The Board of Health approved the following:

- Community Development Block Grant Clearance Contract with the City of Zanesville
- Welcome Center Facility Use Agreement for the DAC
- 2019 Annual Report
- Resolution 20-2-2
- Adoption of the Revision of the Board of Health By-Laws
- HDIS—Annual Software Agreement
- MOU with YMCA for Maternal Child Health Grant
- ODH Manufactured Home Park Inspection Agreement
- Ohio University Academic Health Department Association Agreement
- Access Tusc Agreement Update
- Nursing Services Agreement with SEAT
- ODH Ohio Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Agreement
- Resolution 20-03-04 Establishment of Requirements for a Homeowner Registration and Removal of Medical Gas Installer Registration
- ZipEncrypt Agreement
- ODH Amendment to the Help Me Grow Agreement
- Genesis Partnership for COVID-19 Screening Services
- MOU for the Cribs for Kids and Safe Sleep Program

Professional Development

Corey Hamilton reviewed Resolution 04-2 Authority to Quarantine and Isolate. This resolution was presented and approved by the Board of Health on February 19, 2004 and then presented and approved by the Health District Licensing Council on March 10, 2004. Resolution 04-2 gives the authority to quarantine and isolate as necessary for the protection of the health of the people of the community in the event of a bioterrorism or other emergency health event; such as the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our community members have been very cooperative with staff and with the Health Departments efforts during this pandemic. It is felt unlikely that the Health Commissioner will have to use this Resolution, but wanted to be sure the current Board members were aware of it, reviewed it and agreed that no changes were necessary.
On Thursday, March 5, 2020 six members of ZMCHD’s leadership team attended the Governor’s COVID-19 Summit in Columbus. Our state leadership had already come together to plan and prepare for COVID-19. They recognized that the local health departments would be on the front lines of this response, and the state was definitely stepping up to support us and would lead this response across Ohio. Governor Mike DeWine opened the meeting in his calm and reassuring way and one by one introduced his Lieutenant Governor and full Cabinet to demonstrate that his entire administration was planning and working together on Ohio’s response.

On March 9, 2020, Governor DeWine declared a State of Emergency and related Public Health Orders designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 began to roll out from the Ohio Department of Health Director Dr. Amy Acton. ZMCHD activated our Emergency Operations Center and entered into Incident Command Structure that same day. Three confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 were announced by ODH.

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Muskingum County COVID-19 Joint Unified Command

We invited community partners to meet on Wednesday, March 11th to share what we knew about this COVID-19 event. During that meeting, ZMCHD recommended that we enter into Joint Unified Command to plan and prepare together and partners agreed. Command partners include city and county government officials, Genesis Healthcare System, the Muskingum County Sheriff and ZMCHD. Additional community partners and the EMA officially opened the Joint Emergency Operations Center at their office. Joint Unified Command agreed to 24 hour operational periods initially. We have been meeting bi-weekly since then and trying to take off weekends to let the team rest. Our community partners have remained engaged in our joint efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Muskingum County. While we have debated interpretation of a few of the public health orders, once we determined a stance on an issue, we all supported that stance publicly.

In June, our cases grew from 52 to 74 (+22). The call center logged 350 calls for an average of 16 calls per workday. We began planning to make the call center more automated (online reporting) so we could shift some staff hours back to non-COVID-19 responsibilities as much as possible.

ZMCHD COVID-19 Incident Command

The first case of COVID-19 in Muskingum County was reported on March 26th. The second case was reported on March 27th. 

In April, our positive case count grew from two to 14 (+12). We also began to count probable cases per the ODH/CDC case definition. Our internal staff managed contact tracing for isolation and quarantine, alternate case site placements, ensured food, medicine and other basic needs for those in isolation/quarantine as needed, and handled 640 phone calls (29/day average) from community businesses and residents. Our Unified Command focuses on helping the community understand and comply with the public health orders and also worked to provide guidance to the “essential businesses” that were permitted to remain open.

