

The Board of Health of the Knox County Health District held a regular meeting in the agency conference room with a digital platform option through Zoom for staff and guests only. The following were in attendance:

Board Members:	Staff:	Absent:
Jason Whaley, President Pro-Tem	Zach Green, Health Commissioner	Jeff Harner, President
Eric Siekkinen, RPh	Nathan Overholt, EH Director, Zoom	Ron Martinson, MD
Amanda Rogers, DVM	Joyce Frazee, HR Director	
Barb Brenneman	Katie Hunter, Fiscal Director	
Nary George, MD	Tina Cookrell, PHEN Director, Zoom	
Dan Brinman	Cynthia Miller, WIC Director, Zoom	
Diane Goodrich	Lane Belangia, CHC CEO	
Eric Helt	Nan Smyler, Clinical Director	
	Stacy Gilley, BH Director	
	Deanne Sylvester, QI Director	
	Kristi Thomas, HR Generalist	
	Suzanne Gappich, Emergency Preparedness	
	David Hatley, EPI	
Guest:		
Megan Rice	Joe Porter	Grant Ritchey, Knox Pages, Zoom

1. Convention

1.1. Call to Order

Jason Whaley called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

1.2. Acceptance of Agenda

Eric Siekkinen, RPh, made a motion to accept the agenda. Diane Goodrich seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.

1.3. Approval of minutes for February 21, 2024

Eric Siekkinen, RPh, made a motion to approve the minutes for February 21, 2024. Barb Brenneman seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.

1.4. Approval of Bills

Eric Siekkinen, RPh, made a motion to approve the bills. Eric Helt seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILLS	
February 2024	
FUND	AMOUNT
801 - General Fund	21,724.00
805 - Swimming Pool Fund	179.86
806 - Food Service Fund	955.87
807 - Private Water Fund	2,220.00
808 - WIC Grant	195.38
809 - Sewage Program Fund	629.63
810 - RV Park/Camp Fund	130.00
811 - Creating Healthy Communities Grant	76.56
812 - Public Hlth Emergency Preparedness Grant	40.90
814 - Community Health Center Grant	329,198.12
820 - ODH Grants	5,263.00
830 - Drug Free Communities	711.69
Total	\$361,355.61
THEN & NOW	
801 - General Fund	6,310.53
805 - Swimming Pool Fund	\$130.00
806 - Food Service Fund	558.02
807 - Private Water Fund	988.00
809 - Sewage Program Fund	396.00
810 - RV Park/Camp Fund	130.00
814 - Community Health Center Grant	24,139.48
Total	\$32,652.03

1.5. Public Participation

- Grant Ritchey, Knox Pages
- Joe Porter, Mobility Management
- Megan Rice

2. Hearings/Readings/Regulations - None

3. Special Reports

3.1. Board Report

David Hatley II, Epidemiologist, presented the Annual Epidemiology FY2023 report to the Board of Health.

3.2. Health Commissioner

- The District Advisory Council (DAC) met the first week of March and selected Ms. Megan Rice to fill Eric Helt's board seat.
 - A special thanks to Eric Helt for his board servituda!

- The 2023 Annual Report has been uploaded into the shared drive for your viewing.
 - Kudos to the team for a job well done
- Pre-site response from PHAB regarding agency re-accreditation
 - Due Apr 18, 2024 with a projected onsite visit in July/August
- KANE Learning has been selected for agency long-term planning
 - This five year plan is set to begin June - more info to follow
- HB 344 - removal of replacement levies
 - This has been reintroduced. AOHHC offering testimony on ballot transparency and the importance of local tax levies
- 2024 AOHHC Salary Survey is being drafted. This tool is valuable for onboarding/recruiting public health professionals
- Facilities Update:
 - KPH will present to Knox Co. Foundation in August
 - Master plan proposal with Sol Harris Day is pending
 - Three quotes for 103 S. Mechanic St. demo (former beauty salon)
 - Landbank is expecting NOA on or around April 1st regarding 205 West Vine Street demo grant
- Environmental Health platform, Accela: major concerns across the state and we, KPH, will be pursuing other options in effort to enhance efficiency.
- The Community Health Assessment (CHA) survey has reached over 640 individuals thus far. In addition, focus groups are underway which will also include Amish populations.
- President-elect training in Columbus over the past weekend as I gear up to take over as the next President of Mount Vernon Rotary club.
- Don't forget - Ribbon cutting is scheduled for the 28th of this month at 2pm for our new Mount Vernon Health Center on West Vine Street.

