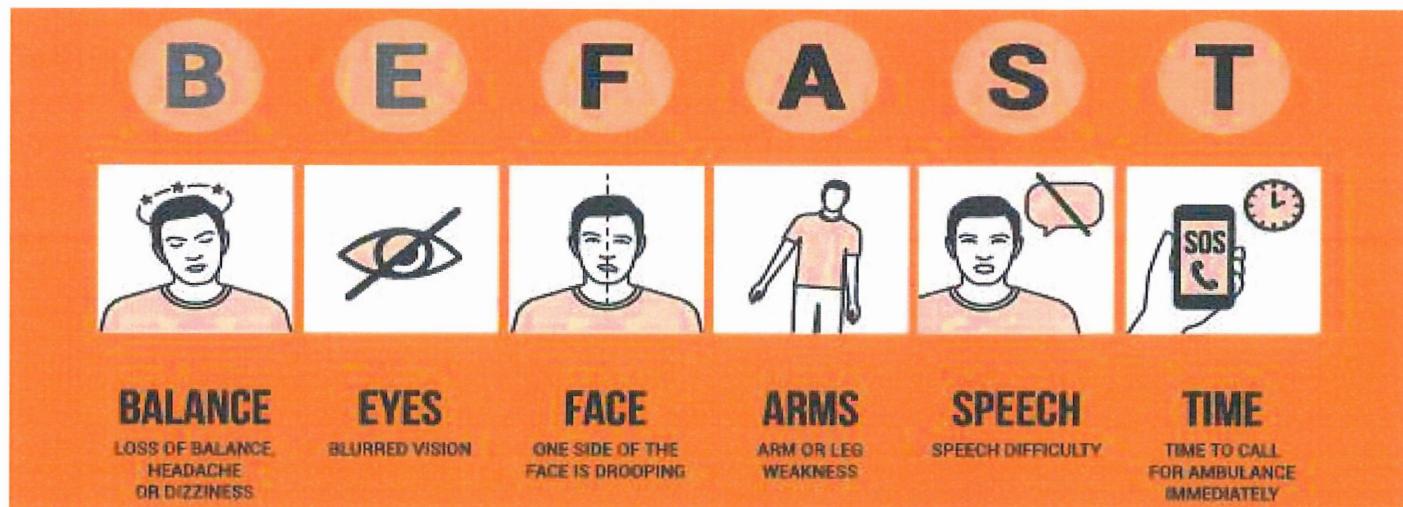
MAY IS NATIONAL STROKE AWARENESS MONTH

STOP Stroke • Act F.A.S.T. • Spread HOPE

May was declared National Stroke awareness Month in 1989. This year's campaign goals are to help reduce stroke risk and help people understand what happens when someone experiences a stroke.

A stroke occurs when there is a blockage of blood flow to the brain or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts. Blood supplies oxygen to the brain and when blood supply is interrupted and withheld the result is damage to portions of the brain or even death.

There can be signs that alert others of someone experiencing a stroke. The *B.E.F.A.S.T* campaign, (details below), is a quick reference to identify symptoms of a stroke and how to respond quickly to help save a life.



Knowing these signs and symptoms of stroke can enable you to act quickly to save a life, maybe even your own. Each minute of a stroke can cost brain recovery. "The best way to treat a stroke is to respond rapidly," says Mary Kalafut, MD, a neurologist at Scripps Clinic and stroke medical director for Scripps Health.

Stop by your City of Middletown Health Department Door for additional Stroke Awareness health topics to help you and your loved ones become aware of ways to prevent a stroke.

McDonald, Amanda

From: Phillips Carter, Jackie
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2023 11:07 AM
To: McDonald, Amanda
Subject: FW: Good read

Please put this email in board packet



Jackie Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN | Commissioner
City of Middletown — Health Department
1 Donham Plaza
Middletown, Ohio 45042-1932
(513) 425-7854 Office
(513) 425-7852 Fax



From: Hall, Olivia <oliviah@cityofmiddletown.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 9:37 AM
To: *mchd <mchd@cityofmiddletown.org>
Subject: Good read

Morning!

I saw a news headline this morning about the Surgeon General's advisory on loneliness and its impacts on health.
<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-social-connection-advisory.pdf>

The hard hitting statistic: lacking social connection has similar increased odds of premature mortality as someone who smokes 15 cigarettes a day.

Another interesting bit, communities that are more socially connected are more likely to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, and they are more resilient to disasters overall.

We've known about these things for a while now but I enjoyed the read regardless.

All the best,

Olivia

Wife of victim pleads for change in driving habits

Awareness campaign unveiled as distracted driving law takes effect.

BY ED RICHTER - STAFF WRITER

CLOSER LOOK

On the eve of an Ohio driver safety law taking effect, state officials turned to a Shelby County woman to recount how a distracted driver impacted the lives of her family.

"There's nothing that you've ever done on your phone at any point in time that is worth killing somebody for," said Leah Fullenkamp, whose husband was killed in June 2018 when his tractor was rear-ended by a driver in an SUV who was shopping online. In one day, Fullenkamp became a widow and a single mother with four children.

"We spend so many hours on social media and app companies spend a lot of money keeping us looking at our phones," she said.

"Through crash reconstruction, it was determined that the driver had about 16 seconds to look up before the crash."

Fullenkamp's comments were part of Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine's kickoff of the new distracted driving campaign that starts Tuesday with a six-month warning period to drivers seen using any wireless electronic device while driving.

Fullenkamp said drivers should activate the "Do Not Disturb" mode on their phones, or put their phones in the glove compartment before driving somewhere.

She called the new law “a huge accomplishment” and said she hopes her family’s story doesn’t become your family’s story.

The new law gives law enforcement the ability to pull over a distracted driver as a primary offense. After six months of warnings, starting on Oct. 5, citations will be issued with a penalty of a \$150 fine and two points on the motorist’s driving record.

The penalty increases with a second or third offense, and there is a two-year lookback period. If the violation is in a construction zone, the penalties are doubled.

Under the previous law, distracted driving was a primary offense only for juvenile drivers, preventing officers from stopping adult distracted drivers unless those drivers also committed a separate primary traffic violation, such as speeding or running a red light.

“Distracted driving crashes aren’t accidents, they’re the result of drivers who make the choice to divert their attention away from the road and risk their lives and the lives of everyone around them,” DeWine said. “Far too many people have been seriously injured and killed in Ohio because of poor choices behind the wheel, and we are certain that this new law will influence positive changes in behavior and save lives as a result.”

The new educational campaign encourages Ohio drivers to ‘Lock Your Screen Before You Rock the Road’ and includes a new website, billboards, printable posters, fact sheets, presentation slides, tip cards, and social media, radio, and television advertisements. Additional materials relay the simple, important message of ‘Phones Down. It’s the Law.’ As of Monday, the Ohio State Highway Patrol’s online OSTATS dashboard has recorded 2,058 secondary offense violations for distracted driving statewide from Jan. 1 to April 3, 2023, which is up from 1,993 for the same time period a year ago.

Area counties where the highway patrol has issued the most distracted driving citations include Warren County with 103; Butler County with 56; Clark County with 38; Clinton County with 29; Montgomery County with 21; Miami County with 13; Greene County with 11; Shelby and Preble

counties with 3; Champaign County with 1; and Darke County with zero.

Warren County leads the state for the number of distracted driving citations issued with 103, followed by Cuyahoga County, which includes Cleveland, with 101, according to Monday's dashboard update.

New research from Nationwide Insurance found that 42% of Ohio drivers surveyed admit making a phone call on a handheld device while driving, 25% say they've texted while driving, 10% have video chatted, and 5% admitted to watching TV or a movie while driving.

"There is nothing worse than having to knock on a door and inform someone that their loved one isn't coming home. We know distracted driving is dangerous, and we are hopeful that this new law will be a reminder of that," said Col. Charles Jones, Ohio State Highway Patrol superintendent.

According to the highway patrol, distracted driving has caused at least 62,324 crashes and 209 deaths in Ohio over the past five years to April 3, although distracted-driving crashes are believed to be significantly underreported.

Over the same fiveyear period to April 3, troopers have issued more than 41,330 distracted driving citations as a secondary offense.

"This goes beyond just texting.

We're now seeing drivers watching videos, updating social media, and browsing the web. When a driver chooses to look at their phone, they are impacting every single person on the roadway" said Jack Marchbanks, director of the Ohio Department of Transportation.

ODOT is also installing signage to educate motorists about the law at locations across the state. These include 45 signs at the state border on interstates and U.S. highways and 19 signs at exits near airports in Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Toledo.

There are some exceptions to the law, including allowing adult drivers to make or receive calls while using a hands-free device. Adult drivers are

also permitted to use GPS if they begin navigation before getting on the road.

Adult drivers are still permitted to hold a phone directly to their ear for a phone call, but devices may only be activated with a single touch or swipe while driving.

Adult drivers are also permitted to hold or use electronic devices while stopped at a traffic light or parked on a road or highway during an emergency or road closure. Both adults and juveniles can use phones at any time to report an emergency to first responders.

Multiple safety bills proposed after the big mess

EAST PALESTINE TRAIN DERAILMENT



Back on Feb. 4 a Norfolk Southern freight train was still on fire a day after it derailed in East Palestine, Ohio.

GENE J. PUSKAR / AP

BY KRISTEN SPICKER - STAFF WRITER

Legislation introduced this week aims to strengthen rail safety by examining derailments and providing warning equipment to railroad workers in the weeks following a train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, in February.

Introduced by U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown, Bob Casey and John Fetterman, the Railway Accountability Act would build upon the Railway Safety Act, which was proposed by Brown, Casey and Fetterman and Sens. JD Vance, Marco Rubio and Josh Hawley last month.

Both proposals came following the Norfolk Southern train derailment in East Palestine on Feb. 3. More than 30 cars derailed during the crash,

releasing hazardous materials.

"Rail lobbyists have fought for years to protect their profits at the expense of communities like East Palestine and Steubenville and Sandusky," said Brown. "These commonsense safety measures will finally hold big railroad companies accountable, make our railroads and the towns along them safer, and prevent future tragedies, so no community has to suffer like East Palestine again."