In May, call center volumes were down to an average of 18 calls per day and a total of 388 for the month. Our cases grew from 14 to 52 (+38) and our contact tracing numbers increased greatly. Orders and business/activity reopening guidance was released at an expedited pace. ODH released 14 public health orders and some unknown number of FAQs, Responsible Restart Ohio protocols, and Checklists offering guidance and clarification on how to comply with public health orders. We observed our community showing signs of restlessness with many being anxious to get back to normal activities and routines.

In June, our cases grew from 52 to 74 (+22). The call center logged 350 calls for an average of 16 calls per workday. We began planning to make the call center more automated (online reporting) so we could shift some staff hours back to non-COVID-19 responsibilities by the end of June.
Building Renovation Update

The first phase of construction to enclose and roof the space between the two existing buildings was completed in May, adding 3,800 square feet. Our renovation crew is making excellent progress with Phase 2 work to redesign part of the 1st Floor to fit all of our employees. They have made up some of the lost time from Phase 1 and we expect to be able to move into the Phase 2 area beginning in August.

At that point we’ll move into the final Phase 3 of work to finish the 1st Floor to better serve the community, which we hope will be completed near the end of 2020 or beginning of 2021. Design additions were also added to protect staff during the pandemic.

Accreditation Update

The official results of our accreditation status were shared in March. The PHAB Accreditation Committee reported that accreditation status could not be awarded at this time.

We did a great job proving our ability to meet the PHAB standard and measures. There are a few measures that we misunderstood and submitted the wrong paperwork. We will not be starting any work on accreditation at this time.

There are other measures that we have greatly improved throughout this two-year journey. There will be more information to come after we win this battle against COVID-19.

Personnel Update

Retirements
Linda Barker
Public Health Nurse (May)
Pam Workman
Dental Hygienist (September)

Reclassifications
Melissa Cox from Service Coordinator to Help Me Grow Team Lead
Rebecca Geyer from Contact Tracer to Public Health Nurse
Erika Baker from Public Health

Resignations
Tawny Pletcher
Public Health Nurse
Christina Clemens
Public Health Nurse

ZMCHD welcomed the following employees:

Nurse to Public Health Isolation & Quarantine Supervisor
Diane Miller
Katerina Ray

Public Health Nurses:
Lori Burnell
Teisha Cramer
Rebecca Geyer
Alisha Hughes
Kathy Wagner

Contact Tracers:
Kelly Brock
Wayne Caudill
Willamarie Jackson
Rod Johnson
Julie Lewellyn

Mandy Freiner
Home Visitor/Service Coordinator

Avery Miller
Mosquito Technician
Health Department
205 N. 7th Street
Zanesville, OH 43701
Phone: 740-454-9741
Fax: 740-455-6723
E-mail: help@zmchd.org

Mission:
Prevent. Promote. Protect. Public Health is Our Passion!

Vision:
For Our Agency: One team, striving for excellence, educating and empowering with every encounter.
For Our Community: Muskingum County is the healthiest place to live, learn, work and play.

Values:
Work Together: We engage with our community to establish common goals and achieve desired results.
Help Others: We are helpful, adaptive, and take pride in providing excellent service.
Do the Right Thing: We are fair, honest, ethical, and accountable.
Improve: We continually look for ways to improve our efficiency and effectiveness.
Respect: We accept diversity and practice kindness.

Upcoming Events

September Events

Sep 7: Closed Labor Day
Sep 17: Board of Health Virtual Meeting on Google Meet, 6:00pm
Sep 30: Healthcare Coalition Virtual Meeting on Google Meet, 10:00am

October Events

Oct 12: Closed Columbus Day
Oct 15: Board of Health Virtual Meeting on Google Meet, 6:00pm

November Events

Nov 11: Closed Veterans Day
Nov 19: Board of Health Virtual meeting on Google Meet, 6:00pm

December Events

Dec 24-25: Closed Christmas Eve and Day
Dec 17: Board of Health Virtual meeting on Google Meet, 6:00pm