4. New Business

4.1. Finance

4.1.1. Income and Expenses

Barb Brenneman made a motion to approve the income and expenses. Diane Goodrich seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.

4.1.2. Approval of FY25 Budget

Eric Siekkinen, RPh, made a motion to approve the FY25 Budget. Barry George, MD, seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.

4.1.3. Approval of Resolution 2024-04, transfers and advances

Dan Brinkman made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-04, transfers and advances. Amanda Rogers, DVM, seconded the motion; on roll call the following voted in the affirmative: Jason Whaley, Eric Siekkinen, RPh, Barb Brenneman, Diane Goodrich, Dan Brinkman, Eric Helt, Barry George, MD, and Amanda Rogers, DVM; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.

4.2. Personnel

- 4.2.1. Approval to hire Katelyn Hanson, Dental Assistant, effective March 18, 2024.** Eric Siekkinen, RPh, made a motion to approve the hire of Katelyn Hanson, Dental Assistant, effective March 18, 2024. Dan Brinkman seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.
- 4.2.2. Approval to hire Morgan Meleca, Equity & Development Coordinator, effective June 3, 2024.** Diane Goodrich made a motion to approve the hire of Morgan Meleca, Equity & Development Coordinator, effective June 3, 2024. Eric Siekkinen, RPh, seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.
- 4.2.3. Approval to hire Anna Whitaker, Student Intern, effective June 3, 2024.** Diane Goodrich made a motion to approve the hire of Anna Whitaker, Student Intern, effective June 3, 2024. Barb Brenneman seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.
- 4.2.4. Approval to rehire Sydney Snyder, Student Intern, effective June 3, 2024.** Diane Goodrich made a motion to approve the rehire of Sydney Snyder, Student Intern, effective June 3, 2024. Barb Brenneman seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.

4.3. Contracts

- 4.3.1. Approval of the contract with Joe Liszak, Consultant, for HRSA Operational Site Visit help, in the amount of \$4,000, effective June 2024.** Eric Siekkinen, RPh, made a motion to approve the contract with Joe Liszak, Consultant, for HRSA Operational Site Visit help, in the amount of \$4,000, effective June 2024. Barb Brenneman seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.
- 4.3.2. Approval of the MOU with InJoy Food Pantry to establish a working relationship and provide healthy nutrition standards within the pantry, effective March 1, 2024 and remains ongoing with no monetary value.** Diane Goodrich made a motion to approve the MOU with InJoy Food Pantry to establish a working relationship and provide healthy nutrition standards within the pantry, effective March 1, 2024 and remains ongoing with no monetary value. Amanda Rogers, DVM, seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.

4.4. Board Reorganization

4.4.1. Election of Officers

Diane Goodrich made a motion to nominate Jeff Harmer as Board President and Jason Whaley as President Pro-Tem. Eric Siekkinen, RPh, seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.

4.4.2. Approval of Board of Health meeting schedule - Day and Time, April FY24 - March FY24.

Eric Siekkinen, RPh, made a motion to approve the Board of Health meeting schedule April FY24-March FY25. Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm with the exception of June 19, 2024 which will be held on June 12, 2024 at 6:30p.m. Barry George, MD, seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.

4.4.3. Approval of Board of Health member's compensation per meeting and travel reimbursement.

Diane Goodrich made a motion to approve the Board of Health members' compensation of \$40 per meeting with no travel reimbursement. Barb Brenneman seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.

4.4.4. Approval of Board Committees: Workforce Development, Finance and Performance Management.

Diane Goodrich made a motion to permanently move Approval of Board Committees: Workforce Development, Finance and Performance Management to the month of April. Dan Brinkman seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.

