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<b>BOARD OF HEALTH:</b>	Bruce DeLong Dwight Washington, Ph.D.	George Bailey Chuck Murphy	Betty Kellenberger Adam Petersen
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**APPROVED 10/23/19**

BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULAR MEETING  
At  
Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD)  
Gratiot County Office  
Ithaca, Michigan

Conference Room A

Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 9 a.m.

**MINUTES**

*We take action to protect, maintain, and improve the health of our community.*

Pledge of Allegiance

Members Present: Bruce DeLong, Chuck Murphy, Betty Kellenberger (Vice Chairperson), Adam Petersen, and Dwight Washington

Members Absent: George Bailey (Chairperson)

Staff Present: Mark W. (Marcus) Cheatham, Ph.D., Health Officer; Melissa Bowerman, Director of Administrative Services; Cynthia M. Partlo, Board Secretary; Jennifer E. Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP, Medical Director; Liz Braddock, Director of Environmental Health; Sarah Doak, Director of Community Health and Education

Staff Absent: None

Guests: Doug Young, Environmental Health (EH) Specialist I; Ryan Klump, EH Specialist I; Grant Reeves, Community Health Worker (CHW); Shanna Smith Public Health Representative I (PHRI); public; Doug Brecht, Seville Township Trustee; Mikie Van Horn; Rosemary Horvath, Reporter, Gratiot County Herald

B. Kellenberger, Chairperson called the Regular Meeting of the Mid-Michigan District Board of Health (BOH) to order at 9:01 a.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, at the Gratiot County Office of the MMDHD, Ithaca, Michigan.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by B. Kellenberger.

A. AGENDA NOTES, REVIEW, AND REVISIONS:

M. Cheatham stated that an emerging issue, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) should be added to the Agenda as item I. 3. a.

**Motion made by B. DeLong and seconded by C. Murphy to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

B. CONSENT ITEMS:

1. Meeting Minutes

- a. Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) Board of Directors Meeting held August 12, 2019
- b. Mid-Michigan District BOH Regular Meeting held August 28, 2019

**Motion made by B. DeLong and seconded by D. Washington to accept the Meeting Minutes B. 1. a. and b. and place on file.**

2. Communications – None

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comment was given by Mikie Van Horn and Doug Brecht, Seville Township Trustee regarding an update in Riverdale. Mikie Van Horn expressed appreciation for the help Riverdale residents have received from MMDHD staff in an attempt to keep their septic systems.

D. BRANCH OFFICE EMPLOYEES: M. Cheatham explained the BOH governing process and asked staff to introduce themselves. MMDHD staff was attending to satisfy requirements of their orientation.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Finance Committee – Bruce DeLong, Chairperson

- a. MMDHD's Expenses for August 17 through September 13, 2019

**Motion made by B. DeLong and seconded by C. Murphy to approve payment of the MMDHD's Expenses for August 17 through September 13, 2019 totaling \$460,053.59. Motion carried.**

- b. MMDHD's Monthly Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure Report for August 2019 and Amended FY 18/19 Budget

M. Bowerman stated that the Amended Budget was the final adjustment for FY 18/19.

**Motion made by B. DeLong and seconded by D. Washington to approve and place the Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure Report for August 2019 on file. Motion carried.**

**Motion made by B. DeLong and seconded by D. Washington to approve the MMDHD's Amended FY 18/19 Budget. Motion carried.**

2. Personnel Committee – Betty Kellenberger, Chairperson – No Report.

3. Program Committee – Dwight Washington, Chairperson – No Report.
4. Mid-Central Coordinating Committee – Dwight Washington, Chairperson – No Report.

F. MEDICAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Jennifer E. Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP

1. Vaping and Severe Pulmonary Disease Associated with Vaping

Dr. Morse provided an overview of vaping and severe pulmonary disease associated with vaping. She reported that Michigan has 11 confirmed cases and 4 probable, with another 15 suspected cases. She said that those most affected are individuals between 18 and 34 years of age. Additionally, she reported that youth vaping has increased. She noted that testing the products has not revealed one ingredient that has caused the disease; however, certain flavored products are more toxic to human tissues. Michigan was the first State to ban flavored nicotine vaping products in an attempt to reduce use among youth. She explained that THC extract has been associated with the disease as it has been added to the e-cigarette juice. She noted that Michigan has launched a new web page regarding e-cigarettes, [www.michigan.gov/e-cigarettes](http://www.michigan.gov/e-cigarettes), along with other great resources listed below.

