

Health Board moves ahead with layoffs

Written by Mandy Hochstedler

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The Logan County Health District started to feel the effects of Tuesday's levy failure at a regular health board meeting the following day, where program reductions and personnel changes were discussed in an emotional session.

"We have to go from 34 employees to only 28 by the end of the year," Health Commissioner Dr. Boyd Hoddinott said through tears.

"They've helped keep our community safe and healthy, and I want to thank them for that."

Members voted unanimously to eliminate four currently filled positions: a part-time immunizations clerk, Jacqueline Prater; a part-time lab technician, Larry Brunke; a full-time health educator, Diana Aghdam; and a parttime public health nurse, Kathleen Davis; effective Dec. 31. These individuals were informed in September that their jobs would be at stake if the 1-mill replacement levy failed, Dr. Hoddinott said.

Vacant positions that the board removed from the table of organization were: WIC administrative secretary, an environmental aide, a sanitarian in training, an infectious disease nurse and a school nurse.

The board also approved the merging of a part-time home health aide and a parttime nurse, into one full-time permanent position, which will be posted internally.

Dr. Hoddinott reported that Joe Berger, emergency planning assistant, voluntarily submitted his retirement resignation so that others could keep their jobs. Members accepted his request.

In other personnel matters, the board approved an additional 45-day wage continuation for Nursing Director Cindy Irick, who was injured on the job. Members also appointed Kay Schroer as nursing director, subject to a 180-day probationary period, with a 10 percent pay increase. Cindy Mabrey was appointed to interim assistant director of nursing with a 3 percent pay increase.

During the nursing report, Ms. Schroer reported that flu shot clinics will continue to be offered Mondays and Thursdays until the end of the year, when the clinics will be scaled back and only offered one day per week.

Regarding other program reductions, Dr. Hoddinott said the agency will no longer perform public health nursing visits, previously offered free to area residents, but will continue to offer home health nursing. The nuisance investigation program and education programs will be significantly scaled back next year, he said.

Members approved the transfer of the Medical Reserve Corps program and grant to the Logan County Emergency Management Agency because of the health district's inability to manage the program with current staffing levels. The remaining grant amount transferred to the EMA is \$8,276.64.

In other action, the board:

- confirmed the involuntary disability separation of parttime home health aide, Libby Krauss, effective Oct. 31;
- approved a change from part-time to full-time status for home health nurse Leigh Barnes;
- approved a rate reduction for manufactured home placement inspection fees, \$225 for single-wide home, \$300 for a double-wide home, along with a re-inspection fee of \$75;
- approved the first of three readings for amendments to Regulation 40, which would increase a number of fees: sewage site evaluation, \$225; real estate sewage inspection, \$90; real estate water sample, \$60; mobile food service, \$50; temporary food service, \$20; food

vending, \$17.25; resident camp, less than 90 residents, \$115, more than 90 residents, \$165; single dwelling well permit, \$120; other well dwelling permit, \$150; and water sample, \$30;

- approved the first of three readings for amendments to Regulation 46, which would increase plumbing fees: plumbing contractor registration, \$75; plumbing permit, base, \$40 plus \$7.50 per fixture;
- ordered Robert Allen of Grove City to either demolish or obtain structural integrity assurance from a licensed professional engineer for his property at 6725 Lima St., Huntsville;
- ordered Richie Austin, 173 S. Sandusky St., Rushsylvania, to remove five scrap tires from his property within three days;
- ordered Kevin Wulff, 10977 County Road 153, East Liberty, to remove rotting food from an open refrigerator and solid waste piles from his yard;
- ordered Todd Jordan, operator of Four Seasons Camp, 11047 State Route 366, Lakeview, to correct several Ohio Revised Code violations within 30 days; and
- approved variance requests for John Aston, to place a replacement dwelling 1 foot from an existing well at 9174 Breezy Way Drive, Belle Center, contingent upon a footer inspection by the health district; and James Scanland to place a well 8.5 feet from the road at 11262 Northlake Drive, Lakeview.

The next meeting is 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3, at the health district, 310 S. Main St.