

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH
MONTHLY MEETING
July 16, 2025

- I. MEETING – called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair, Monica Standel
- II. MEMBERS PRESENT – Monica Standel, Marie Muller, Kevin Watkins, Dawn Fulk, Stephen Smith, Leann Clink, Carolyn Richards & Robert Fielitz
- III. STAFF PRESENT – Liz King, Greg Brown & Tammie Berger
- IV. CITIZENS -
 - a. Gary Lokers - Kimball, MI – Fluoride
 - b. Liz Sommerville – Port Huron, MI - Fluoride
 - c. Amiee Nelson - St. Clair, MI – Vaccine waiver law
 - d. Terry Birgy – Marysville, MI – Fluoride
 - e. Eileen Tesch – Algonac, MI – Fluoride
 - f. Diane Hulett – Riley Twp., MI Fluoride
 - g. Angie Defrain, Fort Gratiot, MI – Fluoride
- V. MINUTES – The Board received the June 2025 meeting minutes. Motion by Muller, seconded by Fulk and Richards to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
- VI. BUDGET TO ACTUAL & AP TRANSACTION REGISTER - The Board received and reviewed the June 2025 AP Transaction Register for \$190,403.16 and the June Budget to Actual Reports. Motion by Clink, seconded by Watkins to accept the June 2025 AP Transaction Registers and Budget to Actual Report to forward to the controller. Motion carried.
- VII. CORRESPONDENCE – None
- VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a. Exclusion Waivers: Liz gave an update on the legal review she received from the State of Michigan and from corporate counsel for the county. She will send these out to Board members after the meeting. Liz discussed developing an on-line process for the education piece. Robert Fielitz discussed his conversations with constituents in his district and would like to see a uniform process. He would like the Advisory Board of Health and the BOC to review the on-line education once ready. Kevin Watkins discuss concerns about the quality of the education a parent/guardian would receive with the on-line process. Carolyn Richards discussed the need for parents to not feel demeaned or coerced into vaccination. Stephen Smith also expressed concerns about the on-line education piece and the message delivered. Marie Muller stated that parents do need to have the choice but also the need for education. Robert Fielitz stated that with medial freedom comes medical responsibility and that he is having corporate counsel look at the liability issue a waiver could bring upon the county.
 - b. Fluoride Memorandum –
 - Liz, stated that administratively EGLE still continues to support the fluoridation of water. Its their opinion that local municipalities or townships boards that voted to

place fluoride in the water supply, need to decide to remove it in the same manner. Liz stated that these decisions are made by local governing entities and would like those entities to make those decisions and not be subject to a mandate from the health department. Liz discussed Public Health duties and responsibilities to vulnerable populations, i.e. those living in poverty. One-third of the county are currently on Medicaid based on income. Fifty percent of births in the county are born to Medicaid mothers. It is important that the health department meet the community with services where they are.

- Dawn Fulk discussed what information she discovered, referring to MCL 33.1171 regarding local municipalities and local ordinance. She discussed CDC information. Currently, 95% of the world population does not fluoridate the water. Topical use can be beneficial, but there is no need to ingest fluoride. Recently both Utah and Florida have banned the use of fluoride.
- Carolyn Richards cited a recent article by the American Academy of Pediatrics. She also commented that even on a toothpaste tube there is a poison control warning to call in case of ingestion. Carolyn would like to see an education packet put together for municipalities and townships.
- Kevin Watkins commented that there is a lot of information on the internet but question some of its validity. Both sides need to be presented to make an informed decision. Is not in favor of a mandate.
- Leann Clink question how the dose of fluoride is manage when added to water system. Would want township and municipalities presented with new information and should not presume that they are even aware of new studies or whether or not they know both sides. Agrees education needed.
- Robert Fielitz commented that an education packet should be created and presented to boards and also available on the website. This packet should contact both pros and con material.

Motion by Watkins, seconded by Clink for the health department to develop a draft educational packet for review. Motion carried.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- a. By-Laws – The by-laws will go before the full Board of Commissioner for final action on July 17, 2025.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- a. HEALTH OFFICER UPDATE – Liz King

- Liz discussed the open house event. Approximately 100 community members attended. The health department received certificates from the City of Port Huron Mayor's office, Lisa McClain's office, and one from the Chamber of Commerce.
- Liz did not have additional reporting given the time she knew that unfinished business would take. Liz asked if any members had any comments about the administrative meeting notes or summary report. None noted. Liz asked D. Fulk if EGLE was still coming to the Port Huron Township Board meeting regarding the PFAS found in the 40th Street Pond. Fulk stated they were. Liz noted that it is her understanding that EGLE will be there to answer questions, but was not ready to present yet.

XI. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS -

- a. Monica S. asked the Steve D, EH Director is there were any updates on the progress of the Statewide Septic Code. Steve commented that the meeting set for August has now been rescheduled for September.
- b. Carolyn R. commented that Dr. Nevin had received recognition at the Board of Commissioners meeting receiving a certificate presented by Rep. Jamie Greene.
- c. Kevin Watkins discussed the importance of hand washing in controlling the spread of disease and that how automatic faucets are program to recognize skin pigments therefore making it difficult and some time impossible for a black/brown individual to activate the water for washing one hands.
- d. Robert Fielitz noted that on July 3rd, DTE had filed suit against St. Clair County, the SCC Board of Commissioners, and the SCC Health Department seeking remedy from the Court by asking it to rule that the County's Solar Regulation is null and void.
- e. Muller commented that the open house was a nice event and she had received comments about how helpful the color bands are on the floor. She also thanked Dawn F. for bringing all of the fluoride research. Marie also brought to the group's attention the high rate of senior suicides. Seniors are finding it more difficult to have enough funds to live. Services through the Council of Aging are receiving cut backs due to reduced funding. She discussed the cuts in the Project Fresh program specifically.

XII. NEXT MEETING -The next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting location will be in the Don Dodge Auditorium, 200 Grand River, Port Huron, MI.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT - Motion by Muller, seconded by Richards to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:3 a.m.

Prepared and submitted by:


Elizabeth King, Health Officer - Director


Monica Standel, Chair


Carolyn Richards, Secretary

Distribution to:
Advisory Board of Health Members
Board of Commissioners
Karry Hepting, Administrator/Controller
Elizabeth King., Health Officer - Director
Greg Brown, Administrator