4.5. Board Approvals

4.5.1. Approval of the out-of-state travel for Shanea Mantel to Denver, Colorado to attend the Financial Operations Management Training (part 3), from April 9, 2024 through April 11, 2024 with a maximum monetary value of \$2,500.

Eric Siekkinen, RPh, made a motion to approve the out-of-state travel for Shanea Mantel to Denver, Colorado to attend the Financial Operations Management Training (part 3), from April 9, 2024 through April 11, 2024 with a maximum monetary value of \$2,500. Barb Brenneman seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.

- 4.5.2. Approval of the out-of-state travel for David Hatley II, to San Diego, California to attend the NACCHO Essential Skills Training for Emerging Infectious Disease from April 16, 2024 through April 18, 2024 with no monetary value (being paid for by a scholarship).**
Amanda Rogers, DVM, made a motion to approve the out-of-state travel for David Hatley to San Diego, California to attend the NACCHO Essential Skills Training for Emerging Infectious Disease from April 16, 2024 through April 18, 2024 with no monetary value (being paid for by a scholarship). Dan Brinkman seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.
- 4.5.3. Accept the Notice of Award in the amount of \$103,640 from Ohio Department of Transportation for Mobility Management.**
Diane Goodrich made a motion to accept the Notice of Award in the amount of \$103,640 from Ohio Department of Transportation for Mobility Management. Amanda Rogers, DVM, seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.
- 4.5.4. Approval of Agency Emergency Response Plan (ERP).**
Eric Siekkinen, RPh, made a motion to approve the Agency Emergency Response Plan (ERP). Diane Goodrich seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.
- 4.5.5. Approval of the revised Food Safety Program Plan Review Submittal Packet, Facility Layout and Equipment Specifications.**
Diane Goodrich made a motion to approve the revised Food Safety Program Plan Review Submittal Packet, Facility Layout and Equipment Specifications. Eric Siekkinen, RPh, seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.
- 4.5.6. Accept the HRSA Notice of Award (NOA) H80CS30716-08-01 in the partially funded amount of \$84,350.00 for the Health Center 330 Grant with a project period of April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025.**
Eric Siekkinen, RPh, made a motion to accept the HRSA Notice of Award (NOA) H80CS30716-08-01 in the partially funded amount of \$84,350.00 for the Health Center 330 Grant with a project period of April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025. Barb Brenneman seconded the motion; in the negative: none. The motion was approved.

5. Board Information (Non-Action Items)

- **Health Commissioner/CHC CEO approved/signed the following:**
 - Renewal MOU with OSU for our Snap-Ed program, effective April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025, for no monetary exchange.

- o Renewal of the New Directions lease agreement for a Behavioral Health Counseling office, (Suite M7) with the Knox County Community Health Center for a monetary value \$500/month not to exceed \$6,000/year, effective April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025.
- o Renewal of the contract with Dimension Healthcare Consulting to provide cost reporting services for the Knox County Community Health Center for Medicaid, Medicare and Alternative Payment Methods with a monetary value of \$150/hour with a maximum of \$14,000/year, effective May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025.
- o Mutual Confidentiality and NDA with AndHealth
- o Addendum with CareMessage for Patient Tier Increase with a new annual fee of \$22,950.
- o Agreement with KANE Learning for support of the Knox Public Health District Strategic Planning 2024, effective June 2024 until project completion with a monetary value not to exceed \$8,075.00.

• **Leadership Team**

FISCAL DIRECTOR – Katie Hunter, Fiscal Supervisor

- **Resolution 2024-04**
 - o \$500 was transferred from other expenses to reimbursements in the General Fund. This is a new code that was created by the county in February and we moved money in order to have a budgeted amount to use as needed.
 - o 1,500 was transferred from other expenses to reimbursements and refunds in the Community Health Center Grant Fund. Refunds is also a new code created in order to refund patients of the Health Center, if needed.
 - o \$53,000 was transferred from other expenses to fees in the Community Health Center Grant.
 - o \$28,350 was transferred between line items within the ODH grants in order to make sure we can expense the grants prior to the end of the grant period.
 - o The 2025 Budget will be on the Agenda for Approval this month. The budget is basically a placeholder and in the third quarter, the finance committee will meet to determine what changes need to be made before it becomes the permanent appropriations. For the 2025 Budget, I added a 5% increase to Revenue in the General Fund and Health Center Fund, everything else stayed the same. For expense, I added a 5% increase to everything.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR – Joyce Frazee, Director

