

CECIL COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
October 5, 2021

PRESENT: Council Members: Council President Robert Meffley, Vice President Gregory, Councilman William Coutz, Councilman Al Miller, and Councilman George Patchell. Also, James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant.

Danielle Hornberger, County Executive.

Health Official:

Lauren Levy, Health Officer;

Laurie Humphries, Deputy Health Officer;

Gwen Parrack, Director, Division of Special Populations Services;

Lynette Stupi, Director of Health Promotions;

Ken Collins, Director of Division of Addiction Services;

Ed Arellano, Deputy Director of Environmental Health Services;

Members of the press and members of the public.

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

4:00 p.m. – Council President Meffley called the meeting of the Board of Health to order at 4:00 p.m.

NOTE: Recording of this meeting is available on the County website www.ccgov.org.

Roll Call of Council Members

Council President Meffley asked for a roll call of attending Council Members. The Council Manager called the roll and recorded the following Council Members in attendance:

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Present, Miller-Present, Patchell-Present, Gregory-Absent, Meffley-Present.

Council President Meffley announced that there were four Council Members present, which constitute a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Health of October 13, 2020 was made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, and approved unanimously.

Health Officer Presentation

Lauren Levy, Health Officer, introduced her staff and thanked the Council and Executive for attending this meeting.

COVID Update

Ms. Levy reported that Cecil County has 8,111 confirmed COVID cases and 195 confirmed deaths. The 7-day positivity rate is 8.69% as compared to the State's 3.91%. The county's 7-day case rate of 34.03 exceeds the state's rate of 19.5. She presented statistics comparing these rates from March 2020 to the present. She stated that 66.3% Cecil County's population over 12 have at least one dosage, 59.1% are fully vaccinated. She updated the Board on Pfizer's proposal to vaccinate the pediatric population, ages 5 to 11. She also discussed the proposal for a third dose vs. booster dose. She stated that Pfizer is currently the only vaccine approved for a booster dose but summarized the plans for Moderna and Johnson and Johnson/Janssen that are proposed for approval. She stated that the Health Department is working with Christiana Care Union Hospital to support Pfizer booster administration; and stated that boosters will also be available in county pharmacies.

COVID Vaccine Education and Outreach

Lynette Stupi, Director of the Division of Health Promotion, discussed the plans to better educate the population on the benefits of the COVID vaccine and address rumors of misinformation being circulated. She discussed sponsoring workshops at public locations to provide accurate information on the vaccines.

Cecil Addiction Treatment Hotline

Ken Collins, Director of the Division of Addiction Services, discussed the Cecil Addiction Treatment Coordination Hotline, CATCH. He stated that this hotline allows the public to speak with a Peer Recovery Specialist on a 24/7 basis. He stated that this hotline will provide access to the system of care for behavior health. He stated that 707 individuals have already been connected with treatment in the last year.

Health Department Cancer Screening Programs

Lynette Stupi reported that the Maryland Cigarette Restitution fund, (CRF) supports the Cancer Prevention, Education, Screening, Treatment Program, (CPEST). She described the eligibility for preventative screening criteria and the various challenges of the program. She stated that the Health Department offers cancer screening programs for breast cancer, colorectal cancer, lung cancer, and skin assessment.

Homelessness Update

Gwen Parrack, Director of the Division of Special Populations, explained that Cecil County has merged into the Maryland Balance of State Continuum of Care (MD 514) for the purpose of HUD Continuum of Care funding. This organization, led by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, provides administration functions associated with the HUD Continuum of Care funding while allowing Cecil County projects to continue to receive funding. Ms. Parrack summarized the Health Department's response to the pandemic, which included rapid rehousing, winter sheltering, homelessness prevention, permanent supportive housing case management, and emergency sheltering through partnerships with several nonprofit organizations and Department of Social Services. She also shared statistics of the winter sheltering program and its use of motel vouchers.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Ms. Levy stated that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and reviewed the recommendations to follow for breast screening.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Adjournment

Council President Meffley thanked Lauren Levy and the staff of the Cecil County Health Department for their presentations.

The Board of Health meeting was adjourned by motion made by Councilman Coutz and seconded by Vice President Gregory. Council President Meffley concluded the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

Approved:



Robert Meffley,
Council President
County Council of Cecil County

Attest:



James Massey
Council Manager