



MEETING MINUTES

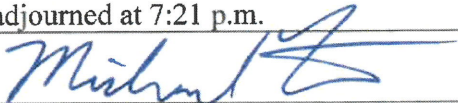
**Board of Health Meeting
Video Teleconference
February 8, 2021
5:45 p.m.**

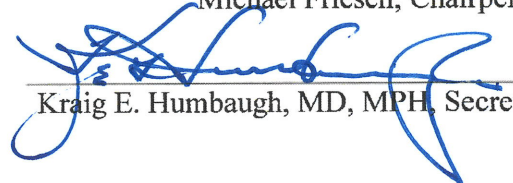
	<p>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Allen-Bryant, Mr. Cornett, Dr. Dossett, Commissioner Ford, Mr. Friesen, Mr. Jabbour, Dr. Jackson, Dr. Mason, Dr. Moore, and Councilmember Reynolds.</p> <p>OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Humbaugh, LFCHD Staff, LFCHD Council.</p>
TOPIC	DISCUSSION
Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Friesen called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m.
Roll Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Foley called the roll. Drs. Jasinski and Zimmerman were excused. All other Board of Health (BOH) members were present. A quorum was declared.
Request for Approval of the January 11, 2021 Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Mason made a motion to approve the January 11, 2021 minutes. Dr. Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
Mid-Year Budget Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Kay presented the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department (LFCHD) mid-year budget. The December year-to-date surplus was \$6.2 million on a budget of \$2.9 million. We have received \$3 million in CARES Act funding for COVID-related expenses. These funds were not included in the budget, leading to the higher surplus number at mid-year. A lump sum payment of income from property taxes was received in December 2020. Total revenues year-to-date were \$2.9 million and \$3.8 million for the response. Total expenses year-to-date were \$2.5 million and \$4.2 million for the response. We are down \$360 thousand in the response, year-to-date. The mid-year budget was prepared following review with staff in every cost center and department program. The mid-year budget reports a projected deficit of \$450 thousand. CARES Act funding, harm reduction grants, and WIC grants are included in the mid-year budget. \$766 thousand was added to salary and benefits to cover positions added during the pandemic, as well as related comp and overtime. Staffing agencies are providing contractors for the response. These contractors were funded by the Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) through the end of January 2021. We will bear expenses for these positions moving forward, though future reimbursements are possible. Legal costs were raised by \$200 thousand, due to the increased need for these services during the COVID-19 response.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Cornett said we received a letter from the Kentucky Employee Retirement System (KERS) which offered options for health departments such as ours to leave the system. We must inform KERS by April 30 of this year if we decide to leave the system. The Finance Committee reviewed the options and concluded none were feasible for LFCHD. The committee recommended LFCHD remain in KERS, with no changes to our status.
<p>Commissioner’s Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Humbaugh presented the Commissioner’s Report. • We are eleven months into the COVID-19 response. There have been more than 30,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Lexington. There have been more than 200 COVID-related deaths. In January, we reported over 6,000 cases. There were more COVID-19 cases reported in January than in any other month since the pandemic began. We are now seeing a decrease in cases and are averaging 140 cases per day. Hospitalization numbers are decreasing. We are hopeful these trends will continue. We have migrated to the state electronic reporting system and will continue to use the Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) and the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) electronic systems to ensure we retain our reporting capacity. As of February 1, we have assumed the contracts for local contractors assisting epidemiology in the response. We evaluated staffing levels at that time and reduced the complement of contractors by 18 positions. DPH has indicated they may reimburse us for these contracts at the end of the current fiscal year. The response is now operating Monday-Saturday. Tuesday reports will include numbers from the previous Sunday and Monday. • Our Environmental Health staff continued to monitor compliance with the governor’s orders by businesses we regulate. House Bill 1, which allows businesses, non-profits, and schools to follow the least restrictive pandemic guidance from the state or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), became law last week. A 30-day injunction has been issued on implementing the law. We will continue to monitor the situation. • Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS) will begin phased reentry to in-person classes, beginning next week with students in kindergarten through second grade. School health nurses are returning to schools. Nurses assisted in many ways during the response, and we can’t thank them enough. • We have vaccinated around 10% of the population in Lexington with at least the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. We think around 50,000 doses have been administered in total in Fayette County. We are moving from phase 1A to 1B. There is not enough vaccine for everyone who wants it at this time. We are administering first and second doses every week. We think we will provide around 2,500 doses in two clinics this week. A new Johnson & Johnson product may be available by the end of the month under an emergency use authorization. This would make the third vaccine available. The Johnson & Johnson product is a one-dose vaccine reported to be more than 70% effective.

