

## Nurses experience difficulty meeting shot clinic demand



Written by Mandy Hochstedler

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Kay Schroer, interim nursing director of the Logan County Health District, reported at Wednesday afternoon's board of health meeting on the impacts of recent staff changes at the agency.

Several position layoffs occurred at the beginning of 2009, and the LCHD also has not replaced individuals who have resigned within the past year. The position reductions were necessary following a series of three failed operating levies since November 2007.

Ms. Schroer said her staff is adjusting well to their new or added duties. However, they have been met with increased demand at immunization clinics since the childhood and adult clinics are offered less often, and the satellite clinics have been canceled.

"Everybody gets a number when they come in (to the clinic)," Ms. Schroer said. "We say that we're going to cut off services at a certain hour, but in reality, it's really hard to turn people away.

"We see people with all types of difficulties, and their problems will only get worse as the economy worsens."

The interim director mentioned that starting today and continuing on the first Thursday of each month, the agency will offer extended hours for the child immunization clinic, 1:30 to 6 p.m., in addition to the morning hours of 9 to 11 a.m.

Also during the nursing report, Jennifer Wren, home health supervisor, reported on the agency's recent home health licensure certification survey, completed by an Ohio Department of Health representative. She said the survey results overall were very positive.

Members approved the 2008 final budget, with revenues at approximately \$2.165 million for the year and expenses at \$2.276 million.

In environmental health matters, the board approved a new home day care inspection fee of \$100. The inspection would include a basic health check of housing safety, food storage, play areas and hand washing protocol.

Environmental Health Director Craig Kauffman said similar inspections were performed for free in the past at area home day cares. However, members agreed that the LCHD's current financial situation warrants imposing the fee.

The retirement resignation of longtime employee Phyllis Lyons, public health nurse, was accepted. She worked at the agency from 1978 to 1989 and has more recently been employed at LCHD beginning in 2003.

The board also approved a wage continuation of 45 days for Nursing Director Cindy Irick, who was injured on the job.

In other action, the board:

- ordered Robert Allen of Grove City to appear at the next meeting, 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, to show cause why the board should not contract for the demolition of his condemned house at 6725 Lima Street, Huntsville.
- ordered Rebo Inc., licensee of Spend-A-Day Inc., 9481 State Route 708, Russells Point, to correct three Ohio Administrative Code violations relating to awning and drain tile issues within 30 days;
- ordered Larry Kussmaul, licensee of Huntsville Trailer Park, 6675 Willoby Alley, Huntsville, to correct an OAC violation regarding the inspection of blocking and tie-downs on lot 2 within 10 days;
- ordered Roger Lusk of Plain City to remove all solid waste from his property, the closed Hidden Valley Resort, 11141 State Route 366, Lakeview, within seven days; and
- approved an annual evaluation for Tim Smith, safety and sanitation coordinator.

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