

**THE FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-NINTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF HEALTH OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2022**

The Five Hundred Fifty-ninth meeting of the Baltimore County Board of Health was held June 24 at 9:30 a.m. via Webex.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Gregory Branch; Health Officer and Secretary to the Board, Della Leister; Deputy Health Officer, Laura Culbertson; Chief, Quality Improvement, Charlotte Crenson; Prevention Program Manager 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 May 27, 2022.

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

II. PREVENTING MARIJUANA USE AMONG YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Ms. Crenson presented. The goal of the marijuana use prevention program is to prevent or delay the onset of marijuana use among Baltimore County youth and young adults (see attached Power Point presentation).

ACCREDITATION

We are on pre-onsite review status. There will have a combined in person and virtual site visit. This will include an interview with the Board.

III. DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION BY THE SECRETARY

Dr. Branch has re-instituted meeting with medical providers. The most recent meeting included incredible medical presentations by medical staff.

We are working on obtaining a new electronic health record system. Currently at the phase where staff have reviewed the Request for Proposal. Next step will be for Dr. Branch and Ms. Leister to

select four staff to participate on the evaluation committee. Representative from Health, OIT, Office of Law, and Purchasing to select a vendor.

The County moving to a new system, Workday, to track all travel, financial transactions. The go live date is July 5 for time and attendance.

Behavioral Health – The National Suicide and Crisis hotline 988 is scheduled for implementation sometime in July. No changes to our current behavioral health hotline, the 988 number connects to local jurisdictions.

Ms. Leister attended our recovery peer site visit. They were very pleased with the work being done by our peers. The department held our first shared peer conference. Dr. Branch provided opening remarks. Peers from the department, hospitals and private clinics attended. It was a good day for peers to network.

Monkeypox - Maryland has three cases. Currently there are an estimated 140 cases nationally. Numbers are being closely monitored to determine the spread, this is being handled at the state level.

Animal Services has an open house coming up. There will be a number of activities and members of the media are expected to attend. The volunteers have worked hard on this initiative. The shelter is at capacity, it has not been this full in several years. This is not unique to Baltimore County. A number of shelters are full. We are hoping for a good day and successfully open house.

Community Health Services has been busy gearing up for their chronic disease program.

Tobacco Cessation -

The department held a community tobacco meeting. Four faith based community organizations and an outpatient treatment center receive grant funds from the department to provide tobacco cessation. Some were held in person, some have been virtual. The organizations were presented certificates and were thanked for their efforts toward tobacco cessation. We will work with them regarding grant writing which was one of their requests.

As of last week, there was one food service permit not renewed. Environmental Health Services is working with the owner of that facility.

Clinical services – working on formula shortage issues. Gearing up for back to school vaccines, many children are not caught up on required vaccines. Two clinics were held before school ended which were not overly successful. We are working to get the word out to parents.

Dr. Havrilak inquired as to what occurs when parents fail to obtain required vaccinations for their children. Baltimore County Public School sends a letter before the end of school and throughout the summer. In the fall, school nurses reach out to parents reminding them what vaccines are due. Clinics are held every Saturday in September and at the end of August with the exception of Labor Day. They have 20 days to get caught up. On day 21, they are excluded from school by state law.

The County created a grant committee to assist all county departments, to bring agencies together to discuss grant opportunities. They are in the process of hiring someone to oversee the committee. They have worked with Purchasing to put a bid for all grant writing services. Purchasing is finalizing those contracts.

COVID

Clinics were held specifically for infants and toddlers so as not to have lines. Clinics are full this week. We do expect limited walk-ins. We are using the medical model, holding all at our health centers.

The hope is when we move into the fall, COVID is endemic. One of key facts is the more individuals who get vaccinated, the less transmission occurs. .

Monkeypox – we are keeping an eye on those numbers. We do not routinely check for Monkeypox. To be tested, individuals call their local health departments who in turn contact the State who runs the tests. If a test is positive, it has to be confirmed with the CDC.

We are now starting plan for the possibility of the next public health threat. Experienced staff have retired. Staff are exhausted. We must be ready for the next health threat.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Leister thanked members of the board for approving the letter to the Department of Health requesting to make *Cronobacter sakazakii* a reportable disease.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

None.

VI. REMARKS OF THE CHAIRMAN

There are no meetings scheduled for July and August. September meeting will be virtual and in person.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

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



Della J. Leister, R.N.