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MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.

**MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF
HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER:

At 9:00 a.m. Vice-President Michael Huck called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Huck with all participating.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Huck called the roll as follows:

Rhonda Smith – Here; Dr. Murrell – Here; and Michael Huck – Here; Dr. Swingle – Here; and President, Elaine Flesher – Here.

STAFF PRESENT:

Jeff Michaels, Administrator; Lynn Mercer, Accreditation Coordinator; Peydon Kincaid, Fiscal Specialist; Jennifer Arnold, Director of Nursing; Keala Coon, Environmental Health Director; Teara Mayle, Environmental Health Specialist in Training; and Samantha Iacone, Grant Coordinator.

GUESTS:

Amy Farmer, Research Communication Specialist with The Ohio State University and County Commissioner and Steve Best, County Commissioner.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Amy Farmer presented information regarding the Ohio Healing Communities Study (HCS). The goal of this study is to reduce opioid overdose deaths across all HCS communities by increasing overdose education, increasing naloxone distribution, increasing access to medicine for opioid use disorder and engaging communities through partnerships. Some examples of things Ohio counties are doing include: Jefferson County – Naloxone at rest areas, Brown County – A new mobile unit to share opioid information and naloxone, and Hamilton County – Partnered with the Justice Center to dispense medication. Ms. Farmer shared resources for further information: <https://u.osu.edu/hcsohio/> and <https://hcs.rti.org/>.



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BOARD CEUs:

Jennifer Arnold presented information on Real Food Guidelines: Eating for Health and Wellness. Mrs. Arnold explained that the food pyramid has flipped with the grain group now being on the bottom. Real food is minimally processed food. The emphasis is on quality, freshness, and nutrition. Real food supports healthy weight, reduces chronic disease, and improves energy and overall well-being.

People should eat balanced meals and practice mindful eating—more fruits and vegetables and less grains. Things like sugary drinks, fast food, sugar, flour, and artificial sweeteners should be limited. Always choose foods with a short ingredient list. If the list is long and/or you don't know what the ingredients are, don't choose that food. Good tips are to shop the perimeter of the grocery store, cook more meals at home, and replace processed snacks with whole foods.

At 9:33 a.m. Amy Farmer, Jennifer Arnold, Keala Coon, Teara Mayle, and Samantha Iacone left the meeting.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the February 19, 2026 Regular Session were reviewed. Dr. Murrell made a motion to approve the minutes. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

EXPENSES AND BALANCES REVIEW/APPROVAL:

Mr. Kincaid reviewed the Revenue, Expense, and Statement of Cash reports. He noted that he was able to get the Bio-Terrorism line item renamed to the Public Health Emergency Fund. He pointed out that \$7,539.61 was received in State Subsidies and \$13,003.68 in food license fees. PHEP and Tobacco grant deliverables also brought in revenue this past month.

Mrs. Smith asked why there was a correction in the salary line item. Mr. Kincaid explained that it was because an employee was paid out of the wrong fund and it had to be corrected.

Mr. Kincaid said next month the Board should see a smaller number of negative amounts because he is working with the Auditor's Office to get line items cleaned up.

Mrs. Fleisher made a motion to approve the Expenses and Balances and Dr. Swingle seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Michaels asked Commissioner Best to update the Board on the Becker property. Commissioner Best said a meeting is scheduled with the County Prosecutor and the President of the Township Association to discuss Mr. Becker's trailer park and attempt to get the Health Department's money back.

Commissioner Best stated the District Advisory Council meeting was well attended by the Health Department employees and the Commissioners. He believes there was barely a quorum of the Township



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Trustees. They need at least 7 of the 14 Trustees for a quorum. He feels there needs to be some education regarding the responsibility of the Trustees to attend the District Advisory Council meetings so they understand that it is mandated by law.

Commissioner Best noted that commissioners are still working on getting funding from the Land Bank to clean up nuisance properties.

He shared that 911 is out of room. They need to stay in the Sheriff's Building until a suitable location can be found. Commissioners are looking at moving the County Court to the Court House and then moving the Prosecutor's office.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Michaels reported that Dr. Murrell was reappointed at the District Advisory Council meeting. Her new term will expire in 2031.

At 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Best and Peydon Kincaid left the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion and/or compensation. Dr. Murrell seconded the motion. Roll call vote:

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

The Board returned to regular session at 10:32 a.m. with no action taken.

REVIEW AND ADOPT REVISED PERSONNEL POLICY CHAPTER 7

Mr. Michaels asked Mrs. Mercer to review the proposed changes to Chapter 7 of the Personnel Policy Manual. In section 7.16 H #3, the Board requested that "Health Commissioner" be added as well as Administrator. With that one correction, Dr. Murrell made a motion to approve the proposed changes to Chapter 7 of the Personnel Policy Manual. Dr. Swingle seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

HEALTH COMMISSIONER REPORT/MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT:

Mr. Michaels reported that Dr. Clark attended the Child Fatality Review meeting in February and the District Advisory Council meeting on March 16th.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: (Handout and verbal)

Mr. Michaels reviewed his report and highlighted the section on Public Health Nursing. He and the Director of Nursing have been in discussions with VaxCare to manage vaccines. Mrs. Smith inquired



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about the cost for the service. Mr. Michaels said it would be about \$20 per month. He noted that VaxCare would handle billing as well.

Mr. Michaels reported that he is looking into additional grants. The WIC grant will be competitive in 2028, which means that is the earliest MCHD can apply for it. The grant for Injury Prevention Falls Among Older Adults is also not competitive until 2028.

ACCREDITATION REPORT: (Handout and verbal)

Mrs. Mercer reported that she received an email from PHAB notify her of a new version of Standards and Measures that will be out July 1, 2026. The email stated that health departments that are already accredited will have to follow the 2026 guidelines for annual reports. She will update the Board when the new version is released.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING AND EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS: (Handouts)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH and PHEP REPORTS: (Handouts)

Mr. Michaels noted that there have been quite a few nuisance complaints. He stated that Jobs & Family Services may have some funding for dumpsters to help clean up some of the properties.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Swingle stated she would need to leave the April meeting by 10:00 a.m. After discussion, the Board decided to move the meeting to 8:30 a.m. to accommodate Dr. Swingle.

Mr. Huck made a motion to adjourn at 11:05 a.m. The next Board meeting will be held Thursday, April 16th at 8:30 a.m.

Michael Huck, Vice-President

Jeff Michaels, Administrator