Brown, Casey and Fetterman also proposed the Assistance for Local Heroes During Train Crises Act in March, which would support first responders dispatched to the front lines of hazardous train derailments.

Under the Railway Accountability Act the Federal Railroad Administration would examine the causes of and potential mitigation strategies for wheel-related derailments and mechanical defects. The FRA would also publish potential regulations that could improve ways to avoid those defects.

Other aspects of the proposal include:

- Prohibiting trains from being moved during brake inspections
- Requiring mechanics to inspect a train or rail car to attest to its safety
- Having the FRA review regulations related to the operation of trains in switchyards and directing railroads to update plans under the Risk Reduction Program to include switchyard practice considerations
- Requiring the FRA to make Class I railroad safety waivers public online
- Requiring railroads to make sure communication checks between the front and end of a train don't fail and that emergency brake signals reach the end of a train
- Having Class I railroads participate in the Close Call Reporting System by requiring railroads that have paid the maximum civil penalty for a safety violation to join
- Having railroads provide warning equipment – white disks, red flags, whistles – to watchmen and lookouts

proposed in March with bipartisan support.

The legislation aims to prevent disasters similar to East Palestine by creating safety requirements for trains carrying hazardous materials, increasing inspections and creating requirements for defect detectors.

It would also require two trained persons on every train and for trains with hazardous materials to be scanned by hotbox detectors every 10 miles.

The bill seeks to expand HAZMAT training for local law enforcement and first responders that would be funded by increased registration fees paid by Class I railroads.

It also would provide \$22 million to the FRA for research and development grants for wayside defect detectors and \$5 million to Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to help develop stronger safety features in tank cars.

Two months after the derailment, remediation efforts are continuing in East Palestine. As of Friday 18,900 tons of soil have been removed, with approximately 17,400 tons waiting for excavation, according to Gov. Mike DeWine's office.

In March, Norfolk Southern and DeWine's office announced that the company is creating a new training center for first responders in Ohio.

The center will offer free training for fire first responders in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, as well as increase coordination between first responders and railroads.

The training center's location has not been determined yet. In the meantime, training will take place at Norfolk Southern's Moorman Yard in Bellevue in northern Ohio.

Norfolk Southern is also expanding its Operation Awareness & Response program, which connects first responders with training resources and information.

Ohio's transportation bill benefits Butler County roads

'Force account' limit increases mean more projects to be done at the local level.



Butler County Engineer Greg Wilkens has been trying for years to get limitations for in-house work, such as this culvert project on Law Road, increased. The new state transportation bill increased force account thresholds significantly.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY DENISE G. CALLAHAN - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

The new \$13.5 billion state transportation bill that's been touted for addressing railway safety and a reconstruction of the Brent Spence Bridge over the Ohio River also includes important provisions for local jurisdictions to do more roadwork in-house which is cheaper.

Gov. Mike DeWine recently signed House Bill 23 into law and it takes effect July 1. County engineers and others have been fighting for years to get the legislature to increase the monetary limits on infrastructure projects they can perform in-house.

The new law provides the following limit increases:

- County bridge and culvert limits were raised from \$100,000 to \$233,000 and roadways from \$30,000 per mile to \$70,000 per mile.
- Township road maintenance and repair projects were increased from \$45,000 to \$105,000 and construction/reconstruction from \$15,000 to \$35,000 per mile.
- Unchartered cities and villages roadwork limits went from \$30,000 to \$70,000.

There is also a provision for a 5% limit increase – or the amount of the state transportation department's construction cost index – beginning next year.

Butler County Engineer Greg Wilkens told the Journal-News "it's substantial enough to help us out and it's indexed to inflation which is critical."

The so-called "force account" limits – meaning the use their own forces to do the work – haven't been increased since 2003.

Wilkens said there are a number of benefits to the increased limits, not the least of which is the current inflation crisis.

'We've always got something in need of repair and we will analyze it to

see if we can do it with our own forces or contract it out. It opens up the opportunity to look at a few bigger jobs we just couldn't even look at.'

Butler County Engineer Greg Wilkens

"Imagine what we can do now with the dollars that were set in 2003. The material costs are so much more than the limits we can do," Wilkens said, and added he can't even buy the materials needed for some of these smaller jobs and if costs have gone up "20% in the last four years you can imagine what it is since '03."

Old limits were problematic

Prior to this change, Wilkens had to go through the bidding process for projects that were estimated over the force account limits, which means more time and money.

"It's a longer time consuming process with more complex planning and more complex engineering that we've got to do," Wilkens said. "So there's more cost involved in taking to a contract."

Wilkens' preliminary force account project budget is \$619,500 for 13 projects.

The cost range for these culvert repair and replacements is \$12,500 and \$37,500.

Another issue has been that contractors won't bid on these smaller projects.

Hamilton's Director of Engineering Rich Engle said he could sympathize with that problem.

"There are very few contractors and you need to obviously get them interested in bidding on project and they're not going to bid a smaller project," Engle said.

Wilkens also said his office is staffed at the levels they need to plow snow in the winter, so "we can utilize our forces in the summertime better" by being able to do more force account work.

Wilkens said while his construction schedule is basically set for the year the change can still have an impact.

"We've always got something in need of repair and we will analyze it to see if we can do it with our own forces or contract it out," Wilkens said. "It opens up the opportunity to look at a few bigger jobs we just couldn't even look at."

What broke the legislative logjam?

State Sen. George Lang was a co-sponsor of the bill; the Republican from West Chester Twp. said he has been advocating for this since five years ago.

"I've been fighting to get those force accounts increased ever since I've been up there and this is the first year we've been successful,"

Lang said. "There's been a lot of opposition to it, mostly from unions who think this will hurt them and then there are legislators who put their relationships with the unions ahead of their relationship to the taxpayers. I will always put the taxpayers first."

He said the legislative logjam likely broke when he and other legislators tried to remove limits altogether and let counties decide for themselves. That is something Wilkens strongly supported and Lang said the county commissioners here would lift all restrictions.

"I think when people realized what we were going to do, they were more than happy to negotiate with us and give us a much better deal than they wanted to," Lang said.

Wilkens manages all major roadwork for the 13 townships in the county — the townships pay for the work — but some, such as West Chester Twp., also do infrastructure work on their own. Public Works Director Arun Hindupur said while raising the limits are a good thing "I think we've been able to be successful under the old regime."

He said at least they now have the option to look at doing more in-house

work, if it makes fiscal sense.

"It certainly could be more efficient if we have the capability of doing more in-house," Hindupur said.

"At the same time we want to make sure we are efficient in spending, in terms of well, do we need to buy new equipment to do that work, and do we need to have more labor hours allocated to it. So it's that balance that we're trying to strike, to make sure it's the most efficient and quality work."

The new threshold amounts have the biggest impact on Wilkens' office because he has such a huge operation. All seven cities in Butler County are chartered, so the force account rules don't apply to them.

Cities have different rules

Fairfield Public Works Director Ben Mann said they are bound by Ohio Revised Code laws that require a competitive bid process for projects estimated to exceed \$50,000. But there aren't rules for how much work his own staff performs.

Generally he said projects costing more than \$25,000 he'll contract out, and if the estimate falls below the state bid threshold, he'll get three estimates.

"Anything more than \$25,000 likely we are not doing in-house, if it would be more than \$50,000 it's very unlikely we'd be doing something like that in-house," Mann said. "We just wouldn't tie up our manpower to do something like that."

Engle said their major paving and roadwork projects are typically \$2 million-plus, and they bid those, but smaller jobs city crews perform.

"We do a lot of force account work internal on our city, that we do with our own forces... only if we deem internally that this project is of sufficient magnitude and complexity we would typically go out to bid," Engle said adding "because Hamilton's a charter city we don't necessarily have to follow all of the requirements of the Revised Code."

BBQ restaurant moving to larger Middletown building

Brent's Smokin' Butts & Grill hopes to be open this fall on University.



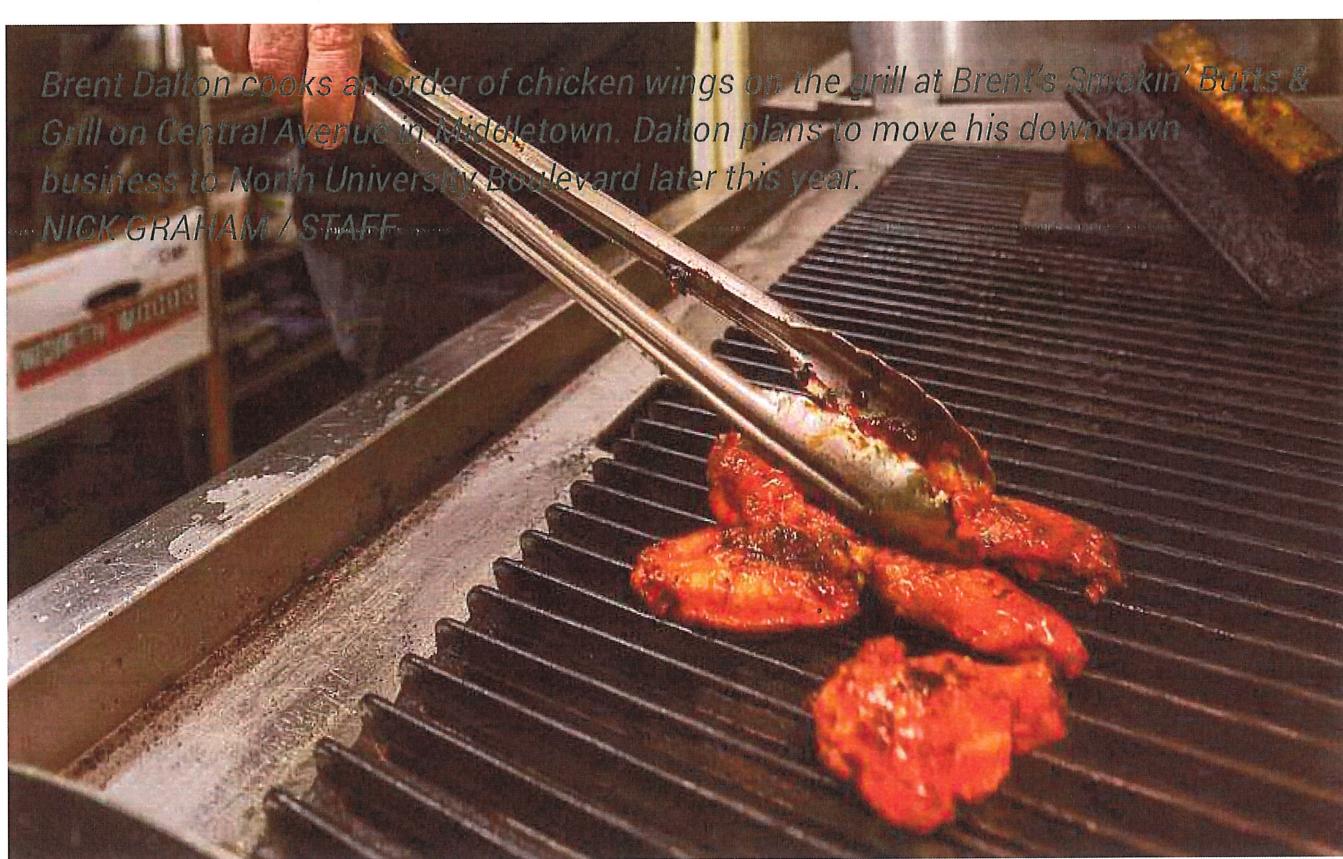
The building that formerly housed Redding Insurance will be renovated and turned into Brent's Smokin' Butts Grill, said owner Brent Dalton. He hopes to have the location open in October or November.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



