

**THE FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF HEALTH OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2022**

The Five Hundred Fifty-eighth meeting of the Baltimore County Board of Health was held May 27 at 9:30 a.m. via Webex.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Adelsberger, Katie McElroy, Dr. Samuel Havrilak, Dr. Barbara McLean, Winona Matthews and Camille Smith.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Judy Kistner

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Gregory Branch; Health Officer and Secretary to the Board, Della Leister; Deputy Health Officer, Laura Culbertson; Chief, Quality Improvement, Dr. Alexander Chen; Chief, Division of Communicable Diseases, Amy Park; Division Chief, Local Addictions Authority, Bureau of Behavioral Health 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 April 22, 2022.

Motion:	Ms. Matthews
Second:	Ms. McElroy
Decision:	Unanimous Approval

II. SB846/HB116 OPIOID USE DISORDER EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT ACT OF 2019

Ms. Park presented via Power Point (see attached). This legislation requires local correctional facilities to assess the mental health and substance use status of all inmates using evidence-based screening and assessment tools. Local correctional facilities will be required to offer at least one formulation of each FDA-approved medication to treat opioid use disorder: Buprenorphine, Methadone, and Naltrexone.

Correctional facilities will be required to:

- provide incarcerated individuals with on-premises access to peer recovery specialists
- develop a plan of reentry for each individual who receives MOUD
 - Post-incarceration access to medication, peer recovery specialists, supportive therapy, and health insurance
 - Includes recommended referrals for services by a health care professional

COVID:

COVID response continues. Numbers continue to go up and down. Staff have been on boarded for COVID response. Most staff have returned to their normal public health duties. The hotline remains open and continues to receive about 40 calls a day.

Vaccine clinics continue. We have moved out of our fixed sites and are now doing mobile clinics at the request of organizations. We've worked with Baltimore County Public Schools to have clinics at school locations. We were at Pleasant Plains Monday night. Channel 11 was there and interviewed our chief nurse. Boosters for everyone five years and older are being promoted. There is no word yet on when children under five years of age will be eligible to be vaccinated. Notices are being sent via social media reminding people to get their vaccines and boosters. We continue to do community outreach and canvassing of neighborhoods in preparation for clinics coming to their neighborhood.

Testing continues. The testing trailer at Drumcastle will be relocated to Dundalk. We are moving to have testing at the trailers. It is safer for the staff and clients at the trailers rather than the health centers. Beginning the second week of July, testing that was done at the Drumcastle trailer will be done in the trailer at Dundalk. A request has been made for a permanent trailer at Dundalk which is on order. Currently we offer testing six days a week. Starting July 16, testing will be five days a week with evening hours.

Program Updates:

- If you're dedicated to walking dogs or can't get enough of cuddling cats, Animal Services is looking for volunteers. Animal Services is also actively looking for fosters who can house and care for orphaned kittens and mother cats with kittens.

Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant

- The plant is located in the County, owned/operated by the City. Responsibility has been taken over by the State Maryland Department of Environment (MDE). Baltimore County does recreational water sampling and bathing beach sampling. People recreate in waters that border the County which ties into Back River because of the off flow. We have worked with Environmental Protection and Sustainability (EPS) in the County and MDE. We have certain locations in the Bay that are tested on a regular basis. Those results are posted on our website. We don't test within 48 hours of a heavy rainstorm as results will be high. That is the nature of water runoff.

Environmental Protection and Sustainability in the County is similar. They test different locations. Advocacy groups for safe water would like signs posted. Baltimore County signs are posted when there are high levels. Signs come down when levels test low. To date, there has only been one instance of high levels this year. We want to make sure everyone recognizes that going in bodies of water runs a risk to your health. We will work with the County to develop signs that provide a lot of this information, informing that runoff of water is a concern. We will also direct them to a website where they can obtain additional information.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion was held on continuing virtually or in person. A survey was taken regarding this topic. One or two member's responses were not received. Survey results from received responses were half for in person and half for virtual.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Havrilak has been regularly corresponding with the Chair of the Howard County Board of Health. Their Board has written a letter to the Maryland Department of Health asking that the foodborne pathogen *Cronobacter sakazakii* which is not now reportable to the State of Maryland be a reportable disease. It is very rare. It was first found in infant formula. Although there were only four cases in Maryland, there were two deaths out of those four cases. Would board members wish to write a letter to the Maryland Department of Health in support of making this a reportable disease?

Dr. McLean inquired what the criteria is for a reportable disease. Members will review the letter. Criteria as to what constitutes a reportable disease will be looked into.

VIII. REMARKS OF THE CHAIRMAN

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for May 27. Members will be notified if the meeting will be virtual or in person.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion: Ms. McLean
Second: Ms. Matthews
Decision: Unanimous Approval



Della J. Leister, R.N.