	<p>COVID-19 variant strains have been detected in Kentucky and appear to be more transmissible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First floor renovations at 650 Newtown Pike are nearing completion. We are anticipating the new generator will be in place this spring. Environmental Health staff are working to assure foodservice establishments pay their fees, which were due by December 31, 2020. • The legislature is in session. The Kentucky Health Department Association (KHDA) is lobbying for foundational capabilities funding for health departments. Senate Bill 8 would allow a philosophical exemption for vaccinations, in addition to medical and religious exemptions. Senate Bill 158 would repeal the mask mandate. • Our Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) site visit went well. LFCHD reaccreditation is on the agenda for PHAB’s next quarterly meeting. • There is a vacancy on the BOH for a physician representing the Lexington Medical Society. A candidate is being considered by the Mayor’s office. • LFCHD will be closed February 15 for the President’s Day holiday. Many response activities will continue on that day.
Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive: Mr. Friesen reported committee activities were covered in the Commissioner of Health and finance reports. • Finance: Ms. Kay presented the Finance Committee report during the mid-year budget presentation. • Marketing and Branding: No report. • Nominating/Bylaws: No report. • Program Outcomes/Evaluation: No report. • Policy Policy/Protocol: No report. • Ad Hoc: Ms. Allen-Bryant presented a report for the ad hoc committee charged with recruiting Commissioner of Health candidates. Since the last BOH meeting, the contract was signed with the McNamara group. An ad was developed, with assistance of LFCHD leadership, and has been published with appropriate associations. McNamara group will be reaching out for meetings with department leadership.
Communications Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hall presented the Communications Report. The Dr. Rice C. Leach Public Health Hero Award nominations are due February 26. Ms. Allen-Bryant, Mr. Hall, and Dr. Moore will review nominations. A recommendation will be presented to the full board during the March meeting. The winner will be announced in April and will be honored by the City Council. LFCHD employees are not eligible. • Vaccination outreach efforts include the launch of an educational program from the mayor’s taskforce next week. The Senior Center has been helpful in connecting LFCHD with seniors eligible for vaccine who have challenges traveling to clinic locations and with calling those without internet access by phone to facilitate registration. Ms. Allen-Bryant participated in interviews addressing vaccine hesitancy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The governor updated vaccine demographics today and reported that, in Kentucky, 4% of available vaccine has been administered to African-American residents. The governor would like to increase the percentage to around 8%. In Lexington, our percentage is 7.6%. We continue to work with the Mayor's Office to increase outreach to Lexington residents. • Outreach to the Spanish-speaking community has also expanded, in print and on Spanish language radio. Ruben Perez continues to lead outreach to the community. • 82% of those eligible for a boost dose have returned to LFCHD to receive them.
Open Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Cornett made a motion that the Board of Health enter into and conduct a closed session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c), specifically, to discuss proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the Board of Health and/or the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Health Department. This discussion will be limited to cases pending in Federal Court on the issues of enforcement of the Governor's orders, proposed and/or potential litigation in the same courts involving the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Health Department and vaccine-related issues, employment dispute litigation and advice of counsel regarding the same. Mr. Jabbour seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board entered closed session at 6:51 p.m. • Mr. Jabbour made a motion to exit the board closed session. Councilmember Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board exited the closed session at 7:20 p.m.
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Friesen requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Allen-Bryant made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Mason seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.


 Michael Friesen, Chairperson


 Kraig E. Humbaugh, MD, MPH, Secretary