

LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT MINUTES

4/27/2023

A meeting of the LaSalle County Board of Health was held on April 27, 2023. The meeting was called to order by President, Ms. Carretto at 9:00am. A roll call was taken: Ms. Carretto – Yes, Dr. Benavides – Yes, Ms. Wilke – Yes, Mr. Gonzalo – Yes, Ms. Gallagher – Yes, Dr. Manigold – Yes, Mr. Boaz – Yes.

AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Gonzalo seconded by Ms. Gallagher to approve the agenda as written.
Motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Motion by Dr. Benavides seconded by Ms. Wilke to accept the minutes as written.
Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

President's Report – LouAnne Carretto

There was no President's Report.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Gonzalo

After a discussion of the March 2023 bills, a motion was made by Mr. Gonzalo seconded by Dr. Benavides to approve the payment of bills. A roll call was taken: Ms. Carretto – Yes, Dr. Benavides – Yes, Ms. Wilke – Yes, Mr. Gonzalo – Yes, Ms. Gallagher – Yes, Dr. Manigold – Yes, Mr. Boaz – Yes.

REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENTS

Administration – Chris Pozzi

Staff Introductions – Candace Lowe joins us as a Program Assistant, in our WIC/FCM programs.

Carus Chemical updates: Staff continue to receive and respond to calls from concerned residents regarding the fire and other clean-up activities in the areas.

Environmental Health Staff have been working with a local school and IDPH regarding a re-occurring odor in the building.

On March 30, 2023, staff noticed an odd “burning” odor in the lobby. Staff were quickly evacuated and the fire department was notified. After an investigation it was determined that the soda machine in our lobby was malfunctioning.

As of March 30, 2023, we have reopened our off-site WIC clinics. Clients have the ability to currently schedule online or in-person. Within 90 days after the end of the Emergency declaration, (May 11) all WIC sites must be re-opened and clients need to attend appointments in person.

On April 11th, several members of our management team participated in a “Continuity of Business” training.

On April 18, 2023, staff hosted a “School Health Officials” workshop. Approximately 45 school health officials attended the workshop. Presentations on Public Health, Vaccines, Epilepsy and Asthma were given.

On April 20, EH staff offered the annual Larvicide training to 18 township and City officials.

EH staff have worked with facilities, 2 regarding fires that severely damaged the facilities , and the third was a food contamination assessment after an accidental shooting at a facility.

Staff shared media posts regarding the first week of April being “National Public Health” week. Information on programs offered by the Health Department were shared throughout the week on social media.

It is annual grant season, Elaine, Jennie and Connie are working feverishly to get our grants completed and submitted. One grant we are looking closely at is the “Smoke Free Enforcement” grant. This year the grant would require staff to conduct random compliance inspections, of a percentage of LaSalle County businesses and places of employment, in addition to our food service establishments. In past years, these businesses were only visited when we had signed complaints about the businesses. The management team is evaluating whether they have sufficient staff to conduct these additional inspections.

COVID updates:

Testing: We no longer are conducting Covid tests, and have scheduled a date for the testing trailer to be removed around May 19th.

Vaccine Updates:

CDC's new recommendations allow an additional updated (bivalent) vaccine dose for adults ages 65 years and older, and additional doses for people who are immunocompromised. This allows more flexibility for healthcare providers to administer additional doses to immunocompromised patients as needed.

Monovalent (original) COVID-19 mRNA COVID-19 vaccines will no longer be recommended for use in the United States.

Alternatives to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines remain available for people who cannot or will not receive an mRNA vaccine. CDC's recommendations for use of (monovalent) Novavax or Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccines were not affected by the changes. Although supplies of J & J expire this month.

Changes in Reporting: as we approach the end of the national emergency and public health emergency declarations, for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, on May 11, 2023, the LaSalle County Health Department (LCHD) will be discontinuing the Weekly COVID-19 Bulletin in its current format. The last COVID-19 Bulletin will be published on Friday, May 12th

We have updated how we report COVID-19 local data. Weekly COVID-19 reports will be posted via our social media pages (Facebook and Twitter), and on the department's updated COVID-19 web page here: <https://www.lasallecountyil.gov/721/COVID-19-Resources-and-Updates>.

Health Education/Media Report – Leslie Dougherty and Jenny Barrie

Ms. Dougherty's and Ms. Barrie's March 2023 reports on the Health Education highlights are attached to these minutes.

Personal Health Division – Connie Brooks

Ms. Brooks March 2023 report on the Personal Health Division highlights is attached to these minutes.

Environmental Health Division – Jennifer Osborn

Ms. Osborn's March 2023 report on the Environmental Health Division highlights is attached to these minutes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Ms. Gallagher seconded by Ms. Wilke to go into executive session for reasons of personnel.

Motion by Dr. Benavides seconded by Ms. Wilke to come out of executive session and go back into regular session.

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Dr. Benavides seconded by Ms. Wilke to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Bruce Boaz
Secretary
LaSalle County Board of Health