

LCHD receives additional WIC grant money

Provides funds for personnel changes in growing program

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Examiner Staff Writer

Logan County Board of Health members received some good news at their Wednesday afternoon meeting, amid concerns of possible budget cuts in the next year.

Assistant Nursing Director Kay Schroer reported that the Logan County Health District will receive an additional \$46,000 in grant funding next year to administer the federally funded Women Infants and Children program that provides supplemental foods, nutrition education, health care referral etc. for pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and infants and children age 5 years and younger. Ms. Schroer's announcement comes at a time when the board is preparing for potential personnel and program reductions, mostly in the nursing and environmental health divisions, if the agency's 10-year, 1-mill levy request fails next month. The ballot issue is the agency's third attempt to replace an operating levy that expires at the end of the year.

Much of the additional WIC funding will go toward funding program personnel, Ms. Schroer said. Along those lines, the board approved two personnel restructuring changes: a part-time nurse who previously worked with WIC, infectious disease and immunizations will now focus solely on WIC; and a part-time clerical worker will be assigned to

the WIC program.

Health District Administrator Lisa Downing explained that the additional funding and the personnel restructuring are needed for the growing program.

"We've seen a huge growth in program participation in recent years, and we expect the program to pick up even more because of the current state of the economy," she said.

In 2007, the WIC program had approximately 950 participants in January. An upward trend in the number of participants each month continued throughout the year, ending with 1,088 participants in December, according to the agency's annual report.

In other personnel restructuring matters, members approved hiring a full-time home health nursing position to fill the position of retired nurse Kaye Cook. Following a 15-minute executive session, the board approved a 45-day wage continuation extension for Nursing Director Cindy Irick, who is out of the office on medical leave following a work-related injury earlier this year.

During the public forum, Nick Johnson of Bellefontaine presented the board with a letter from a building inspector dated Sept. 29 that detailed a recent inspection of his 211 S. Main St. building. The letter stated that the building's roof has been repaired and it is no

longer in danger of collapse. Consequently, members rescinded an order to demolish the structure and declared that the structure is no longer a public health nuisance.

In other action, the board:

- approved annual evaluations for Larry Brunke, environmental health worker; Jackie Prater, immunizations clerk; and Lesley Rowan, technology manager;
 - ordered Don Moore to remove a house at 7623 Council St., Lewistown, which has a collapsing roof, structural instability because of a settling foundation, an unstable porch and openings in the siding, within 30 days
 - ordered Andrew Creamer of Grove City to remove the remnants of a burned house at 8998 Court St., Orchard Island, Lakeview;
 - approved a variance request for Linda Peters of 2680 Mountcrest Drive to place a bedroom expansion 6 feet from an existing well;
 - approved a variance request for Lonnie Jividan, 9536 E. Lakeshore Drive, Huntsville, to place a house addition 1 foot from an existing well, pending the inspection of footer construction; and
 - approved a variance request for Shawn Bechtel of 1107 Alpine Cove, Valley Hi, to place a well five feet from the road right-of-way and 15 feet from the road.
- The next meeting is 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, at the health district, 310 S. Main St.

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