

**Pendleton County Local Board of Health Meeting Minutes**  
**Pendleton County Public Library**  
**September 30, 2015**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:**

Delbert Cox  
Judge David Fields  
Robin Hall, RN  
Dr. Tony Hall  
Trena Mains  
Allison Nichols  
Dr. Brian Schack, Chairman  
Rose Verax  
Jennifer Wright

**Members Absent:**

Henry Bertram  
Dr. Monte McElfresh  
Jean Nordheim-Edwards

**Staff Present:**

Dr. Georgia Heise  
Rebecca Messmer  
Justin Pittman  
Candice Selph  
Michelle Wilburn

**Welcome and Remarks:** Chairman, Brian Schack, called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Topic:** Approval of June 30, 2015 Minutes

**Discussion:** Board members were asked to review the minutes from the last meeting in order to verify their accuracy. The minutes were reviewed with no discussion.

**Action:** Delbert Cox made the motion to approve the June 30, 2015 minutes. The motion was seconded by Allison Nichols. The motion passed unanimously.

**Topic: Old Business**

**Topic:** Update on the Pendleton County Health Center Roof

**Discussion:** Justin Pittman provided a brief overview of the information they gleaned from the structural engineer that Ms. Nichols suggested to review our building plans. The engineer explained to Mr. Pittman that the current Pendleton County Health Center building could not support any more weight. Based on that assessment, Mr. Pittman explained that he sought out opinions and bids on several different scenarios such as constructing a pole barn around the building and adding new walls and adding trusses. However, no contractor wanted to do it and expressed the opinion that building a new building would be preferable.

Mr. Pittman shared that the roof is continuing to leak and that dehumidifiers are running throughout the building to try to combat the moisture. He emphasized that due to the nature of the problem and the fact that the winter months are approaching, a decision needed to be reached soon. He further noted that the two bids that they had previously received for repair work to the roof were still valid. One bid offered to fix the nail pops and repair the existing roof. That repair

work would cost an estimated \$20,000.00. The other bid was from Rodney Goins from R and R Construction. Mr. Goins bid to remove the entire roof and replace it for an estimated \$37,685.00. He shared with Mr. Pittman that if he simply patches the roof, he would be hesitant to guarantee his work. If he replaces the roof, Mr. Goins said he could guarantee his work. Judge Executive David Fields interjected that he had been unable to gather any more bids for the repair work either. Dr. Schack said Mr. Goins had been forthcoming about doing the best he can to make sure the roof is as functional as possible.

Tony Hall inquired if the Board had the money to undertake these projects. Dr. Georgia Heise explained that funds were limited, but that the Board could apply for a loan from the Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) or from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). She shared that KACo was the current insurance provider and that the claim that was filed last winter yielded a payout of \$7,000.00. Therefore, if the Board chose Mr. Goins bid, a loan of roughly \$30,000.00 would be needed.

Delbert Cox shared that he felt like continuing to funnel money at a flat roof would be a waste of money. Mr. Pittman clarified that there is a slight pitch to the roof.

Trena Mains inquired if the company that originally put on the roof could be contacted to correct the problem. She wondered if there was a warranty on the company's work and if they would be under some legal obligation to fix their work. Mr. Pittman replied that the building was built with FEMA funds after the 1997 flood and that the company who built the structure are no longer in business.

Dr. Heise explained that Three Rivers was pursuing an appraisal of the Pendleton County Health Center that could be applied towards possible grant funding for another facility.

**Action:** Rose Verax made the motion to accept the proposal by Mr. Goins to replace the roof at an estimated cost of \$37,685.00. Judge Fields provided a second. Delbert Cox opposed. The motion passed.

**Topic:** Pendleton County Syringe Access Exchange Program (SAEP)

**Discussion:** Dr. Heise directed the Board's attention to several documents in their packet. The first document included a policy and "Recommended Procedure" for Syringe Access Exchange Programs (SAEPs) that had been developed and passed by the District Board of Health on September 9, 2015. In the last line of the policy, Dr. Heise pointed out that the recommended procedures by the District Board could be amended or modified as necessary to meet the needs of the local community.

The other two documents included the actual Senate Bill 192, as well as the "Best Practices Procedure." Dr. Heise reminded the Board that the "Best Practices" procedure was currently in effect in Pendleton County. The Fiscal Court approved a SAEP to be run through the health center, which began on September 28, 2015.