Brent Dalton cooks an order of chicken wings on the grill at Brent's Smokin' Butts & Grill on Central Avenue in Middletown. Dalton plans to move his downtown business to North University Boulevard later this year.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



University Blvd. that housed Sunshine Cafe Bar and Grill, then Redding Insurance, said Brent Dalton, owner of the barbecue restaurant.

Dalton said his downtown location will remain open until the former insurance building has been renovated and passed inspections.

He hopes to be open by October or November, he said.

He said a couple came into Brent's Smokin' Butts & Grill and said they wanted to invest in Dalton's business because of his work ethic.

They told him: "We want to see you succeed."

"It blew me away," Dalton said.

He said the "silent partner" purchased the University Boulevard building. It sold for \$243,000 on March 29, according to the Butler County Auditor's Office.

Dalton expects the total investment, the building, renovations and any kitchen equipment, to be between \$350,000 to \$400,000.

"I try not to think about that too much," Dalton said with a nervous laugh.

The improvements will be worth the time and investment, he said. The size of the barbecue restaurant will go from 1,500 square feet to 3,500 square feet, from a dining room with 40 seats to 100 seats, and will have more parking than the Central Avenue location that shares a lot with other downtown businesses.

"We have outgrown this space," he said.

He hopes to offer car-side service at the new location and eventually add a soft serve ice cream parlor.

Dalton has been vocal about how the Central Avenue renovations that are nearing completion have negatively impacted his business.

When the city closed Central Avenue for months last year and Dalton lost his on-street parking, he said business dropped significantly.

Recently, he said, Central Avenue was closed for one week and sales dropped 20%.

When customers drive by the restaurant and see the parking lot behind the restaurant full, they tell Dalton they dine elsewhere.

At the new location, Dalton will continue operating his catering business and food truck that he opened eight years ago.

The restaurant, like the Central Avenue location, won't offer alcohol. Dalton said he and his wife, Kelly, are recovering alcoholics and 10 years sober.

He doesn't want any temptation in his business, he said.

"That's part of our testimony," he said.

Brent's is a family business.

The Daltons have three children, Brady, 27, Isabel, 21, and Ava, 17, and

the two girls work in the restaurant.

Dalton, 47, a 1994 Middletown High School graduate, said it was important to stay in Middletown. He's "excited, nervous, anxious, worried" about moving locations, he said.

He's leaning on his faith.

"God has blessed us with more than we deserve," he said. "We don't like to say we're the best, but we will give you our best."

After the original Sunshine Cafe burned down about 20 years ago, it was rebuilt and reopened as Sunshine Cafe Bar and Grill. It closed a short time later.

The owners of Redding Insurance opened inside the former restaurant in June 2011, then moved to 110 N. Breiel Blvd. last year.

Contact this reporter at 513-483-5216 or email Rick.McCrabb@coxinc.com.

Possible issues at Kettering Health affect region, church

Region's second-largest employer launches probe amid questions.

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW - STAFF WRITER

JOURNAL-NEWS IN-DEPTH

Concerns about misconduct at Kettering Health touch the highest ranks of an organization that is the region's second-largest employer and plays a central role in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The SDA Columbia Union Conference, the administrative body of the church in the U.S. mid-Atlantic region, said in a statement it is "aware and takes seriously allegations of inappropriate fiscal and operational management at Kettering Health, a nonprofit health care organization sponsored by the Columbia Union."

"The allegations are currently being investigated by an external firm retained by the Kettering Health Board to conduct a thorough and independent examination," the statement says, echoing statements from the hospital.

The exact nature of the investigation is unknown. Kettering Health announced its investigation in response to questions about anonymous complaints to the Ohio Attorney General's Office about "abuse of charitable funds" by Kettering Health executives including former board chairman Dave Weigley and former Kettering Health CEO Fred Manchur, who retired last year.

Neither Manchur nor Weigley have responded to multiple requests for comment.

The Columbia Union Conference appoints several members to Kettering Health's board. Weigley is currently president of the conference and was chairman of the Kettering Health board until he stepped down in January for "family reasons," according to the conference.

Weigley named as his successor current hospital board chair Celeste Ryan Blyden.

Blyden has worked for the SDA Church for 30 years. She is also the executive secretary of the Columbia Union Conference. She was vice chair of Kettering Health's board since January 2022, the Visitor Magazine said.

Blyden's background and education is in public relations, organizational communications, psychology, and theology, according to Washington Adventist University's website, where Blyden has also served on the board of trustees. She is also an ordained local church elder.

"Kettering Health is an integral part of the mission and ministry of the Columbia Union to operate health care institutions which promote our faithbased approach to health care and which include a ministry of healing to the whole person – body, mind and spirit," the Columbia Union Conference said.

Hospital and church officials have said that issues identified through their investigation are being addressed immediately, but won't say what those changes are. They say the investigation found no issues pertaining to donor funds.

Complainant goes public

The Journal-News interviewed one of the people who made the complaints, former executive secretary at Soin Medical Center Lori Van Nostrand. She complained about nepotism in the hospital system and hospital funds being used for improvements at Manchur's house, among other things. She also said there were a lot of trips that were not hospital-related.

"There's this search nationwide for a CEO, but you still have leadership

that participated," she said about why she filed a complaint with the state. "To me, if you don't stand up and go against or speak out and just say, 'This isn't right,' you're part of the problem."

Van Nostrand, who filed a complaint with the Ohio Attorney General's Office in August 2021, according to the complaint, worked at Soin for 5 1/2 years until she resigned in February 2022 after claiming she was retaliated against for comments she made in support of a letter that was circulating among hospital staff criticizing Manchur. Van Nostrand filed a complaint with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission that is pending.

Major employer

Kettering Health is ranked as the region's second-largest employer, after Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, according to the Ohio Department of Development's 2022 major employer list. Kettering Health is reported as having approximately 14,400 employees in Ohio, the same as Honda. For comparison, Premier Health Partners is reported as having 11,100 employees.

Almost four years ago, the figures for Kettering Health and Premier Health were the opposite, with Kettering Health reported as having 12,000 employees in 2019 and Premier Health Partners with 14,000 employees, according to the Ohio Department of Development.

Kettering Health has 14 medical centers and over 120 outpatient locations throughout Western Ohio, as well as Kettering Physician Network, which includes more than 700 board-certified providers.

Together, Kettering Health's large facilities saw approximately 70,000 admissions in 2021, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

Contact this reporter at 937-503-5305 or email samantha.wildow@coxinc.com.

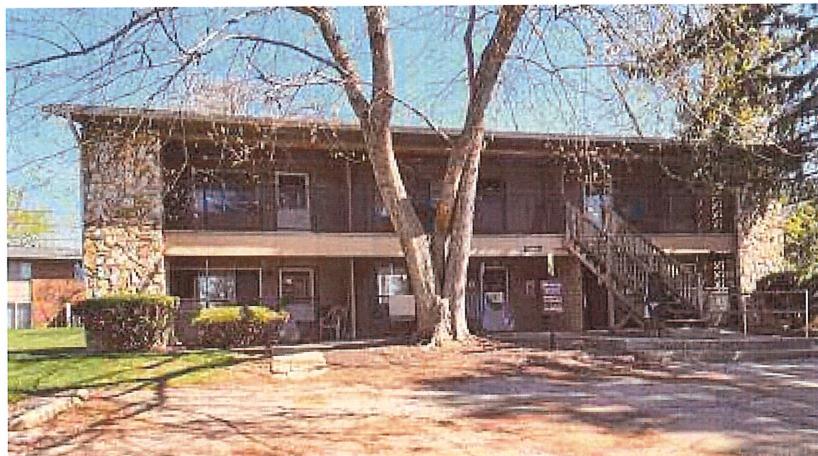
STAYING WITH THE STORY

Kettering Health is conducting an internal investigation into "allegations of inappropriate fiscal and operational management" in response to questions about complaints submitted to the Ohio Attorney General.

As an employer and health care provider, Kettering Health is a major institution in our region, and we will continue pursuing the facts. Your subscription to the Journal-News makes this possible.

Multiple residents displaced by Middletown apartment fire

The fire caused \$50K in damages to structure; no injuries reported.



An apartment fire Saturday on Barbara Drive caused \$50,000 in damages to the structure and displaced about 10 residents.

NICK GRAHAM/STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

MIDDLETOWN — A faulty furnace is being blamed for starting an apartment fire Saturday morning in Middletown that displaced 10-12 residents and caused \$60,000 in damages, according to Capt.

