

**LOUISVILLE METRO BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**August 5, 2020**

**Voting Members Present:** Dr. Dwayne Compton, Dr. Karen Cost, Dr. Kate Probst, Dr. Maria Nota, Dr. Tony Zipple, Dr. Erin Frazier, Dr. Paula Grisanti, Margaret Handmaker, Heidi Margulis

**Advisory Board Members Present:** Dr. Sarah Moyer, Dr. Valerie Briones-Pryor, Bill Wagner, Craig Blakely

**Others Present:** T Gonzales, Amanda Clark

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am. This was a virtual meeting as per an Executive Order for social distancing due to Covid-19. All voting members were visible and audible on WebEx. A quorum was reached.

As per open meetings requirements, the meeting information was posted 24 hours in advance, the public was able to call in or view live on LMPHW's Facebook page.

Chair Margulis recognized Dr. Karen Cost for her service as Chair and welcomed Dr. Valerie Briones-Pryor as new GLMS representative to the Board.

**Approval of Previous Month's Meeting Minutes**

***MOTION:*** *Approve the minutes of the July meeting as distributed*

***MOTION APPROVED***

**Chair's Update: Heidi Margulis**

Chair Margulis plans to take insights from Board members and use them to drive policies that support LMPHW's Community Health Improvement Plan, Healthy Louisville 2025 and move the needle on health equity and public health. She would also like to educate the community on public health matters such as disasters and pandemics and will discuss the formation of committees that might advance the work of the department in the community.

Chair Margulis was a co-author of an Op Ed which was published in the Courier Journal, Medical News and the Defender on mask wearing. GLMS President Dr. Monalisa Taylor was the primary author. Chair Margulis would like to discuss other groups the Board can partner with, particularly around flu vaccine and a future vaccine for Covid and particularly in the West End and immigrant communities. Dr. Compton volunteered to discuss which community groups should be at the table in a separate meeting. Dr. Probst is working with coordinators who are working to get vaccines in schools, such as nurse practitioners, pharmacy students and community pharmacies. Dr. Probst is already working with LMPHW and JCPS to implement this as part of Healthy Louisville 2025. The Kentucky Nurses Association is also equipped to help. Chair Margulis will put Dr. Probst in contact with the Association. LMPHW is working with Office of Globalization and La Casita Center and this could be a platform to

bring flu vaccine to immigrant communities. Dr. Probst and Dr. Nota agreed to continue to Chair/Co-Chair the Vaccinations Committee. Chair Margulis would like the committee to continue working with the state on the vaccine registry. Dr. Probst will send a list of state vaccine work--group members to the Chair. It would be ideal to have the state registry updated before Covid vaccine is released. Chair Margulis recognized Bill Wagner for going above and beyond with testing and also Dr. Fernanda Nota for working with La Casita and the Latinx community.

Bill Wagner has been Chair of ACA/Medicaid outreach committee for several years. The group has been focused on coverage, open enrollment periods and the expansion of Medicaid. Chair Margulis proposed expanding the scope of the committee to include access to care. Bill Wagner is willing to expand the scope, but may require additional staffing on the committee.

Chair Margulis is interested in a preparedness/resilience committee, community engagement and exploring other ideas. Dr. Moyer would like the Board to help move policy forward on the vaccine registry as a preparedness initiative. Dr. Blakely suggests inviting Paul McKinney at SPHIS to join the preparedness committee. Dr. Moyer would also like the Board to help move the Community Advisory Board forward. Chair Margulis will work with Dr. Compton on that.

#### **LMPHW Director's Report Highlights: Dr. Moyer**

The Board has received the Director's Report.

Covid is still the highest priority of the department. Cases have exponentially increased to about 1,000 cases per week. Cases have been leveling off in the last week; however, this could be due to testing capacity being strained. Dr. Seyed Karimi has made projections for the next month which highlight the need for mask wearing and social distancing to avoid a hospital surge. The projections show that if school goes in session and the mask order gets reversed, we will see an increase. The Board can encourage the Governor to extend the mask order and encourage people to follow it.

LMPHW is still doing a lot of other work and staff is innovating, adapting and improving processes. The department is moving forward with Racism as a public health issue. CHE presented this to Metro Council and the Mayor, who are looking at a resolution or Executive Order declaring it.

In the next two months, LMPHW will be ramping up the work force, hiring 45 new positions plus filling vacancies due to retirements in July. The Board can send experienced applicants to the website. Staff is experiencing burnout. The Board can share ideas on morale, encouragement, reducing workload and training. It is a priority to keep passion up while working long hours and seeing Covid numbers still going up. Another priority will be working with schools, daycares and workplaces to support working parents.

Chair Margulis recognized the incredible contributions of the LMPHW team.

#### **One Insight from Covid: All**

- Determining how to message mask wearing in homes/small groups/politicized environments would be helpful. Sharing experiences of doctors might be helpful. At first, patients were from nursing homes but the last few weeks it has been community-acquired from families. Younger folks don't realize they have it and they spread it to their older family members. People let

family in their homes without masks. People don't realize that they are most vulnerable in the home, when they have family and visitors over, and are at less risk at the grocery store.

- If we had had evidence for mask-wearing sooner, it would have saved a lot of lives. At first, we thought it was spread more by droplets on surfaces, now we know it's more person to person. Stopping travel sooner would also have been helpful.
- Better education is needed for certain communities, especially Latinx-frontline workers. There has been inadequate education due to language barriers.
- We may need to consider significant consequences for people who weren't wearing masks.
- Mental health is a challenge for families. Also providers have secondary trauma from helping people and listening to all the stories of pandemic effects.
- UofL is struggling with operating with social distancing. Peer pressure will be important
- The Federal initial response should have been much more aggressive, we lost the opportunity to get it under control early. Better enforcement would be helpful.
- We should have been on top of inequality and social-economic factors earlier.
- Essential workers keep our society going and we have forgotten that.
- The lack of trust in experts is troubling.
- Finding the influencers is key. Stories from providers is critical because people trust their family doctors more than institutions.
- We have under-resourced our government health information/data systems and they are unable to produce the data needed to take the necessary action. We need interoperable systems.

### **Anti-Racism Training: T Gonzales**

Aja Barber will be training the Board following the Sept 2 Board meeting.

Racism as a public health emergency. LMPHW is interested in what actions we can take to counter the status quo. We are prioritizing workforce equity by eliminating racial inequities in hiring, promotions, discipline and retention rates. Also, we are communicating our commitment to racial equity through transparency and accountability. We are working to operationalize racial equity using racial equity best practices.

Action for the Board:

1. Training to have shared vocabulary and understanding of what is going on
2. Organizing, ensuring racial equity on Board committees and other Board activities and initiatives
3. Put what it learns into practice under the scope of the Board's authority

Amanda will send T's slides to Board members.

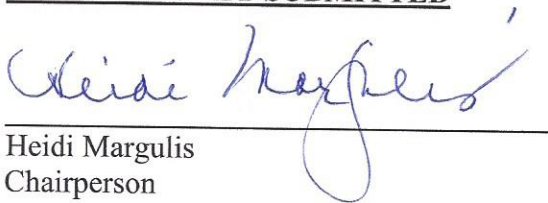
### **Open Forum**

ACA Committee meeting is at 4pm Monday August 10. The committee will discuss its charge to expand its scope. Amanda will send out info on how to join.

Chair will send out a Johns Hopkins article to Board via Amanda.

Next meeting Sept 2, 8-9am, training for Board 9-10am.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Heidi Margulis", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Heidi Margulis  
Chairperson