NEW HIRES:

- This summer we welcome back Sydney Snyder to fill one of the student intern positions. Sydney will once again help Tami with activities through the Creating Health Communities grant, such as the Teen Garden project. Sydney is a student at Washington Jefferson College, majoring in Childhood Development in Education.
- Our second intern is Anna Whitaker, she is studying Marketing at Otterbein she will work with the PHEN division, assisting with fairs and festivals and the agency website.

- Katelyn (Tyler) Hanson was hired to fill the dental assistant position starting March 18. Although Tyler does not have DA experience the dental department is eager to teach.
- Morgan Meleca was hired to fill the Equity & Development Coordinator role (previously Carmen's position). Morgan graduated from Miami University with a degree in Public Health and Neuroscience. She is currently enrolled at The Ohio State University completing her Master's program in Public Health with a concentration in epidemiology. She will start her public health career with KPH June 3.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR – Nate Overholt, RS, Director

- Registered Environmental Health Specialist Rachael Belford provided a level one food safety training Person-In-Charge course on March 8, 2024 at the Ramser 4 H Center. 40 individuals from local food facilities were present for the training. This is the first food safety training that we have provided since prior to the pandemic. The next PIC training will be held April 29th, 2024 and we currently have 15 individuals signed up to attend.
- The food establishment plan review packet has been updated with a few revisions. Language was added to help clarify information regarding the fee for an existing establishment vs a new establishment; A change of ownership packet was created for existing facilities that go through a change of ownership so the new owners won't be required to fill out a plan review packet; and some of the redundant language regarding the plumbing fixtures was removed as the licensed plumbers will be providing that information to Richland Public Health Plumbing Division for review and approval.

PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION AND NURSING DIRECTOR – Tina Cockrell, Director

- If approved David Hatley II will be traveling to California in April to attend NACCHO Essential Skills training. He applied and received a scholarship for all expenses to be paid by NACCHO. The training focuses on relationship and collaboration, communication, emotional intelligence, cultural competency with an equity focus.
- You will find in your folder the Communicable Disease Annual Report compiled by David Hatley II and KPH Annual Report compiled by Nicole Lybarger.
- April 1-7 is Public Health Week - we have plans to provide information to the public and the Workforce team will host a themed week with staff.
- PHEN is growing...two interns will join us for the summer. We are excited to welcome back Sydney Snyder who will focus on the Green Teen Garden project with Tami Ruhl and Creating Healthy Communities. Also joining us is Anna Whitaker who will be focused on developing a new website for Knox Public Health. In June we will also welcome Morgan Meleca as Equity Coordinator, she is excited to join KPH. On the agenda you will find a request to approve NOA for the Mobility Management project. We will be adding a Program Coordinator in the fall to lead this project.
- The 2023 Creating Healthy Communities Green Teen Garden project was featured on the ODH website.