Frank Baughman from the Middletown Division of Fire.

A female resident at 3189 Barbara Drive told firefighters she was hearing a "clicking" noise when operating the furnace lately. She turned on the furnace prior to leaving for work at 8 a.m. Saturday and around 9:30 a.m., police officers reported "heavy smoke showing" from the two-story

structure that has six apartment units.

Baughman said a mechanical issue with the pilot kept it from immediately lighting. When it finally lit, the fugitive gas that had accumulated caught fire, he said.

Two of the second-floor units suffered fire and smoke damage and two first-floor units were damaged by water, Baughman said. The fire caused \$50,000 in damages to the structure and \$10,000 to the contents, according to the report.

Duke Energy disconnected service to both second-floor apartments and main breakers to all apartments were turned off, according to the report.

No residents or firefighters were injured, Baughman said.

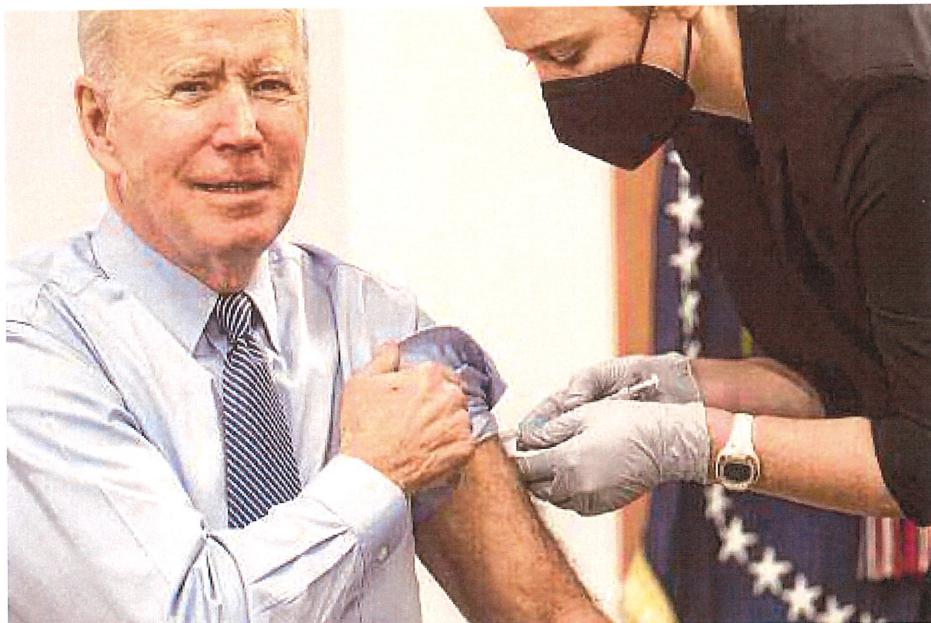
The displaced residents were assisted by the American Red Cross and some were offered other apartment units, Baughman said.

Middletown received mutual aid from the Monroe and Franklin fire departments.

Contact this reporter at 513-483-5216 or email Rick.McCrabb@coxinc.com.

Biden ends COVID national emergency

CORONAVIRUS: THE LATEST



President Joe Biden gets a COVID-19 booster shot at the White House, on March 30, 2022. He signed a bipartisan resolution ending the national emergency on Monday. AP

BY ZEKE MILLER - ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The U.S. national emergency to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic ended Monday as President Joe Biden signed a bipartisan congressional resolution to bring it to a close after three years, weeks before it was set to expire alongside a separate public health emergency.

The national emergency allowed the government to take sweeping steps to respond to the virus and support the country's economic, health and welfare systems. Some of the emergency measures have already been successfully wound down, while others are still being phased out. The public health emergency, which underpins tough immigration restrictions

at the U.S.-Mexico border, is set to expire on May 11.

The White House issued a one-line statement Monday saying Biden had signed the measure behind closed doors, after having publicly opposed the resolution but not to the point of issuing a veto. More than 197 Democrats in the House voted against it when the GOP-controlled chamber passed it in February. Last month, as the measure passed the Senate by a 68-23 vote, Biden let lawmakers know he would sign it.

The administration said once it became clear that Congress was moving to speed up the end of the national emergency, it worked to expedite agency preparations for a return to normal procedures. Among the changes: The Department of Housing and Urban Development's COVID-19 mortgage forbearance program is set to end at the end of May, and the Department of Veterans Affairs is now returning to a requirement for in-home visits to determine eligibility for caregiver assistance.

Legislators last year did extend for another two years telehealth flexibilities that were introduced as COVID-19 hit, leading health care systems around the country to regularly deliver care by smartphone or computer.

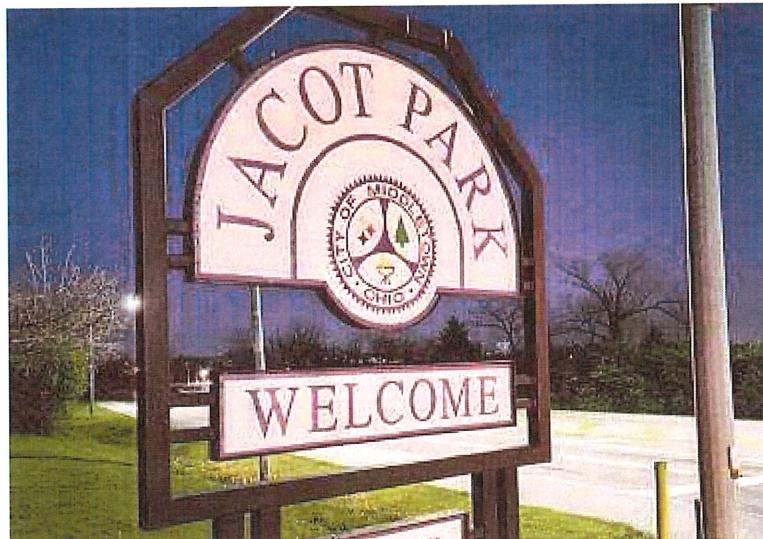
More than 1.13 million people in the U.S. have died from COVID-19 over the last three years, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including 1,773 people in the week ending April 5.

Then-President Donald Trump's Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar first declared a public health emergency on Jan. 31, 2020, and Trump declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency that March.

The emergencies have been repeatedly extended by Biden since he took office in January 2021, and he broadened the use of emergency powers after entering the White House.

4-year-old boy shoots himself with gun found in vehicle, police say

Jacot Park incident remains under investigation.



Police say a child at Jacot Park in Middletown shot himself with an unsecured weapon Wednesday.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK - STAFF WRITER

DIGGING DEEPER

A 4-year-old boy who accidentally shot himself with an unsecured gun found in the seat of an SUV Wednesday night at a Middletown park remains hospitalized but is expected to recover.

Middletown police detectives are continuing to investigate the incident that happened in Jacot Park and consult with prosecutors to determine if criminal charges are warranted, according to Sgt. Earl Nelson.

The incident happened about 5:30 p.m. at the park located in the 4000

block of Grand Avenue.

A 27-year-old man was in the park with four young children, including the boy, who was injured, Nelson said. The report also lists a woman as a witness, and she has the same last name as the man. Nelson said the child shot was the man's brother, and his own child as well as his girlfriend's children were with him.

The boy went back to the vehicle for a drink of water when he picked up the gun and fired it, the report says.

"He goes to the car. The weapon is unsecured and he ended up discharging the weapon on himself," said Middletown Police Chief David Birk.

The gun used is listed as a Smith and Wesson 9-millimeter handgun, according to the police report. It was left in the SUV between the seat and the console, Nelson said.

The child was hit in the abdomen, but the injuries are not believed to be life-threatening. The injured child was driven to the hospital by the brother.

Jacot Park was full of people on the warm spring evening, and police say there are several witnesses. Dispatchers received two 911 calls.

A woman told dispatchers the vehicle had left the park, probably en route to a hospital.

"A boy came out of the vehicle and he was crying ... he had a lot of blood on his back," she said. "There was a commotion that it was a gunshot wound."

A man called, telling the dispatcher a child shot himself with a gun.

"I heard it. Then the parents (police say it was the child's brother) came up to the car and asked the kid 'are you okay, are you okay?' It was a real gun," said the man who called.

He also said the vehicle had left the park.

It is the second time in less than a month a Butler County child has been hit by gunfire after apparently picking up an unsecured gun. On March 30, a 3-year-old picked up a weapon in his Hamilton home and discharged it. The child was hit in the head and died.

That incident remains under investigation, but Butler County Prosecutor Michael Gmoser told the Journal-News that case will be reviewed by a grand jury.

Contact this reporter at 513-820-2168 or email Lauren.Pack@coxinc.com.

How local hospitals fared in COVID's financial storm

Kettering Health stayed in black during pandemic but Premier lost millions.

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW - STAFF WRITER

CLOSER LOOK

Local hospitals saw rising patient revenue over the past three years totaling billions of dollars, but also increasing labor costs and other financial demands put on hospitals during the pandemic.

A Dayton Daily News examination of hospital finances through audited financial statements and an independent analyst, along with a roundtable with local hospital leaders and the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association, revealed that for some area hospitals, the pandemic was a financial setback. For others, it was catastrophic.

"It just absolutely adversely impacted everything that we do, and on top of it, the stresses and strains of inflation in general," said Kevin Harlan, president of Atrium Medical Center and Upper Valley Medical Center. "I think it's probably safe to say those are our worst financial years as a health system. Collectively, those three years, the losses are in the hundreds of millions of dollars."

Kettering Health and Dayton Children's Hospital, by comparison, weathered the worst of the pandemic while still operating at a positive operating margin — what would be called a profit if the networks weren't non-profit entities. Kettering Health operated at a loss in 2022 after being in the black in 2020 and 2021. Investment income buoyed all three

networks' net operating margins considerably in 2021 as well, though those fortunes were reversed in 2022.

The financial health of these hospital networks impacts both the economic, and physical, health of our region. They serve hundreds of thousands of patients each year at dozens of facilities across western Ohio and employ more than 29,000 people.

