



**MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF
HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
August 21, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER:

At 8:00 a.m. President Elaine Flesher called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Flesher with all participating.

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Flesher called the roll as follows:

Elaine Flesher – Here; Rhonda Smith – Here; Michael Huck – Here; Dr. Murrell – Here; Julia Clemens - Here.

STAFF PRESENT:

Jeff Michaels, Administrator; Lynn Mercer, Accreditation Coordinator; Peydon Kincaid, Fiscal Specialist; Keala Coon, Environmental Health Director; Teara Mayle, EHSIT; Jennifer Arnold, Director of Nursing; Samantha Iacone, Grant Coordinator; and Adam Esughi, Environmental Health Tech. Dr. Clark, Medical Director/Health Commissioner, joined the meeting after the first hour.

GUESTS:

Alyssa Hosom, Regional Epidemiologist and Steve Best, County Commissioner

BOARD ORIENTATION REVIEW AND CEUs:

Alyssa Hosom presented epidemiology trends and communicable diseases focusing on tick borne illnesses.

Keala Coon, Teara Mayle, Samantha Iacone, Adam Esughi, and Alyssa Hosom left the meeting at 8:25 a.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Steve Best reported that the County Commissioners are in ongoing talks with Genesis regarding the possibility of adding another facility in the county. Dr. Murrell asked why there is a perception that



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there is no healthcare available in Morgan County. Mr. Best said there is nothing available on the weekend for emergencies. He is interested in meeting urgent care needs. He said Highland Oaks is also interested in having a place for dialysis. They are willing to contribute funds to the cost because they currently have to transport patients for dialysis. Mr. Best also reported that commissioners have run into a road block for the 911 relocation. The old Transit Building doesn't meet the criteria to house 911 so for now it will remain at the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Michaels expressed appreciation to the County Commissioners for the recent installation of the fire alarm system.

Commissioner Best left the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:35 a.m. Dr. Murrell made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion and/or compensation. Mr. Huck seconded the motion. Roll call vote:

Mrs. Flesher – aye; Mrs. Smith – aye; Dr. Murrell – aye; Mr. Huck – aye; Dr. Clemens – aye

Dr. Clark entered the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

Jennifer Arnold left the meeting at 9:12 a.m.

Rhonda Smith left the meeting at 9:16 a.m.

The Board returned to regular session at 9:22 a.m. In recognition of his retirement, Dr. Murrell stated the Board would like to express appreciation to Dr. Clark for his exemplary service. She then made a motion to rehire Dr. Clark as Health Commissioner/Medical Director effective December 1, 2025. Mr. Huck seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the July 17, 2025 Regular Session were reviewed. Mr. Huck made a motion to approve the July 17th minutes as submitted and Dr. Murrell seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

EXPENSES AND BALANCES REVIEW/APPROVAL:

Mr. Kincaid said everything is going well and asked if the Board had any questions about the financial reports. Mrs. Flesher asked if there is anything the Board should look at more closely. Mr. Kincaid said he would note that when he puts something in the health department system, there is a 3 – 4 day delay before the Auditor's Office puts it in their system. This can be a problem when something is entered near the end of the month because it won't show up in the Auditor's system until the following month. Mrs. Flesher asked if the commissioners are still approving the health department's budget. Mr.



Michaels said they only approve something if it involves moving money from one line item to another.

Dr. Clemens made a motion to approve the Expenses and Balances. Mr. Huck seconded the motion.

All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Michaels reported that the Village of McConnelsville is now being served by the Southeast Building Department. The Mid-East Building Department will continue serving the rest of Morgan County. As soon as this transition is complete, a letter should come from the SE Building Department to condemn the Main Street property.

Mrs. Flesher said the Board will need to have a special meeting to address the School Liaison contract.

NEW BUSINESS:

Community Health Assessment - Mrs. Mercer reviewed the Community Health Assessment and noted that many of the concerns identified through the community survey were the same as the last survey. She commented that issues such as housing affordability, Wi-Fi access, access to healthcare providers and unemployment were not issues the health department could address. However, issues noted such as nutrition, physical activity, depression, heart disease and diabetes were areas that can be focused on in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Mrs. Mercer said the CHIP should be complete for the next board meeting. It is currently posted in draft form on the health department website for community feedback.

Dr. Murrell made a motion to approve the Community Health Assessment. Dr. Clemens seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the contract for Dr. Carl Ortman. Dr. Ortman would serve as Medical Director/Health Commissioner for 12 weeks during Dr. Clark's absence. Mrs. Flesher said she feels the Board should have had some contact with Dr. Ortman before a contract was drawn up. Mr. Michaels commented that Dr. Ortman was recommended by Jack Pepper, the Administrator at the Athens County Health Department. Dr. Ortman serves as the Medical Director/Health Commissioner at that health department. Dr. Murrell said since it is only for a twelve-week period, she is fine with moving forward with the contract.

Dr. Murrell made a motion to contract with Dr. Ortman for a period of twelve weeks to serve as Medical Director/Health Commissioner. Mr. Huck seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jennifer Arnold entered the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

Communicable Disease Policy – Director of Nursing, Jennifer Arnold, noted that she went by the



Morgan Local Schools guidelines for communicable diseases to create the policy. The goal is to keep kids in school, but to set and follow guidelines to prevent the spread of infection.

Dr. Murrell made a motion to approve the Communicable Disease Policy. Mr. Huck seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mrs. Arnold left the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Code of Conduct – Mr. Michaels explained that there have been some issues with customer behavior so he would like to have a Code of Conduct in place. He asked the Board if there is any wording that they would like to have changed in the document presented. The Board concurred that the wording looks good. Mr. Huck made a motion to approve the Code of Conduct. Dr. Clemens seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

HEALTH COMMISSIONER/MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT: (verbal)

Dr. Clark noted that the Influenza B vaccine is out. He asked Mr. Michaels to contact Jeff Babcock about setting him up with a new email address.

ACCREDITATION REPORT: (handout and verbal)

Mrs. Mercer stated she has been working on creating a new hire packet that can be shared electronically through BambooHR.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: (Handout and verbal)

Mr. Michaels commented that the approved Board of Health minutes are now on the health department's website.

He directed the Board's attention to the memo on page 140 of the packet. He said the mosquitos that tested positive for West Nile Virus were found in York and Homer townships.

Mr. Michaels said he thought Alyssa Hosom did an excellent job with her presentation this morning. The Board concurred.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING AND EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS: (Handouts)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORTS: (Handouts)

PHEP AND EDUCATION REPORTS: (Handouts)

Mrs. Flesher noted that beginning with the December meeting, Board of Health meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. instead of 8:00 a.m.



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ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Murrell made a motion to adjourn at 10:07 a.m. The next Board meeting will be held Thursday, September 18th at 8:00 a.m.

Elaine Flesher

Elaine Flesher, President

Jeff Michaels

Jeff Michaels, Administrator