- The team has been collecting surveys from students who received Tickbusters education in the fall of 2023. The data will be compiled to determine increase in knowledge and success of the project. We plan to continue this education with 2nd graders in the Fall 2024 and follow up in Spring 2025 with surveys.
- An application has been submitted for another round of Drive to Succeed funding. The 2023 grant award provided 45 scholarships to income eligible students to complete drivers education. We have a great partnership with the local school districts to identify students. Suzanne has presented at two regional meetings educating surrounding county agencies on best practices and success of our project.
- Puberty and Hygiene lessons have been scheduled with all schools who have requested our staff. Some schools choose to provide the education to their students and only receive the hygiene kits for distribution.
- Tami will be completing her CHC grant funding request in May for 2024-2025 funding. She has completed half of the Healthy Eating Research (HER) guidelines project with local food pantries. These efforts will continue as we educate community members about nutrition of the foods they are receiving at the local food pantries.
- Vaccine clinics have been scheduled with Knox County Career Center and Centerburg Local schools to provide Meningitis and Tdap vaccinations for students. Lisa is currently working to schedule fall flu clinics with a goal to confirm all events by the end of April.
- Our school nurse Jenn O'Hara has received approval to begin a Vape Cessation program at the Career Center. With a physician order and parental approval students could be eligible to participate in our cessation program and counseling. In May Jenn will be transporting students to the Health Center dental clinic for services. In previous years an external provider was used and follow up dental care was missed. The hope is this pilot will provide the students with an easier transition of care.
- The DFC grant application has been submitted for year 10. How the funding is currently described this will be the final round of funding. However, there has been discussion the grant may be extended another five years (not confirmed). There are other grants available to continue the work around prevention of substance use disorder. These will be explored if the grant is not extended.
- Drug Take Back Day is scheduled for April 27 10a-2p we will continue to host 5 locations across Knox County including Danville PD, Centerburg Foster's Pharmacy, Fredericktown PD, Knox County Chamber of Commerce and KPH our main location. This year attendees will receive a bag with a home disposal kit for future use, a resource book and information regarding Health Center services.
- Two Hidden in Plain Sight presentations were hosted in partnership with Johnstown Local Schools. Tina will be traveling to Galia County in May to provide a Train the Trainer event as that community is just in the beginning stages of creating a Hidden in Plain Sight program. Additional presentations are scheduled in Knox County for June.
- 72 Narcan kits were provided to 1st responders in February. Two more Naloxboxes were installed in the county bringing the total to 5. 11 Narcan kits were provided to community members.

- Knox Health Planning Partnership with funding from United Way of Knox County will support the following projects:
 - Puberty and Hygiene education \$8,000
 - Knox Out Tobacco \$15,000
 - Senior Health & Wellness \$9,000
- Staff are working on scheduling Community Health Assessment focus group events and continue to share the survey link online. If you have not yet completed the survey please visit surveymonkey.com/r/KnoxCountyCHA. Please share this link with family and friends, on social media, with church groups, civic groups and co-workers.

WIC DIRECTOR – Cyndie Miller, RD, LD, CLC, Director

- Knox County WIC initial caseload for February 2024 is 758, an decrease of 20, from January 2024
- Knox County WIC's breastfeeding initiation rate for February 2024 is 69.19%.
- Availability of infant formula has improved overall, Puramino will be in limited supply, however, until the end of April. State WIC continues to meet with Mead Johnson on a regular basis and to hold bi-weekly calls with local program directors.
- Our WIC Tasting Finale in-person gathering is planned for March 27th, 2024 in collaboration with Snap-Eld Program Assistants (Tanner Cooper-Risser and Cate Hayes). A weekly video series, "Beyond the Table," recipes, and State WIC supplied giveaway items (Star-shaped cookie cutters, cutting boards) are provided for participants . The WIC program is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2024, "Feeding Families for Fifty Years." ODH State WIC's celebration will be held May 2, 2024.
- Local WIC staff attended the Annual 2024 WIC Nutrition Conference on Mar 12, 2024 off-site, utilizing Starting Point's conference room.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER DIRECTOR – Lane Belangia, CEO

- **CEO Update:**
- The Mount Vernon Health Center (MVHC) Open House and Ribbon Cutting is planned for March 28th from 2-4PM. Please plan on attending this event and show your support for the mission of this health center, the more the merrier. After the Ribbon Cutting there will be tours of the newly remodeled building.
- **Board Agenda Review:**
- There are two contracts up for renewal, a lease with New Directions for the counseling room the health center uses and also a renewal of the contract with Dimension Healthcare Consulting which is the consultant we use for our cost reporting processes and also general assistance with fiscal questions. Both contracts are unchanged.
- A new contract with Joe Liak to come and perform a mock on-site visit survey will be up for approval. Joe is a CEO of over 25-years, he is a HRSA surveyor, and he has this consulting business. The Directors for the center are either in a new role or have not been through an on-site survey before. The amount of work needed to be completed by September is quite hard to gather if one does not know what to look for.