The pandemic also revealed larger questions about how health care in the U.S. is funded. With the majority of hospitals in the U.S. being not-for-profit while still focusing on margins, think tanks and analysts questioned if this serves patient outcomes.

Operating gains, losses

Revenues increased from 2020 to 2022 – going from \$1.9 billion to \$2.1 billion for Premier Health and \$2.1 billion up to \$2.4 billion for Kettering Health – but with those increases came increased expenses. Expenses rose from \$2 billion to \$2.3 billion for Premier Health and \$2 billion to \$2.4 billion for Kettering Health over that same three-year time period, according to financial statements from each health system.

"Hospitals that serve working people tend to have lower margins, lower profits, and less of a cushion in the event of a crisis," said Dr. Vikas Saini, a physician and the president of the Lown Institute, a health care think tank.

While Premier Health saw worsening operating margins throughout the pandemic, Kettering Health reported slight increases to operating margins. Kettering Health's audited operating margin was 0.1% in 2019, 2.2% in 2020, and 2.4% in 2021. The hospital network brought in \$56 million in earnings (operating revenues minus operating expenses) in 2021.

Kettering Health said "all three years are lower than historic profitability levels for the organization."

Kettering Health's figures dropped for 2022 down to an operating margin of -0.2%, or a loss of \$5 million.

Premier Health reported negative operating margins through the pandemic, including -3.0% in 2020, -2.0% in 2021, and -8.5% in 2022. This means the hospital network had a \$281 million deficit over the three years.

Labor costs, supply chain issues with ordering major medical or other equipment, and inflation have all had impacts on the health system.

“Last year, compared to pre-pandemic, we probably used about five times as much contract labor, and the rate of pay for both contract labor and internal labor has really risen across all industries, but especially health care,” Harlan said.

Dayton Children’s, which operates on a fiscal year of July 1 through June 30, reported fluctuations in operating margins throughout the last few years as well, though leaders noted the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 was a particularly rough one, with a negative margin of -17.49%.

Revenues for Dayton Children’s increased from \$381.3 million in 2019 to \$599 million in 2022, according to financial statements. Expenses for the organization also increased from \$448 million in 2019 to \$587.2 million in 2022.

Hospital leadership attributed gains seen during the pandemic to initiatives set forth by the organization prior to the pandemic, such the patient tower and increasing the number of specialists they have available. Operating margins for the last three years were reported by Dayton Children’s as being 3.62% for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020; 6.07% for fiscal year 2021; and 1.97% for fiscal year 2022. This translates to operating earnings between \$12 million and \$33 million.

Fluctuations in investment markets also impacted non-operating gains, providing hospitals large gains on their investments in 2021 and some losses in 2022.

For example, investment income jumped from \$11.8 million to \$151.1 million at Dayton Children’s from 2020 to 2021, before losing \$71.2 million in 2022.

Investing in the local community

GDAHA President and CEO Sarah Hackenbracht said local hospital earnings go toward providing access to care for patients and communities, as well as investing in the community.

“I think you see hospitals in the Dayton region balance that and do that every single day in a time period in which other investors in health care, like private equity firms and others, are coming into the community and cherry picking individuals that are insured through businesses and they’re not investing in our communities of need and our communities where there are not as many individuals covered on private insurance,” Hackenbracht said.

“Our hospitals, time and time again, are leaders in the region and across the community investing in communities above and beyond their work as health care providers, and they serve as the pillars of their communities and lead the partnerships for investment and health equity and upstream solutions to improve the overall health outcomes in our region.”

Hospitals response to the pandemic During the pandemic, area hospitals became leaders in providing congregate care facilities with personal protective equipment, as well as coordinating response, testing, and treatment efforts, GDAHA said.

“There was no one better prepared than our hospitals to step into that leadership role with Public Health and our emergency management agencies to evaluate whether or not we needed stand up an alternate care site, and if so, how we would do that,” said Hackenbracht.

Hospitals managed the shutdown of non-essential and elective procedures during the beginning months of the pandemic in 2020.

At Dayton Children’s, furloughed employees were still paid by Dayton Children’s, although some employees chose to go on unemployment insurance instead.

“None of us knew what was going to happen,” said Deborah Feldman, president and CEO of Dayton Children’s Hospital. “In the moment, we had

no idea what was coming next, and the challenge in leadership in such uncertainty was something none of us had ever faced, and so we were all trying to figure it out as it came."

As the pandemic went on, Dayton Children's was not as busy as the adult hospitals when it came to treating COVID patients — their surge would come later when RSV and respiratory illnesses impacted children in 2022.

During the pandemic, Dayton Children's opened up a testing site for both adults and children, and Dayton Children's also became a subcontractor in processing tests for the Ohio Department of Health.

Federal assistance Hospitals were unable to conduct elective procedures, which generate much of hospitals' patient revenue, during the beginning months of the pandemic. Hospitals also incurred additional costs for PPE and screening measures.

Even when hospitals opened back up to elective procedures, some patients were hesitant to return right away.

Dayton Children's reported have a "significant loss of volume" from March of 2020 to February of 2021.

"Our volume went from 120 kids a day down to about 20," said Dayton Children's CFO Chris Bergman.

Of the initial \$30 billion in provider relief funds distributed through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, over 10,000 providers and systems in Ohio received a total of \$989.7 million, according to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.

The federal government went on to provide additional phases of provider relief funds through the CARES Act that totaled \$37.8 billion.

Premier Health reported receiving \$117.2 million from the CARES Act. If Premier Health had not received this and other relief funding, its losses during the pandemic would have reached \$300 million, Harlan said.

Kettering Health reported receiving \$46.3 million in provider relief funds in 2020 and \$13.3 million in 2021. Kettering Health also received \$15 million in 2022.

Dayton Children's received \$35.3 million in provider relief funds, along with \$7.5 million through the employee retention credit, according to Bergman.

In addition to provider relief funds, FEMA provided \$62.4 billion in public assistance support in response to COVID-19.

In 2021 and 2022, Premier Health reported receiving \$13.1 million and \$6 million in FEMA funds, respectively.

Kettering Health also reported receiving \$19 million in FEMA funds in 2021 and \$950,000 in 2022.

Impact on patients

Health care industry experts interviewed by the Dayton Daily News say hospitals being forced to focus on profit margins can come at the expense of patient care.

“It is ironic and it is symptomatic of how we do health care in America that when the vast majority of hospitals are non-profit, we talk all about profits,” Saini said.

When an emergency room visit often costs \$1,000 or more — some level 1 emergency room visits range between \$500 and \$600 in the Dayton region, depending on the hospital — this can discourage patients from seeking care.

“The other thing about it is if we make hospitals conform to this for-profit model, even if they’re non-profits, then things like charity care are second in priority, and that has a huge impact on communities, and there are a lot of people who can’t afford their care because the prices are too high,” Saini said. “Quite often, they’ll get sent to collection or even worse, liens on their homes or wages being garnished. So there’s a lot going on that affects the patient that isn’t obvious and visible to patients.”

Positive operating margins are needed, though, to provide access to care for patients and communities, the American Hospital Association, a health care industry trade group, said.

"Without positive operating margins, hospitals cannot make the needed investments in their workforce, facilities, and programs and services, and may be forced to cut back on what they can offer and in extreme cases, forced to close their doors," said Aaron Wesolowski, a vice president for policy at the American Hospital Association.

"Financial support is even more imperative now, as more than half the hospital field ended 2022 with negative operating margins and in 2023 hospitals continue to face increased costs for labor, supplies, and drugs, and insurer-required administrative burden."

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BY THE NUMBERS

Relief funds for local hospitals during the pandemic:

- Premier Health received \$117.2 million from the CARES Act and \$19.1 million from FEMA.
- Kettering Health received \$74.6 million from the CARES Act and \$20 million from FEMA.
- Dayton Children's received \$35.3 million from the CARES Act, along with \$7.5 million through the employee retention credit.

Ohio Medicaid recipients at risk of losing their health coverage

Disenrollment notices sent to those who may no longer be eligible since COVID emergency lifted.

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW - STAFF WRITER

CLOSER LOOK

More than 3.5 million Ohioans have some type of coverage through Medicaid, and for the first time in three years, they will have their eligibility re-determined.

If found ineligible, they will lose their health care coverage.

Continuous enrollment for Medicaid patients began in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency to ensure members did not lose “vital health care coverage during the pandemic,” Ohio Medicaid said.

Enrollments during pre-pandemic 2019 ranged between 2 million to 2.3 million, depending on the time of year, according to previous Medicaid reports.

At the start of the pandemic, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act included a temporary requirement for Medicaid programs to keep people continuously enrolled and, in exchange, states received enhanced federal funding. This resulted in an additional \$5.1 billion in federal Medicaid matching funds for Ohio.

“Our goals are to ensure that Medicaid-eligible Ohioans will have the tools they need to maintain their health care coverage and not risk a gap

in service, and that Ohioans no longer eligible for Medicaid can smoothly transition to other affordable health care options," Maureen Corcoran, director of Ohio Medicaid, said in a news release.

Ohio resumed routine eligibility operations Feb. 1 with the first round of termination letters being mailed to those who are no longer eligible beginning this month. Health coverage for those individuals will end April 30 at the earliest.

Federal guidelines provide states up to 12 months to initiate and 14 months to complete eligibility renewals, so not all terminations will take place now.

"People won't lose coverage overnight if they are no longer eligible," said Reba Chenoweth, public information officer for human services at the Montgomery County Job Center. "They will not be disenrolled until after they've had a full eligibility redetermination. A client's renewal month aligns with the date they were first approved for coverage."

Local health centers have been working with their patients to make sure they go through the necessary steps to renew their Medicaid coverage.

"We have sent out letters to those we have notified who are in danger of falling off (Medicaid coverage)," said Gregory Hopkins, executive director of the Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton. Managed care providers like Buckeye and CareSource have helped the health centers identify which patients may be at risk of losing coverage.

More than 60% of patients with the Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton have some type of Medicaid plan, Hopkins said.