M. Cheatham mentioned that in Montcalm County, Spectrum Health United Lifestyles has developed an innovative program where they are working with schools to address teen vaping. He explained the program stating that the program was now spreading to other school districts. M. Cheatham indicated that the program would also be made available to local public health departments.

Dr. Morse’s BOH Monthly Healthy Living Recommendation for October is:

1. *Educate youth and adults about the harms of e-cigarette and nicotine use.*
2. *Incorporate e-cigarettes into smoke-free policies and encourage local businesses and schools to do the same.*
3. *Refer those struggling with tobacco or e-cigarette use to help:*
  - a. *For users younger than 18:*
    - i. **My Life, My Quit:** at <https://mylifemyquit.com/> or text "Start My Quit" to 855-891-9989.
    - ii. **Smokefree Teen:** at [www.teen.smokefree.gov](http://www.teen.smokefree.gov) or text "QUIT" to iQuit (47848).
    - iii. **Free Truth Initiative quit programs:** [This is Quitting](#) or [BecomeAnEx](#). Users can text "QUIT" to 202-804-9884.
    - iv. **Smoking Stinks:** at <https://smokingstinks.org/>.
  - b. *For users 18 and older:*
    - i. **Michigan Tobacco Quitline:** at <https://michigan.quitlogix.org/en-US/> or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669).

**Motion made by B. DeLong and seconded by C. Murphy to approve the BOH Monthly Healthy Living Recommendation for October as proposed and approve the Medical Director’s Report as presented. Motion carried.**

G. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT:

1. Agreements signed, August 22 – September 20, 2019

M. Cheatham reviewed the Agreements signed stating that the topic was for information only.

H. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Annual Commissioner Forum Recap

M. Cheatham asked for feedback regarding the Commissioner Forum. B. Kellenberger and B. DeLong heard that Commissioners were interested in the topic and found the statistics provided during the meeting informative. D. Washington said that Commissioners he spoke with expressed that they learned a lot about what the health department does.

2. Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) National Accreditation Renewal (*Tabled from the August Regular Meeting*)

M. Cheatham reminded the BOH that the topic was discussed at the August meeting, but no action was taken. The BOH discussed the cost justification for renewing national accreditation at a cost of \$45,600 over the next four years. M. Cheatham suggested sending a letter from the BOH to PHAB expressing the difficulty for rural health departments to pay the high cost to renew. C. Murphy added that it's a 65% increase in fees! B. DeLong said that he would like an explanation from PHAB regarding the dramatic increase in fees. D. Washington stated that he was very proud of the work that the staff do for the residents of the district; however, the PHAB standards are important, and if the agency does not seek to renew, he would want the agency to hold itself accountable to those standards in some way. M. Bowerman said that the agency could develop a list of standards and the BOH could hold the agency accountable to meet them. A. Petersen asked M. Cheatham his thoughts on whether the agency needs to be nationally accredited. M. Cheatham responded that the agency doesn't need to be nationally accredited. A. Petersen asked M. Cheatham if the money could be better spent locally rather than using it for national accreditation. M. Cheatham replied that the agency could do so much more good work locally with \$45,600 in the budget. D. Washington recommended the agency draft a document of PHAB standards so that the agency could use those standards to hold itself accountable. M. Cheatham stated that some PHAB national standards are being incorporated slowly into Michigan's accreditation program. D. Washington recommended the BOH Personnel Committee be the governing body to ensure that the process is managed correctly. B. DeLong asked staff to bring a plan back to the BOH for consideration at a future meeting.

**Motion made by B. DeLong and seconded by A. Petersen to authorize the agency not to renew PHAB National Accreditation. Motion carried 5-0.**

I. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Clinton County Signage

M. Cheatham mentioned that the last step to the rebranding process was new signage in front of all of the buildings. Gratiot and Montcalm Counties have approved the signage and the process was moving forward. He stated that Clinton County does not want to move forward with new signage. B. DeLong said that the proposed design didn't fit the standard county look and it was oversized, so the County would need to obtain a variance. M. Cheatham stated that he would like to approach Ryan Wood,

County Administrator regarding placement of a small sign for the health department and My Community Dental Centers in front of the building. B. DeLong mentioned a reduction in size for the sign would be needed. D. Washington suggested using social media to assist residents with finding the locations for the health department.