Having a consultant perspective while bringing understanding of the compliance manual who also has survey experience is why I am recommending approval with this motion.

- We have received two NOAs YTD for the main health center grant; the last one was accepted by the Co-app board in February which totaled \$421,750.00. The center has since received another NOA for the main grant in the amount of \$84,350.00. The total of both is \$506,100 which is just over half of our annual funded amount of \$1,012,000. With congress's continuing budget resolutions, "continuing" the center may receive additional partial notices of funding until the budget is finalized. The amount received to date would allow for drawdowns of this fund through the month of September 2024.
- **Board Compliance and Governance.**
- There are three policies up for renewal without changes. The Incident System and Quality Assurance and Improvement Plan, the Surprise Medical Bills and Good Faith Estimates policy and the Peer Review Policy will continue without changes for the next year. All fall under the governance and compliance section of the agenda as the Co-app board approves all center fiscal policy and receives quality reporting information (including peer review results tied to credentialing and privileging).
- The above-mentioned policies are in the policy folder in the Google Drive for your reference.
- **CEO report:**
- The UD\$ report was accepted and then returned for additional clarification on some of the data points submitted. Rebuttals to our surveyors' questions was returned per HRSA's request on 3/12/2024. We are awaiting final approval at this time, when reviewing the additional information requested I do not think we will have any additional questions from the surveyor.
- On 3/4/2024 a application was submitted to The Ohio Department of Health for planning dollars in the amount of \$44,000 to be used for a year to partner with Centerburg Schools in designing a business plan to bring a school-based health center to their district.
- The health center received the final NOA confirming the MVHC is operational and within the scope of HRSA guidelines.
- I hope to see you all on March 28th for the Open House.

CLINICAL DIRECTOR - Nan Snyder, RN

Mid-Office Staff – Aly Tucker, LP, Clinical Supervisor

Process Improvement - Morning Huddle

- In February we reported the implementation of the morning huddle. Communication has improved in the clinics and has led to better patient outcomes. For example: A newly diagnosed diabetic patient stopped by the clinic and needed further patient teaching on how to use their glucometer to check their sugar levels. One of the nurses who typically gives immunizations offered to help the patient and made the patient feel

comfortable with their new diagnosis and equipment. This nurse knew from that morning huddle that the clinic schedule was busy and medical staff were working on scheduled patients' needs. Before the morning huddles the patient could have been turned away and left frustrated.

- Employees have expressed they know when their co-workers have to leave early for the day or are working on other tasks. Therefore, they can implement a plan when the day begins on how to work as a team to get our patients' needs met. Overall, having positive communication among healthcare workers not only builds a strong team of employees but also benefits the patients' care they receive at our clinics.

Medical Providers – Jordan Moore, CNP, Chief Nursing Officer

- Our providers continue to work hard. Over the past month, Lindsey Gilkey CNP completed her QI project to help us to improve and understand our Medicare Annual Wellness. Her project has led to continued improvements by the Medical Clinic Leadership team and the Population Health Navigator. As a team, we completed a cause-and-effect diagram to determine what kept our organization from completing Medicare Wellness Visits. As a team, we chose to convert currently scheduled visits to Medicare Annual Wellness Visits (which are covered by Medicare) for those eligible patients and as time allowed with the provider's schedule. Our providers have been extremely flexible in tackling this issue by allowing same-day changes for Medicare Annual Wellness Visits.
- The Providers will continue to address quality of care screenings which will improve our UDS measures. The Nurse Midwife has agreed to complete outreach with patients who have a gap in breast and cervical cancer screenings. We are hoping this personal contact will be able to educate patients about the importance of screening, she will schedule patients for cervical screenings, and order breast cancer screenings. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, cancer screenings overall have drastically fallen behind.
- In October, 2023 we have been able to schedule patients strictly for mental health. This has drastically improved and expanded our scope as far as a health center. For the first two months of 2024, 47 patients were seen and there were 59 patient encounters (visits) for this service at the Mt Vernon Health Center. We are looking to expand access by having appointments in the Danville and Upper Gilchrist Rd Medical Clinics. Mental health providers who can prescribe medication are limited in Knox and the surrounding counties. The service has improved the type of medications that our Medicaid patients can receive due to the ORC Section 5167.12. Simply put, due to Jordan Moore's certification, any psychiatric medication prescribed for Medicaid patients will be approved without cost or prior authorization. The Health Center now

can provide psychotherapy in collaboration with psychiatric medication management under the same roof.