If patients lose their Medicaid coverage, federally qualified health centers such as the Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton will still treat those patients regardless of their ability to pay. It may impact the health centers' operations, though, by causing a drop in revenue.

"It definitely has a revenue impact on our organization," Hopkins said. "True to our mission, we provide care to patients regardless of their ability to pay, but it's a lot less revenue when they're uninsured."

Lack of health coverage may also prompt individuals to avoid seeking care.

"When people are uninsured, they're less likely to seek care and get the preventative care they need," Hopkins said.

Individuals covered by Medicaid should make sure they are opening letters from their managed care providers to make sure they do not miss any disenrollment notices.

As of March 2023, Montgomery County had approximately 192,000 enrollments for Medicaid, which is about 36% of the county, according to Ohio Medicaid. Within the local region, over 490,000 individuals were enrolled in a Medicaid program last month. It's not clear how many of those enrollees are at risk of losing their health coverage this month as the first numbers will not be available until after April's eligibility re-determinations are complete.

Of the 3.5 million Ohioans with some type of Medicaid coverage, more than 3.2 million of them are on a Medicaid managed care plan.

Contact this reporter at 937- 503-5305 or email samantha.wildow@coxinc.com.

MORE DETAILS

INFORMATION FOR MEDICAID MEMBERS

The Ohio Department of Medicaid encourages enrollees to keep their contact information up to date, including their mailing addresses, so they receive notices to renew coverage.

Update your contact information by calling 844- 640-6446 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday as well as by visiting your county department of Job and Family Services or going online through the Ohio Benefits Self-Service Portal at <https://ssp.benefits.ohio.gov>.

If you lose coverage and need help understanding your options,

navigators are available through Get Covered Ohio for free assistance. Go to getcoveredohio.org or call 833-628-4467 for more information.

Tracking toxic chemicals in the Ohio train inferno

EAST PALESTINE DERAILMENT



The OxyVinyls plant in Texas. OxyVinyls, the chemical arm of Occidental Petroleum, made much of the vinyl chloride burned in the East Palestine derailment.

NYT

HIROKO TABUCHI - ©2023 THE NEW YORK TIMES

When a freight train carrying more than 100,000 gallons of hazardous chemicals derailed and burned in East Palestine, Ohio, this year, it set off a panic over rail safety and the toxic fallout for communities downwind.

But less has been known about the origins of the chemicals themselves and their intended destination.

Much of the train's vinyl chloride freight — which was ultimately incinerated by emergency responders to avert a wider explosion — came from a chemicals plant in La Porte, Texas, just outside Houston, that is

run by OxyVinyls, the chemical arm of Occidental Petroleum, according to the shipment records released by the Environmental Protection Agency. The chemicals were on a 1,600-mile journey to an Oxy plant in Pedricktown, New Jersey, that makes plastic used in PVC flooring.

The details of the cargo were included in an administrative order filed last month by the EPA that was based on shipment data provided by Oxy and other shippers.

Oxy had more than 700,000 pounds of vinyl chloride on the train that derailed, the records show. An EPA official on Monday confirmed the accuracy of the information.

Tracing the Norfolk Southern train's volatile load to its source sheds light on the environmental and health risks of the nation's soaring manufacturing and use of plastics.

The chemicals shipped by Oxy were key ingredients in PVC, a rigid material widely used in water pipes, furniture, floor tiles and packaging.

Plastic manufacturing is booming in the United States, fueled by cheap and plentiful shale gas. It has become an increasingly important business for Occidental, a major oil company based in Houston, as nations start moving away from the burning of fossil fuels, the main driver of climate change.

Texas and Louisiana, in particular, have become global chemical hubs as oil and gas companies expand their plastics production to offset the possibility of declining demand for oil as fuel.

While tiny East Palestine has drawn considerable attention for the inferno and its potential health consequences, communities nationwide are regularly grappling with the health and safety implications of the surge in chemical manufacturing and transportation.

Last year at Oxy's La Porte plant, a midnight explosion and fire drew a major response by emergency personnel.

More recently, some of the firefighting wastewater from the Ohio train

fire, which contained toxic chemicals, was trucked back to a processing facility in Deer Park, Texas, which borders La Porte. And in 2012, a train carrying vinyl chloride — bound for the same plastics plant in New Jersey that was the destination of the Ohio train — derailed and plunged into a creek, releasing 23,000 gallons of the chemical and prompting evacuations of nearby homes.

OxyVinyls plans to spend \$1.1 billion to expand and upgrade its La Porte plant, the company said in regulatory filings last year. Shintech, the world's largest producer of PVC, and whose shipments also burned in the Ohio disaster, according to freight records, is spending more than \$2 billion to build out its operations in Texas and Louisiana.

Overall, chemicals companies have invested more than \$100 billion in new or expanded plants since 2010, with another \$99 billion in the works, according to a tally from the American Chemistry Council. Much of that investment has been in plastics.

As plastic production has proliferated, more hazardous materials have been on the move. According to data from the Association for American Railroads, rail shipments of chemicals used in plastic production grew by about one-third over the past decade.

Chemicals have become a particularly important business for railways because one of their traditional mainstays, coal transportation, has fallen steeply with the drastic decline in the mining and burning of coal. Over the past decade, coal traveling by rail fell by almost half. Agricultural rail cargo, like grain and soybeans, has stayed flat.

While derailments have declined since the 1970s, the costs of derailments of trains carrying hazardous materials have increased.

Most accidents, injuries and deaths involving hazardous materials in transit happen on the road, and incidents there have jumped by more than 50% since 2012, according to Bureau of Transportation statistics.

For residents at the starting points for these shipments, concerns over exposure to cancer-causing substances have long been a constant.

"You get headaches, you get nauseous, and you get chronic respiratory issues that affect you," said Sema Hernandez, a community organizer who lives with her four children about a halfmile from Oxy's La Porte facility. Headline-grabbing accidents like the Ohio derailment may bring temporary attention to chemical hazards, she said, but for communities like hers with chemical plants as close neighbors, they are a daily threat.

"It could be a normal day, and all of a sudden there's a siren that goes off that tells you, this is not a drill, to shelter in place," she said. "That can happen at any time."

Although making plastics doesn't typically involve burning the oil used in manufacturing them, the production process brings with it other potential hazards.

Since the 1970s, for example, numerous studies have found that workers exposed to vinyl chloride, which is made from fossil fuels and is primarily used to manufacture PVC, developed malignant liver cancers. Vinyl chloride has also been linked to brain and lung cancers, lymphoma and leukemia.

An analysis published this month by Toxic-Free Future, a nonprofit that advocates safer products and chemicals, found that PVC plastics plants reported releasing more than 400,000 pounds of vinyl chloride into the air in 2021. It also found that people of color were overrepresented in communities near such plants, making up more than 60% of the almost 400,000 people who live within 3 miles of a vinyl-chloride, PVC-manufacturing or PVC-waste-disposal facility, compared with the 40% share they make up of the general population.

United Nations officials said in 2021 that pollution-linked cancer risks in predominantly African American districts near a cluster of petrochemical plants along the Mississippi River far surpassed those in districts with predominantly white populations.

Last month, residents of St. James Parish, Louisiana, at the heart of that region, sued the local council for a pattern of racist land use practices that has placed petrochemical plants in predominantly Black neighborhoods.

In recent days, an unrelated fire at a plastics recycling plant in Indiana highlighted the risks at the end of the plastics life cycle. Recyclers nationwide have been struggling to process all the growing supply of discarded plastic, which can end up in piles at facilities in what experts have long called a fire hazard.

‘Barricade Buckets’ aid schools during threats

Atrium partners with Middletown district, police on project.



Middletown Division of Police Chief David Birk (from left), officer Jason Deaton, officer Christine Sorrell and Mandi Alcorn, director of Emergency Trauma Services at Atrium Medical Center, stand with one of the barricade buckets that will be distributed to Middletown school classrooms.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY MICHAEL D. CLARK - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

MIDDLETOWN — Some emergency supply buckets are headed to Middletown Schools thanks to a three-way partnership with the district, city police and Atrium Medical Center.

The specially designed “Barricade Buckets” are designed to aid students and staffers who are confined to classrooms during active shooter lockdowns, natural disasters or other school emergencies.

The donated, five-gallon buckets also double as a portable toilet as well as a container for a wide range of emergency medical and other supplies, said Middletown School officials during an unveiling of the buckets Wednesday at Atrium.

Items in the buckets will include things like medical emergency supplies, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, gauze, gloves, Band-Aids, flashlights and snacks.

But more funds are needed to load up the buckets, said school officials who are seeking local business and individual donors to help cover the costs of placing buckets in every city classroom.

“The Barricade Buckets are a great addition to our district safety plan, by providing much needed resources to students and teachers in the event of an emergency situation where everyone must take shelter for an extended period of time,” said Middletown Schools’ Business Manager Eric Sotzing.

“The safety and security of students and staff is our first priority in emergency situations and the buckets will assist us in achieving that goal,” said Sotzing.

Mandi Alcorn, director of nursing at Atrium, said “during a natural disaster or lockdown situation, the last thing students should be worried about are their basic needs. We can proactively address those needs with these buckets.”

"The buckets could make a difficult situation a little more comfortable for students,"

Alcorn said.

Along with the Atrium Medical Center Foundation and the Middletown Police, Middletown Schools is seeking support from the community for the Barricade Bucket Project.

Officials said phase one of the project aims to fund 72 buckets for Middletown Middle School. Phase two of the project would then fund 96 for Middletown High School.

Officials said phase one of the project aims to fund 72 buckets for Middletown Middle School. Phase two of the project would then fund 96 buckets for Middletown High School. If funding permits, phase three would then fund 297 buckets for the remaining city schools.

While the cost of one Barricade Bucket is \$130, donations of any size are appreciated, said officials.

So far, Atrium Medical Center employees have raised more than \$2,000 to help kickstart the project.

Middletown Police Chief David Birk joined others at Atrium as they prepped the buckets for delivery.

Birk said with the growing prevalence of violent threats against schools locally and nationally, such emergency supply buckets will be useful for students and school staffers during building lockdowns that confine them in classrooms or other school spaces.