## 2. Emerging Issues

### a. Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)

M. Cheatham reported that Michigan is having an outbreak of EEE. He explained the viral disease that is transmitted by mosquitos citing statistics from a MLIVE news article regarding human cases of EEE and the high fatality rate noting the urgency for addressing the issue. Currently, M. Cheatham reported that Michigan has 8 human cases of EEE including the counties of Barry, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, and Van Buren (including 3 fatalities). She said that MMDHD has never had a human case of EEE within its district.

Dr. Morse explained how the disease passes from birds through mosquitos to mammals, including humans (humans are dead-end hosts). M. Cheatham stated that a horse in Montcalm Township has died from EEE. He said the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) wants to aerial spray the area where the dead horse resided within a 2.5-mile radius; however, there is no funding for the spraying. Dr. Morse discussed the type of organic pesticide planning to be used (Merus 3.0) and is using a company that has sprayed this chemical in other states. She reported that the spraying is planned to be done in the evening. M. Cheatham recommended that the BOH accept the offer from the State to spray the affected areas within Montcalm County.

A. Petersen mentioned that this affects his district, and he expressed concern regarding notifying his constituents. B. DeLong said that the agency needs to make sure that the Montcalm County Commissioners are well informed. M. Cheatham indicated that the State was going to hold a press conference; however, has postponed it. He said a conference call was scheduled for later today to further discuss plans with local health departments. Dr. Morse expressed her concerns regarding effectiveness of spraying for mosquitos stating that she asked for a conversation with the State regarding her concerns. She said that the State provided information to her and indicated that they are very confident that the risk from overnight spraying was low. As the risk for contracting the disease is high, Dr. Morse expressed that she is comfortable that the State has done due diligence in researching and recommending spraying. She said that by law, a 48-hour notice is required to be given to affected residents in the spray zone unless a public health emergency has been declared (which it has not).

L. Braddock added that she has staffs that are ready to go door-to-door to notify residents once the State provided the necessary fact sheets. Dr. Morse also indicated that there was also a human case in Newaygo County where the 2.5 mile radius encroaches into northern Montcalm County. A. Petersen said that he could organize a public information meeting in his township to provide the facts and answer questions from the public. D. Washington expressed concern that he wouldn't want to be in the area when the spraying is done. He would like information to be given regarding how long individuals would need to be gone before returning to their home. L. Braddock added that she would like to be sure that there are no outdoor activities scheduled on Friday/Saturday night, particularly in the Amish community to avoid exposure to the spray. She also mentioned that there is an Amish school in the area and the agency would request that toys are brought in to eliminate exposure.

Regarding the press release, Dr. Morse said that the letter handed out to the BOH was modified to be addressed to Parents/Guardians at the requests of schools within our district. The Morning Sun somehow got a copy of the letter and made it a press release. Dr. Morse summarized that once our area sees a hard frost; there will not be any need to spray mosquitos.

**Motion made by A. Petersen and seconded by C. Murphy to accept the State's spray plan for mosquito control within the MMDHD district as proposed. Motion carried 5-0.**

J. LEGISLATIVE ACTION: None

K. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Mid-Michigan District BOH Action Items, August 2019
2. Staffing Report

M. Cheatham reviewed the agency's staffing report stating that the agency has hired two new employees, as well as staff promotions.

L. RELATED NEWS ARTICLES AND LINKS: <https://www.mmdhd.org/2019-board-of-health-2/>


1. When It Comes To Bats, It's Good To Be Cautious, *Lakeview Area News*, August 29, 2019
2. Pine River Woes Worsen, *Gratiot County Herald*, September 5, 2019
3. Riverdale's Grassroots Attempt Scorched, *Gratiot County Herald*, September 5, 2019
4. Residential Wells Tested For Chemical Substances in Alma, *Gratiot County Herald*, September 5, 2019
5. Riverdale 'Posse' On Hunt For Unlawful Septics, *Gratiot County Herald*, September 11, 2019
6. Hearing and Vision Team Gearing Up For Another Successful Year, *Lakeview Area News*, September 12, 2019
7. Testing Reveals 'Disgusting' Pine River, *Morning Sun*, September 15, 2019
8. Foundation Invests \$79,500 In Local Programs, *Gratiot County Herald*, September 19, 2019

M. AGENCY NEWSLETTERS:

1. *Inside Mid-Michigan District Health Department*, September 2019

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia M. Partlo, Board Secretary  
For Betty Kellenberger, Vice Chairperson  
Mid-Michigan District Board of Health