Patient Service Representatives – Aimee Huise, Business Office Coordinator

- Currently, there are two Patient Service Representatives (PSR) in a six-week orientation period working one-on-one with several seasoned PSRs. All PSRs can access the Medicare Portal to check if patients have completed a Medicare Annual Wellness Visit and if the patient has not had a visit the PSR will schedule a future visit for the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit. Through EMR optimization several PSR workflows have been updated for efficiency.

Clinical Director – Nanette Snyder, RN BSN

- As a Leadership Initiative, the Medical team has plans to complete 80% of Medicare Wellness Visits of eligible patients. We have started slowly in February and still have a ways to go.



- As Jordan mentioned in his report we wanted to convert as many scheduled visits as possible to Medicare Annual Wellness Visits and if unable to convert the current visit then the PSR will schedule the patients for a future Medicare Wellness Visit. For the three weeks we tracked the new process in February, there were 76 eligible patients scheduled for various visits. Of those, we were able to convert and complete 11 Medicare Annual Wellness Visits. Twenty-two of the patients were scheduled for a future Medicare Annual Wellness Visit. Unfortunately, 43 individuals continued to have no intervention for completion. By reviewing this information the team realized that there needed continued training for

all team members on the processes.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTOR - Stacy Gilley, LISW-S

Georgette Burritt, LSW/LICDC, reports, "A few weeks ago I met with a 19 year old female. She identifies with depression and anxiety. I spent the session getting to know her and what was going on. I met with her for the second time this week and at the conclusion of the session she told me that the session was so helpful for her, when she went home she felt more energetic and did some things around the house and even the following day she felt better. She didn't really expect counseling to help as much as it did. I was so touched. It was a really nice end to a session."

Paul Hart-Ruthenbeck, LCDC III, reports, "Numbers are going up for the SMART Recovery group. We have more participation from the community. Spouses are attending together to support each other through the recovery process."

Deborah Wauthier MSW/LSW, LCDC III, reports, "I was very fortunate and blessed to work with a brave client dying with stage 4 Cancer. Zach and Lane graciously allowed this man to receive the support he requested and I know this gave him peace through his journey. I first started seeing this client in 2023, so we had built a therapeutic relationship prior to his stage 4 Cancer diagnosis. The client reached out through his wife to request continued counseling after his diagnosis. I was able through the support of KPH to go to his home starting January 23, 2024. At that time the client was hopeful he may have at least 1 year to walk his journey and spend time with family. On our visit February 7, 2024 the client was processing just learning he had 12-18 months to live. We were discussing his plans to make every moment count with his family. He expressed concern about starting Chemo on February 14 2024, and told me he felt his Cancer was spreading. Unfortunately he received the news that in fact his Cancer was far more advanced than the doctors thought, and at that time he was given 2-3 weeks to live. He chose to go home on Hospice and say his goodbyes. The client passed away approximately 7 days after receiving the news he would likely live 2-3 weeks. In total we had 3 sessions from the time he requested until his passing. Through his journey the client tried to remain hopeful and focused on quality time."

Deborah Wauthier MSW/LSW, LCDC III, reports, Client who is working with myself and Georgette to recover from long term PTSD symptoms going back to childhood. She attends talk therapy with me and does EMDR reprocessing with Georgette. The client reports "Where counseling has taken me...before counseling I had no hope. Now I realize I have a lot to offer."

Deborah Wauthier MSW/LSW, LCDC III, reports, Client middle aged woman with a long history of PTSD and Bi-Polar Depression. She has progressed from negative anger outbursts and avoidance to acknowledging her trauma and the need for healing. Her marriage is being healed, she has verbalized an improved mood, she is making plans for the future and now goes and sees her ailing father weekly in the nursing home.