Dr. Heise began by explaining the differences between the two procedures. Overall, the “Recommended Procedures” adopted by the District Board are more restrictive in nature, while the “Best Practices” are more adaptive. The first major difference is a service age restriction. In the “Recommended Procedures” document, ages sixteen (16) and older are eligible to participate in the program. The “Best Practices” document does not specify an eligible age. Dr. Heise explained that this starting age is arbitrary, and likely based on the fact that they could drive themselves to the health center. She reminded the Board that federal funding under Title X allows health departments to provide birth control, and sexually-transmitted disease testing to anyone of any age. If the patient is a juvenile, they can still be served without a guardian’s consent.

The second difference could be noted under the section entitled “Referrals to Clinical Nursing Staff.” The “Recommended Procedures” dictates that initial consultations include mandatory submission to testing for pregnancy (if applicable), and other diseases. In the “Best Practices” document, consultation will only recommend screenings to participants in the program.

Tony Hall and Robin Hall expressed the need for having a zero barrier program. Ms. Mains asked if testing could be required after three (3) visits. Ms. Messmer replied that some SAEPs have done that, but it is usually after six months. Dr. Heise shared that she has spoken with the State Epidemiologist and the Deputy Commissioner for Public Health to determine if mandated testing was lawful. They advised that testing could be required, but that it is not recommended because of the potential stigma and barrier it could cause to participation.

The third and final difference between the documents involves procedures for syringe distribution. In the “Recommended Practices” document, it specifies that first-time participants can receive up to forty (40) syringes. The following visit will be a one-for-one exchange. The “Best Practices” document specifies that participants can participate without exchanging needles for three (3) visits. If no needles are brought back after the third visit, they will no longer be eligible to participate in the program.

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, the program opened for the first time in Pendleton County from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m. No participants visited. Dr. Heise explained that this outcome was not unexpected since most addicts want to be sure they are not going to be prosecuted. She emphasized it would take time to reach out and spread the word about this program. Rebecca Messmer, Clinical Nurse at the Pendleton County Health Center, shared that according to Kentucky regulations, a subject who is pulled over with needles can tell the officer that they are participating in a needle exchange program without being prosecuted—unless they are under the influence. She also discussed a flask that can be ordered for participants where needles can be disposed of safely.

Ms. Messmer further shared with the Board that the information about the SAEP has been passed through word of mouth, community events, and the Falmouth Outlook. Robin Hall suggested putting information about the program on the Three Rivers website. Mrs. Messmer emphasized that word of mouth would probably be the most helpful for our county. She shared that herself

and another Three Rivers employee observed the SAEP currently operational in Lexington; and also attended a training out of northern Kentucky.

Dr. Heise shared that the Gallatin County Local Board of Health had suggested renaming their potential SAEP to “Harm Reduction Program” to make it more palatable to the community. She also reminded the Board that the R.C. Durr Foundation has provided Three Rivers \$75,000.00 to help fund our SAEP programs.

Dr. Schack asked if the SAEP program would only serve Pendleton County residents or if it would be open to other counties also. Dr. Heise emphasized that specific provision has not been spelled out in any policies and is up for discussion. The Board can come together at any time to tweak the policies and procedures if they wish to make changes.

**Action:** Dr. Shack made the motion to continue to implement the “Best Practices” version in Pendleton County and re-evaluate the program after six months or when additional data is received. Dr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Heise thanked the Board for their willingness to have this conversation and work on SAEPs.

**Topic: New Business**



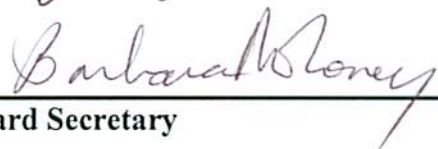
**Discussion:** Dr. Heise shared information with the Board about New Horizons Medical Center in Owen County that has recently been on the news. For the last ten years, the hospital has been experiencing financial difficulties. The facility recently filed bankruptcy and the administrators of the hospital have not been very transparent about its current state. When the hospital filed for bankruptcy, three (3) physicians that were part of the New Horizon Medical facility signed a contract with HealthPoint, a federally qualified health center in Northern Kentucky, with offices located in Florence. Their displacement has caused some difficulties with receiving documentation to provide home health services to many of our patients. TRIAD, another federally qualified health center, has Owen County in its jurisdiction. They are working on a plan to return doctors to Owen County, and anticipate their plans to be realized in the near future.

Dr. Shack commented that many small, critical access point hospitals have been experiencing difficulties. He shared that St. Elizabeth Health Systems had offered New Horizons a deal to buy the hospital and keep the local doctors. However, the CEO of New Horizons did not accept the deal.

**Topic: Adjournment**

**Action:** Judge Fields made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Mains provided the second. The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

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	11/4/2016
<b>Board Chairman</b>	<b>Date</b>
	1/4/16
<b>District Director</b>	<b>Date</b>
	1/4/16
<b>Board Secretary</b>	<b>Date</b>