



**Board of Health
Work Session
Wednesday, April 19, 2023– Board Room
Minutes**

Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Bernabei called to order the second quarter work session of the Board of Health of Canton City Public Health on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 3:30 PM.

The following Board members were present: Dr. Stephen Hickman, Cleo Lucas, Dr. Amy Lakritz, and Dr. Jim Johns. Patrick Wyatt was excused from the meeting.

Staff members present: Commissioner Adams, Dawn Miller, Jessica Boley, and Sean Green.

Also present from Kent State University was Assistant Professor of Health Policy & Management, Dr. Bethany Lanese.

Review of 2023 THRIVE Infant Vitality Program

a) Social Determinates of Health (SDOH) Data Brief

The THRIVE Project Manager, Dawn Miller, reviewed the “Social Drivers of Infant Mortality: Recommendations for Action and Accountability in Ohio” brief with the Board. The brief identified 12 policy goals and 44 key recommendations in housing, transportation, education and employment to reduce infant mortality in Ohio.

Mrs. Miller also discussed the programs which THRIVE has partnered with to address these social determinants of health. Dr. Lakritz asked if the impact of these programs is being measured through tracking of program participants (particularly pregnant women) and their outcomes. Mrs. Miller explained that the programs are required to track outcomes, but often times participants are unwilling to provide the data.

Mrs. Miller added that several programs have been cut from funding because they were not meeting goals or uploading data.

b) Update on THRIVE Strategic Plan and Process

Dawn Miller informed the Board that the Strategic Planning Action Team will be meeting on May 4th to work on drafting strategic priorities based on the perinatal periods of risk.

c) Monitoring of Funded Partners

Dr. Hickman asked how many total funded partners there are. Dawn Miller commented that there are currently 8 funded partners of the THRIVE program.

d) Pathways HUB Transition Update

Commissioner Adams reported to the Board that the HUB operation is in the process of being transferred over to the Stark County Community Action Agency (SCCAA). The expectation is to complete the transfer near the end of May 2023. CCPH will be providing the SCCAA with grant money from the Medicaid enhanced funding; the funds will be used to assist with administrative costs for running the HUB.

Mr. Adams added that the THRIVE employees have needed to dedicate a significant portion of time to the HUB, and the transfer of the HUB will allow for more focus on reorganizing and looking at more initiatives and programs which may produce better outcomes.

Mrs. Lucas asked if the Kent State University Evaluation will continue after the HUB is transferred to SCAA. Dawn Miller confirmed that as CCPH is still under contract with Kent State University, the intent is for the evaluation to continue, and that CCPH intends to enter a data sharing agreement with SCAA in order to provide the data necessary for Kent State to complete the evaluation.

Review of THRIVE Pathways HUB Evaluation Project – Kent State University

Dr. Bethany Lanese presented a THRIVE Evaluation Update conducted by Kent State University.

Both Mrs. Lucas and Dr. Lakritz expressed concern over the disparity in deaths of black babies versus white babies in Stark County, as this disparity has continued to broaden over the past 10 years. Mrs. Lucas cited the importance of strategically allocating funds into programs which will produce tangible outcomes while addressing this discrepancy.

Commissioner Adams commented that the health department has placed an emphasis on health equity and understanding the role that race, racism, and their structural systems play on health outcomes. The intent is to begin to dismantle these underlying structural systems in order to achieve significant progress.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 PM.



President of the Board of Health



Secretary to the Board of Health

May 22, 2023

Date of Approval