Deborah Wauthier MSW/LSW, LCDC III, reports, Female mid 30's with extensive PTSD and trauma history. Seeing myself for talk therapy and Kristina for EMDR. She has progressed from a history of past substance use to long term recovery. She has also had an extensive history of legal problems which she has worked through and put behind her. She has a steady job, states she has found love, and has done everything we have suggested she try.

Deborah Wauthier MSW/LSW, LCDC III, reports, Female 16 years old history of ADHD, PTSD, Prolonged Grief and highly functioning possible autism. She has recovered from her Prolonged grief, has successfully learned how to manage her PTSD and ADHD and is bravely coping through learning she has a fractured back and will need surgery. She has done so well, we are discussing possible discharge in the next few months.

We continue to work with eClinicalWorks to optimize our electronic health record (EHR), identifying how to improve the overall efficiency of our system; to aid with billing and coding processes, streamline workflows, enhance data capturing, and improve patient outcomes,

February UDS Totals:

Measure	2024	2023	2022
Childhood Immunization Status (CMS 117411)	94%	+ 7.1%	96.6%
Child Weight Assessment / Counseling for Nutrition / Physical Activity (CMS 118411)	12.0%	- 25.0%	66.0%
BPH Screening and Follow-Up (6+ Years) (CMS 119411)	86.7%	+ 4.7%	89.0%
Depression Evaluation at Twelve Months (CMS 119411)	9.0%	- 1.1%	89.0%
Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan (CMS 2012)	89.2%	+ 4.0%	89.0%
Tobacco Use Screening and Cessation (CMS 120411)	84.0%	+ 0.4%	85.0%
Colorectal Cancer Screening (CMS 120411)	11.0%	+ 3.0%	16.0%
Cervical Cancer Screening (CMS 120411)	14.0%	+ 0.0%	14.0%
Breast Cancer Screening Ages 40-49 (CMS 120411)	86.0%	+ 13.0%	16.0%
Hypertension (Controlling High Blood Pressure) (CMS124511)	89.0%	+ 11.5%	76.0%
Diabetes (A1c) - 9 or Uncontrolled (CMS 125411)	21.0%	- 12.0%	33.0%
Statins Therapy for the Prevention and Treatment of Cardiovascular Disease (CMS126711)	79.0%	+ 0.4%	80.0%
IV Abusers (CMS 126711)	14.1%	+ 1.0%	80.0%
HSV Screening (CMS 126711)	11.0%	+ 3.0%	80.0%
HSV and PrEP/ART	0%	0%	100.0%
HSV Serology to Care	0%	0%	100.0%
Dental Sealants for Children between 6-9 Years (CMS 127411)	88.0%	+ 2.4%	89.0%

Tara Merlier, Population Health Navigator-

I have been working with the mid-office staff supervisor to implement a process that will address patients more consistently that have been identified to have one or more gaps in care. I provide targeted lists monthly for each focus measure to the mid-office supervisor, who assigns patients to her staff, to follow up on outstanding orders to close the identified gaps, and/or attempting to reach patients to schedule an appointment to address missing care gaps. I also utilize Care Message to initiate outreach messages to the same identified patients to encourage them to contact our clinic for an appointment.

I have also been working on an initiative with the PSR supervisor to increase completion of Medicare Annual Wellness visits for patients identified as being "due" for an Annual Wellness visit. To keep things consistent, I have been providing lists weekly to the PSR supervisor of the patients that are scheduled for any appointment in the upcoming week that is "due" for a Medicare Annual Wellness visit. She also is distributing the list based on location of visit to her

PSR staff to encourage conversations with patients and providers to address completing their Medicare Annual Wellness visit for this year.

Medicare Annual Wellness



6. Adjournment

Having no further business, Barry George, MD, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amanda Rogers, DVM, seconded the motion; in the negative; none. The motion was approved.

The Board meeting adjourned at 7:41p.m.



Jason Whaley
President Pro-Tem



Zach Green
Health Commissioner