"It's an outstanding idea.

Our top priority is to make sure the kids are safe. This gives the students and the teachers the ability to have these in every classroom. These buckets will be there in case they are needed," said Birk.

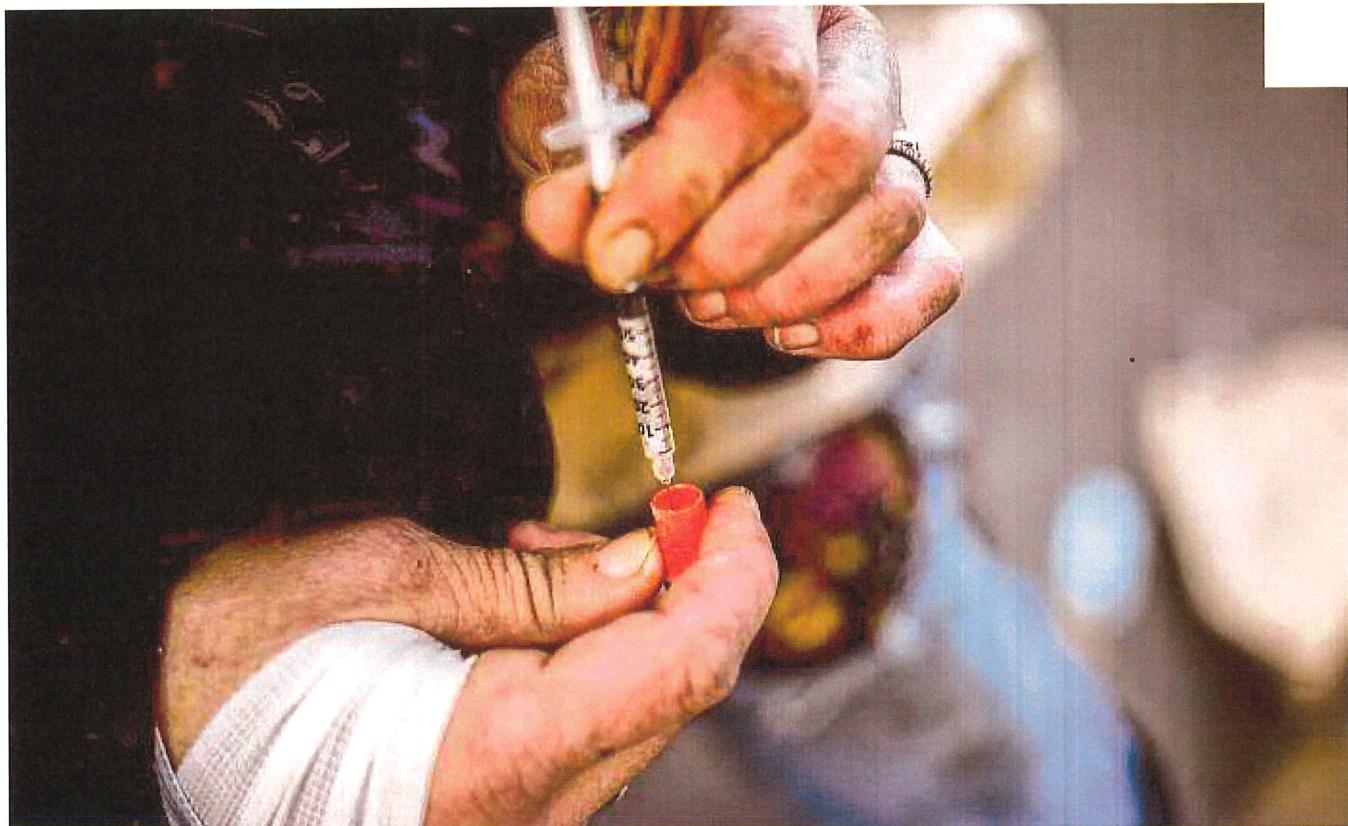
To donate or for more information, contact Jennifer Burcham, spokeswoman for Atrium, at mburcham@premierhealth.com or call her

at 513-214-8307.

Photojournalist Nick Graham contributed to this story.

Xylazine appears in illicit fentanyl supply

‘Tranq’ is a powerful sedative intended for use in animals.



A woman prepares a shot of cocaine that she says is mixed with xylazine, in Kensington, Pa. The use of xylazine, a cheap, addictive adulterant that has been a staple for veterinary procedures on cattle and horses, began in the Northeast and then rapidly spread west and south.

HILARY SWIFT / THE NEW YORK TIMES 2022

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW - STAFF WRITER

DIGGING DEEPER

Use of an animal tranquilizer known as xylazine, or “Tranq,” is becoming more popular in Ohio for illicit drug use involving fentanyl, the U.S. Drug

Enforcement Administration said.

The agency said it is seeing a “sharp increase in the trafficking of fentanyl mixed with xylazine.” Xylazine is a non-opiate sedative, analgesic, and muscle relaxant, and its only FDA-approved use is for veterinary use. Also known as “Tranq,” it has been increasingly identified as a cutting agent /adulterant in the illicit drug supply, often mixed with fentanyl, the agency said.

“Xylazine is making the deadliest drug threat our country has ever faced, fentanyl, even deadlier,” said DEA administrator Anne Milgram.

“DEA has seized xylazine and fentanyl mixtures in 48 of 50 States. The DEA Laboratory System is reporting that in 2022 approximately 23% of fentanyl powder and 7% of fentanyl pills seized by the DEA contained xylazine.”

Since xylazine is not an opioid, naloxone (Narcan) does not reverse its effects, putting users of xylazine and fentanyl drug mixtures at a higher risk of suffering a fatal drug poisoning.

The agency still recommends administering naloxone if someone might be suffering a drug poisoning.

The drug is showing up in local toxicology screenings, but public health experts are not seeing a sharp increase in the region.

“In speaking to the crime lab and the coroner’s office, we have seen xylazine in some of the (toxicology) screens for a few of our overdoses for 2023. It’s not the cause of the death, but it is a factor,” said Dawn Schwartz, Community Overdose Action Team project manager. “We have it here in Montgomery County. To what extent, we’re not sure how much it’s in Montgomery County, but we definitely know it’s here.”

Fentanyl can produce delayed reduced respiratory function, or respiratory depression, and respiratory arrest, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Xylazine furthers that respiratory depression, Schwartz said.

"Typically, when someone's in an overdose and Narcan is given to that person, it helps bring the person out of the overdose by helping with the respiratory system. The xylazine, because it's an animal sedative, it further depresses the respiratory system and that's why Narcan is not working to bring a person out of an overdose where xylazine is present," Schwartz said.

Xylazine has been detected in the region for last one or two years, but public health officials say that is because they didn't have testing capabilities for the drug prior to then. It has been used in illicit drug use in the U.S. and Puerto Rico for approximately 20-plus years.

"Now we have ways for our crime lab to test for it, and they are getting more aggressive with testing for that to see what exactly in the drugs that are causing our overdoses," Schwartz said.

The Butler County General Health District is aware of the current use and have been seeing the signs of xylazine, but they are not seeing an increase in use of the drug.

"We have been treating wounds at our Syringe Service Programs (SSP) that resemble xylazine use and have not noticed a rapid increase in the amount of these wounds," said Erin Smiley, health promotion director with the Butler County General Health District.

"At this time, we have not seen an increase in fatal overdoses or hospital admissions due to overdoses. Our current focus is on educating our community on xylazine and believe it is a growing public health concern.

The Clark County Combined Health District is also aware of the use of xylazine in their region, but they have not had recent deaths attributed to the drug.

"We have been made aware of some anecdotal evidence from our clinic staff that xylazine may be being used in illicit drugs here in Clark County, and that use has increased over previous months. But we do not have any confirmed deaths attributed to xylazine in 2022," said Nate Smith, communications coordinator with the Clark County Combined Health District.

"If you are buying any drug illegally off the street, you have the risk of overdosing," Schwartz said.

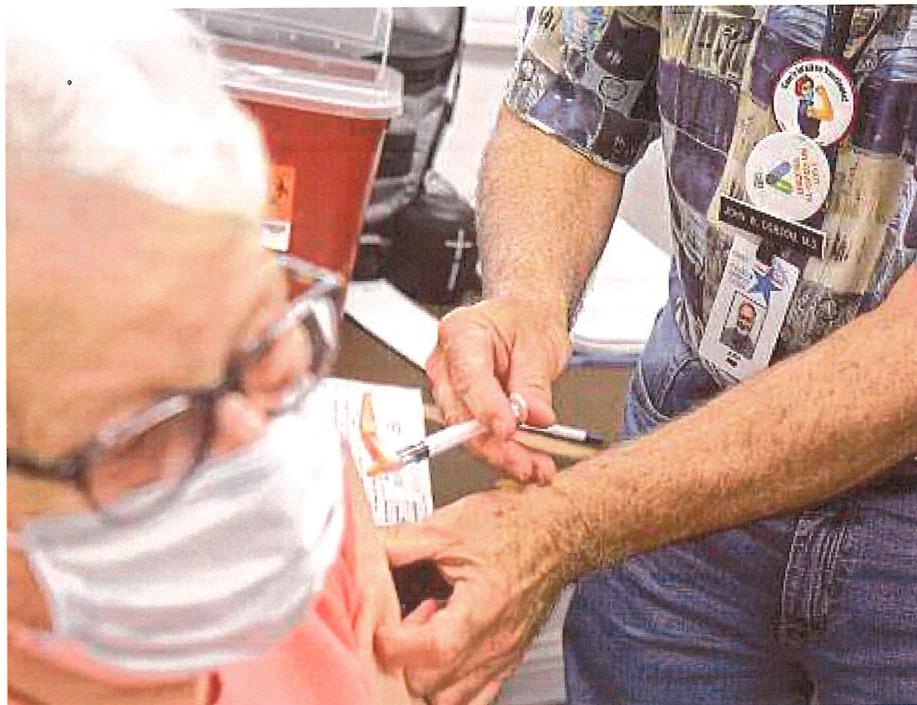
Schwartz recommended practicing harm reduction or seeking treatment to reduce the risks of overdosing.

