

**LOUISVILLE METRO BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**September 7, 2021**

**Voting Members Present:** Dr. Tony Zipple, Heidi Margulis, Margaret Handmaker, Dr. Dwayne Compton, Dr. Paula Grisanti, Dr. Emerald Echols, Dr. Edward Miller

**Advisory Board Members Present:** Dr. Craig Blakely, Dr. Sarah Moyer, Ashley Shoemaker, Natalie Johnson, Dr. Bart Irwin, Dr. Valerie Briones Prior, Angela Hayes, Shelby Williams

**Others Present:** David James, Anthony Piagentini, Amanda Clark, Catalina Cordova, Paul Kern, Kathy Turner, Anthony Aloise, Dr. Sarah Beth Hartlage, Kellie Kane, Rebecca Hollenbach

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am. This was a virtual meeting due to Covid-19. All voting members were visible and audible on WebEx. The meeting was streamed live on Facebook.

**Approval of Minutes**

*The July and August minutes were accepted as distributed.*

**Perspectives: Health Priorities of Metro Council**

Metro Council President David James:

- Violence is the number one issue in our community. The number of children who have died from gun violence is higher than the number who have died of Covid-19.
- There are very few health providers west of Ninth Street and that is where we have the highest concentration of environmental contamination in Louisville. Health equity throughout Louisville is important.
- Redistricting, which occurs following each census, will cause Council districts to shift and some residents will have new representation.

Minority Caucus Chair Anthony Piagentini:

- There is bipartisan agreement that modern data systems are needed so that government can share accurate, real-time data about health (and not just Covid-19 data).
- Education can improve many health outcomes; however, intergovernmental cooperation is necessary to move forward.
- Violence is a huge problem. CM Piagentini is working on legislation to capture better data on violence and increase services for victims.
- Brownfield remediation is needed for health and economic development. He cited the property across the street from the Louisville Urban League's sports facility at 18<sup>th</sup> and Broadway.

**LMPHW Director's Report: Director Dr. Sarah Moyer**

The Board received the full Director's Report.

Hospitalizations and the number of patients on ventilators are at an all-time high. The average age of unvaccinated individuals is in the 50s versus 70s for vaccinated patients. Public health communication has reached the limits of our ability to influence people to get vaccinated. Vaccine mandates have worked across the country. More businesses are encouraged to follow the example of our hospital systems and businesses such as Humana which are requiring their workforces to be vaccinated. Additionally, we know that trusted neighborhood leaders and medical professionals having conversations with individuals work to increase vaccination.

West Nile Virus has been found in Louisville mosquitos; tick-borne diseases have been identified as well. People should protect themselves outdoors; clinicians should look for these diseases in patients.

**Chair Notes: Heidi Margulis**

The Chair thanked nurses, our healthcare systems, public health staff, businesses which are requiring their workforces to be vaccinated and Volunteers of America for their efforts to combat Covid-19.

The Chair asked Board members to consider which issues the Board should prioritize going forward. One suggestion was to focus on the juvenile population of Louisville, which are very vulnerable due to violence and being ineligible to get vaccinated. The Chair will send a survey to solicit additional responses.

**Committee Reports**

Immunization: Dr. Echols

The committee's goals for the year are to find ways to reduce barriers to using the Kentucky Immunization Registry and developing educational materials for providers and the community about vaccines including Covid-19 and flu.

SPIRE: Dr. Zipple

Dr. Zipple requests additional members for the committee. He is working with UofL on behavioral health response alternatives to police for 911 calls. They are finalizing their report and plan to launch a pilot program by November.

Coverage & Outreach Coalition: Ashley Shoemaker (Family Health Centers)

The Coalition met on August 9<sup>th</sup> and had a presentation on HB 497, a healthy reentry bill for individuals being released from prison, from a representative of Corrections. The Coalition is also tracking Medicaid enrollments. There has been a decrease, likely due to the end of Presumptive Eligibility. The next Coalition meeting is October 11.

**Board Discussion**

The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday October 5th at 8am. The "Perspectives Session" will focus on health equity initiatives in the private sector.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED**

---

Heidi Margulis, Chairperson