

**THE FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIXTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF HEALTH OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022**

The Five Hundred Fifty-Sixth Meeting of the Baltimore County Board of Health was held March 25, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. via Webex.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Adelsberger, Dr. Havrilak, Judy Kistner, Winona Matthews, Dr. Barbara McLean and Camille Smith.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Katie McElroy

OTHERS PRESENT: Della Leister; Deputy Health Officer/Secretary Pro Tem, Lawrence Richardson; Deputy Director, Finance and Administration and Kathy Wynn, Executive Secretary to the Director.

Dr. Havrilak opened the meeting. Should it be necessary to close the meeting, the Chair will conduct a recorded vote on a motion to close. A closing statement will also be prepared that cites the part of the Open Meetings Act that contains the applicable exception, lists the topics to be discussed in the closed session and give the public body's reason for excluding the public.

I. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

To approve the minutes of February 25, 2022 as presented. Minutes were approved with the following corrections:

First page, TEEN PREGNANCY – Second paragraph, first sentence to read:
Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death globally for girls age 15-19 years.

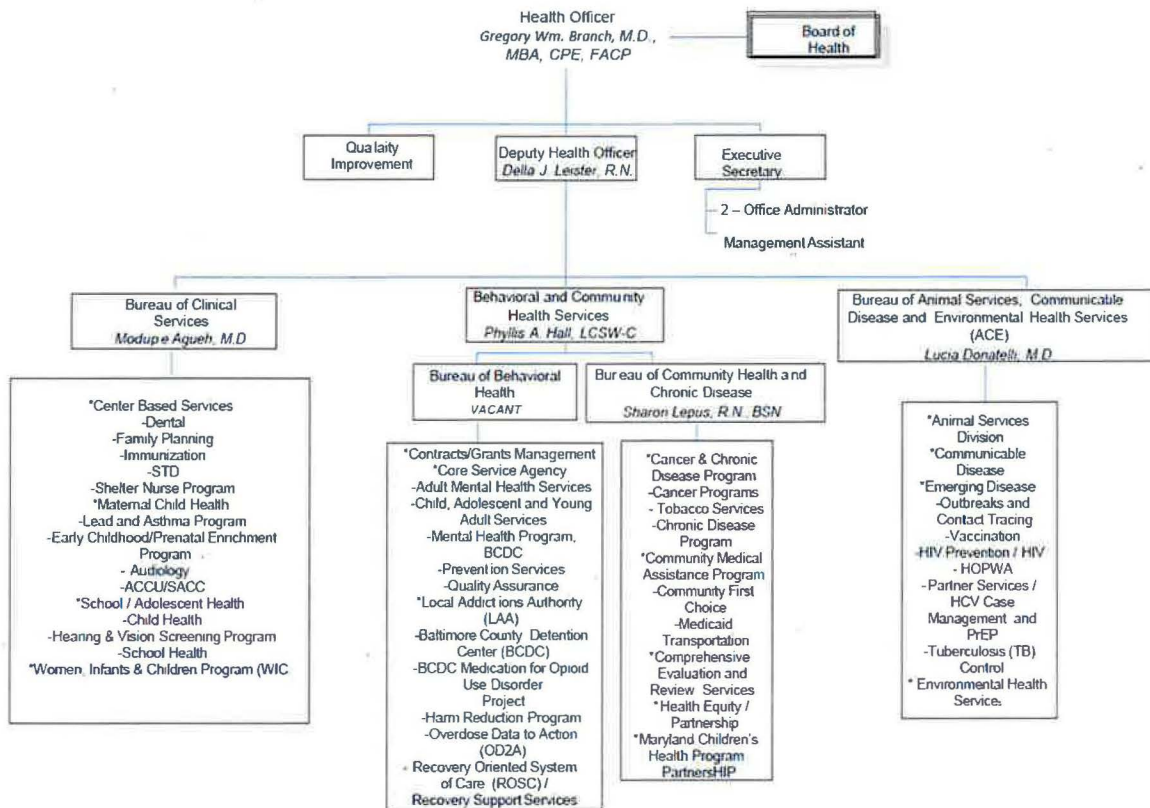
Page four, OLD BUSINESS – Second sentence of paragraph to read:
Ms. Leister listened to both hearings.

Motion:	Ms. Kistner
Second:	Dr. McLean
Decision:	Unanimous Approval

II. FY2023 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

Mr. Richardson provided an overview of the FY2023 operating budget for the department. Leadership presented the budget to the County Executive last week.

The second chart provides an overview of the Department of Health. A reorganization of the department was done almost two years ago.



Rev JB2022

State's name

FY 2023

FY 2023 Budget Request HEALTH SUMMARY

The FY 2023 submitted budget for Department of Health totals \$191,104,994, an increase of \$68,465,319, over the FY 2022 Adopted budget. \$59 Million of the total increase is due to current projected share of proceeds from settlement of opioid litigation. The additional \$9.4 Million increase is due to new grants for COVID recovery and additional behavioral health grants. Overall grants account for 86% of total Health Department funding in FY23.

The General Fund portion increases by \$481,706 or 2% over the FY 2022 adopted budget. Main drivers of General Fund increases include:

Personnel Costs (e.g., COLA carry over, steps, longevities, overtime)

FY 2023 Budget Request
OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES OR OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Over 86% of Health funding comes from grants. These grants provide funding for indirect costs up to 10% of the total grant. Health has leveraged this to fund costs that would typically be charged to the General Fund and are not allowable direct cost in the grant. This offsets the cost of administrative functions, reducing the Departments reliance on general funds for personnel costs.