Over 100,000 people in the U.S. died between August 2021 and August 2022 from drug poisonings, according to the CDC, with 66% of those deaths involving synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

Contact this reporter at 937- 503-5305 or email samantha.wildow@coxinc.com.

CDC recommends only bivalent boosters; original shots disposed of

Those 65 and older, or immunocompromised, are now eligible for another vaccine dose.



New recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say only the bivalent COVID-19 shots should be used going forward. BILL LACKEY / STAFF FILE

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW - STAFF WRITER

CORONAVIRUS: THE LATEST

The original monovalent COVID vaccines will no longer be in use in the U.S. following new recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that say only the bivalent shots should be used going forward.

In an effort to simplify the COVID vaccination process, bivalent boosters will now be the only vaccines in a vaccine series, public health officials said. Anyone age 6 and older getting their initial doses of the COVID vaccine will only need to get one shot. For young children, multiple doses continue to be recommended and will vary by age, vaccine, and which vaccines were previously received, the CDC said.

"This is so much easier. It's a simplified process, and it makes sense," said Charles Patterson, health commissioner for the Clark County Combined Health District. "There is now one initial dose, so if someone has never had a COVID vaccine before and they decide now they want to do that, there's one dose, and we're going to use the latest and greatest vaccine, the bivalent vaccine."

The CDC's recommendations, which also include another booster shot for older adults and immunocompromised individuals, followed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration amending the emergency use authorizations of the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 bivalent mRNA vaccines.

"At this stage of the pandemic, the data supports simplifying the use of the authorized mRNA bivalent COVID-19 vaccines, and the agency believes that this approach will help encourage future vaccination," said Dr. Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

Evidence is showing that most people in the U.S. who are 5 years old or older have antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, either from prior vaccination or infection, Marks said. Those antibodies can serve as a foundation for the protection provided by the bivalent vaccines.

"COVID-19 continues to be a very real risk for many people, and we encourage individuals to consider staying current with vaccination, including with a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine," Marks said. "The available data continue to demonstrate that vaccines prevent the most serious outcomes of COVID-19, which are severe illness, hospitalization, and death."

"They simplified the vaccine schedule so that to be up to date with your vaccinations, most people only need to have one of the updated bivalent boosters that have been available since last fall," said Dr. Becky Thomas, medical director for Public Health - Dayton and Montgomery County.

"The original monovalent vaccine that was effective against the original strain of COVID is no longer available, so that simplifies everything a whole lot."

People who are 65 and older, along with those who are immunocompromised, are also able to get another booster shot of the bivalent boosters.

"We know that when you get a vaccine for COVID, the protection wanes over time, and so people who are highest risk, over 65 or immunocompromised, if it's been four months since their previous dose, they can then get a booster vaccine," Patterson said.

Alternatives to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines remain available for people who cannot or will not receive an mRNA vaccine, according to the CDC. CDC's recommendations for use of (monovalent) Novavax or Johnson and Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccines were not affected by the changes made.

The monovalent vaccines will also no longer be used, and local agencies are in the process of disposing of those.

"They're off our shelves" Patterson said. "We will be disposing of them based on the manufacturer's recommendations and according to the U.S. EPA standards."

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Council members to host live Q&A on Facebook

Ferrell, Muterspaw to address concerns in conversation tonight.



Zack Ferrell



Rodney Muterspaw

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

CLOSER LOOK

MIDDLETOWN — Two Middletown City Council members are taking to social media to answer questions and address concerns from residents.

Zack Ferrell and Rodney Muterspaw, who successfully ran together in the November 2021 election, are hosting a Community Talk tonight on Facebook Live.

People have emailed the two councilmen questions and can continue throughout the show that's expected to start at 7 p.m. and last 90 minutes. The show will be shot in one of their homes and broadcast live on Facebook, then be available for viewing on YouTube, Muterspaw said.

Ferrell and Muterspaw have hosted four in-person Town Hall meetings at Java Johnny's, Triple Moon, Swire Inn and at the Amanda/Oneida Salvation Army building.

Those meetings, attended by 35-40 people, have informed the councilmen about neighborhoods throughout the city, they said.

They're hoping Facebook Live allows more residents to have their voices heard.

"This city belongs to the people in it, so we want them as involved and invested as possible," Ferrell said. "They have to know their thoughts and opinions matter."

Muterspaw said the submitted questions have dealt with what he calls the "city's hot topics," including the proposed East End development, revitalization of downtown properties, body cameras for the police department and the possibility of building an aquatic center.

"We will answer them as best we can," said Muterspaw, a former police chief who is a Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway.

"Transparency is key," Ferrell said.

Ferrell and Muterspaw, both Middletown natives, have "a love of the city," Muterspaw said.

"We want to hear what people are most concerned about in the city," Ferrell said. "We're here to make their lives better; that's why we ran. People need help, we want to be able to do that for them. We want to meet people where they're at."

It's all about making Middletown the "best possible city," Muterspaw said. That starts with listening to the needs of the residents. He stressed the

importance of people being involved in their community.

He said a former basketball coach often told him: "Complaining without a solution is whining."

Contact this reporter at 513-483-5216 or email
Rick.McCrabb@coxinc.com.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

What: Community Talk with City Council members Zack Ferrell and
Rodney Muterspaw

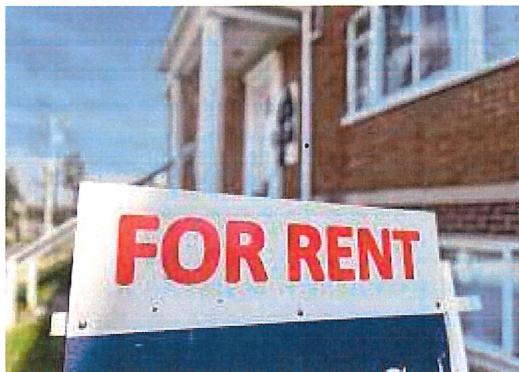
When: 7-8:30 p.m. today

Where: Facebook Live

Email questions: Rodney Muterspaw at rodneym@cityofmiddletown.org
or Zack Ferrell at zachf@cityofmiddletown.org.

Butler County has additional \$2M for renters affected by pandemic

JOURNAL-NEWS IN-DEPTH



Butler County has received an additional \$2 million in emergency rent and utility assistance. Since the coronavirus pandemic began, Supports to Encourage Lowincome Families has doled out state and federal assistance to 5,277 households.

FILE

BY DENISE G. CALLAHAN - STAFF WRITER

Butler County has received an additional \$2 million of federal pandemic relief funding to help people pay their rent and utilities, a problem that persists three years out from the devastating coronavirus pandemic.

The county was awarded \$20.4 million in emergency rent and utility assistance from the federal government and that money is almost gone after helping 2,626 people stay in their homes.

"The state reached out to us on a Thursday afternoon and said, could you use more funding?"

Development Director David Fehr told the Journal-News. "We said sure."

The Butler County commissioners partnered with Supports to Encourage Low-income Families to manage the program.

Executive Director Jeffrey Diver told the Journal-News they have awarded nearly \$17.3 million to needy households and have \$1.8 million left — SELF receives 10% of the money to manage the program — to dole out of the commissioners' federal funds. SELF also received \$9 million from five other state grants and has awarded almost \$8.9 million to 2,651 families and \$101,726 remains unspent.

Diver said his team has a waiting list of 80 applicants — the list numbered about 450 in December — and they are awarding fewer grants because people have either reached their allowable limits or can't meet the requirement that their need must have been caused because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since they have until September 2025, he said he is certain the new money will be used.

"Many of these families were skating on thin ice to begin with, in terms of their budget and this kind of knocked them over," he said.

"It will be expended probably within 12 months,"

Diver said. "Interestingly enough, people are still getting COVID; people are still being impacted by COVID even though they may have had the virus six months ago or nine months ago.

There's still the lingering effects of the pandemic that are still impacting low-income families."

According to the directive from the treasury, eligible expenses include rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, utilities and home energy costs arrears, and other expenses related to housing. Funds could also be used for "housing stability services, including case management and other services intended to keep households stably housed."

The commissioners had their own conditions for the money: they wanted assurance landlords wouldn't evict the people after they got their money

or raise rent, they wanted to utilize wrap-around programs the county has to help people get back on their feet, and they wanted to make sure people understood this is short-term assistance.

Susan Ellerhorst, the county's community development administrator, said the state has about \$90 million available for reallocation.

Whatever isn't reallocated must be returned to the U.S. Treasury. The state was allocated \$613.5 million from the treasury, 14 counties and the four largest cities received a direct share, leaving nearly \$447 million for the balance of the state.

An additional \$48.8 million was also allocated to five cities and counties identified as high-needs areas like Cleveland and Columbus.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, federal lawmakers approved two emergency rent and utility assistance programs; the first bucket of up to \$25 billion was established under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, which was enacted in December 2020.

The county qualified for \$11.4 million and received it in one lump sum.

Another \$21.5 billion was approved under the American Rescue Plan Act, which was enacted in March 2021.

The county commissioners were allotted \$9 million but did not accept the second round of funding initially because they wanted to gauge the need first.

The commissioners were allocated the second round of funding in June 2021, but chose not to collect it until last January. The Treasury notified the county the day before the deadline it needed to expend 20% — or \$1.8 million — of the \$9 million tranche by March 31, 2022 but they were still drawing down the first pot of money.

The county received its final \$2 million payment from the U.S. Treasury in March. Nearly \$1.4 million was clawed back last year because they couldn't meet one of the deadlines, as a result of not accepting the money initially.

County Administrator Judi Boyko said the commissioners agreed to tap this additional money because they recognize it is still needed.

"Though fiscal responsibility will commonly be the foundation for decisions the board of commissioners makes, the board recognizes the struggles some residents and families are still having as they recover and stabilize from the pandemic," she said. "The \$2 million received from the state of Ohio ERAP dollars is not necessarily an increase to the amount awarded to Butler County, rather, the state portion replaces the amount the U.S. Treasury held back."

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