HHS secured grant funding and worked with the Office of Information Technology to engage in a needs assessment to prepare for the procurement and implementation of a new electronic health record (EHR). The new EHR will better secure patient information, automate scheduling, billing, and claims management to improve efficiency in our delivery of services.

**Proposed Tier Requests
NOT INCLUDED IN BASE BUDGET
TOTAL AMOUNT OF TIER REQUEST = \$400,000**

What is it & Why?

Modular Annex for Dundalk Health Center: As we return to normal public health functions, we recognize the need to incorporate ongoing testing to serve as a safety net. It is preferable for us to test outside of our health centers to reduce transmission. Moving forward, this additional space has been identified as an ongoing need to conduct testing for other communicable diseases, while maintaining a safe environment for uninfected individuals and increased privacy.

Cost? \$400,000 *Equipment Financing Fund

How does it fit into the Enterprise Strategic Plan?

Goal 1: Strategy 2 "Provide sufficient public facilities, programs and opportunities to protect and enhance both physical and behavioral health."

What desired outcome/s does this request impact and how?

Ensure that Baltimore County resources that promote health are reaching historically underserved and vulnerable populations.

How does this request impact the key performance indicators (KPI) associated with the desired outcome (if the request does not impact an identified KPI, please identify a metric that would indicate whether the funded request achieved its desired impact/purpose)? Increase the % of minority and non-English speaking populations receiving public health resources.

**Proposed Tier Requests
NOT INCLUDED IN BASE BUDGET
TOTAL AMOUNT OF TIER REQUEST = \$284,441**

What is it & Why?

- Additional funding for Affiliated Santé
 - Affiliated Santé is our vendor for Mobile Crisis. The expansion of the Mobile Crisis Team created a wage gap that our current grant funding was not able to cover.
- Cost? \$284,441 *Local Shares

American households can now order test kits from the USPS site.

Vaccine and testing continues at the Sears White Marsh location. Upstairs is for vaccines, the lower level for testing. We are slowly demobilizing those sites as the lease expires the end of April. We are slowing down our vaccine and testing. Every two weeks a day is removed from the schedule. Testing will continue at the health centers. We will consider vaccines at our mobile outreach clinics. We are partnering with the schools. Vaccines will mostly likely move into our health centers. Ms. Leister is trying to normalize COVID response as COVID is not going away.

Staff has been on-boarded for COVID. We are working to bring them into the normal infrastructure of local public health.

The previous preparedness director at the state has been hired to work on telling the story of COVID response in Baltimore County. This project will take a few months to complete.

Department Updates

March is Social Work month. The Departments of Health and Social Services celebrate jointly. Next week we are planning an ice cream social to celebrate our social workers and staff.

Medical staff meetings have been restarted and are held quarterly. Dr. Branch meets with all department providers. Providers now bring research or a journal review and present to the medical staff.

Before we meet next month, the department will celebrate Public Health Week which is the first week in April. Ms. Leister will be on the road visiting all the sites to thank staff for their efforts.

Program Updates

We are currently advertising for the Director of Animal Services. The position has been posted, interviews have not started.

A new Deputy Director of Animal Services starts the first week of April.

We are actively recruiting, interviewing and hiring for our chronic disease program.

As mentioned previously, staff have been on-boarded for COVID response. They have been placed in one unit called the Emerging Infectious Disease under the leadership of a public health nurse administrator, a physician and a Management Analyst IV.

We have not been able to offer our public rabies vaccination clinics for two years due to COVID. They are starting back up. Dates and locations are posted on our website.

Facility Updates

Lansdowne is getting a new roof. Services will not be impacted.

Our Qflow process at Drumcastle is re-starting. Qflow is online registration system; all who enter the building are directed to the kiosks to enter their information.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Status of Threats to Public Officials Legislation SB956/HB1409

This bill has crossed over and been referred to the judiciary committee. Ms. Leister to check on status of HB 1409 which was a cross file of this legislation.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Havrilak mentioned he heard about a recall on child formula and if there had been any infant deaths reported in Maryland. The department has placed on their Facebook page and WIC staff have worked to reach out to individuals who receive WIC benefits to make sure they are not in possession of that formula. Ms. Leister to follow-up regarding Maryland infant deaths and will report at next month's meeting.

Dr. Havrilak also mentioned a recent report of a youth found in school with guns and asked what security measures Baltimore County schools have in place to keep kids safe. Ms. Leister stated she could not speak for the school system operations.

Ms. Kistner asked about the BA2 COVID sub-variant. Ms. Leister reported the variant is making its way across Europe and gaining ground in the UK. It appears to be highly transmissible but does not cause as significant a disease. Unvaccinated individuals will become sicker.

Dr. Havrilak questioned what the rate or percentage regarding vaccinations. Vaccine numbers continue to decline with an estimated 100 – 200 vaccines being done a week. We are making a concerted effort to vaccinate 5-12 year olds as this is one of the populations that are the least vaccinated in Baltimore County. We have a program where staff are calling all BCPS parents. Thirty to forty percent of homes phoned pick up the phone.

The Chair and board members thanked Ms. Leister, Dr. Branch and the entire department for their efforts regarding COVID and public health.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIRMAN:

The next virtual meeting of the board is scheduled for April 22. Discussion was held on when the Board will begin in person meetings. Board to be canvassed for thoughts.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Motion: Dr. McLean

Second: Judy Kistner

Decision: Unanimous Approval



Della J. Leister, R.N.