



City of Cincinnati Board of Health Finance Committee

Ashlee Young, Chair of the Board of Health Finance Committee, called the Tuesday, January 16, 2024 Finance Committee meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Robert Brown, Tim Collier, Dr. Edward Herzig, Mark Menkhaus Jr., Commissioner Dr. Grant Mussman, Joyce Tate, and Ashlee Young.

Topic	Discussion	Action/Motion
Approval of Minutes	<p>The Chair asked Committee members if everyone had the opportunity to review the minutes from the November 2023 meeting.</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> That the Board of Health (BOH) Finance Committee approves the minutes from November 21, 2023.</p>	<p>Motion: Brown Second: Herzig Action: Pass</p>
Review of Contracts for BOH Approval: Jan. 23, 2024	<p>The Chair began reviewing contracts going to BOH for approval.</p> <p>OCHIN – 45x10572 Dr. Stephanie Courtney provided background for this contract with OCHIN, which is an extension of the hypertension management project that the Cincinnati Health Department (CHD) has been involved with for two years. CHD has agreed to participate for a third year. The project will embed a pharmacist in a trusted community space for a few hours per month to enroll at least 25 individuals into patient services. This is specifically aimed at health equity in the Black or African American patient population. OCHIN is paying CHD \$20,000 to participate.</p> <p>Dr. Herzig asked if the project would be taking place in barber shops. Dr. Courtney explained that the premise of the project is based on, “The Barber Shop Study,” in which researchers found great success in creating access points to healthcare in nontraditional spaces, such as barber shops, churches, or other community spaces.</p> <p>Motion: That the BOH Finance Committee recommends approval.</p> <p>UC Winkle College of Pharmacy – 35x10529 – 1st Amendment David Miller explained that the University of Cincinnati is reevaluating pay for Pharmacy residents to factor in cost of living. The increase is \$1,500 to the existing \$49,000 salary. This will go into effect in July 2024. The new salary is still below comparable Pharmacy resident programs. Walgreens pays \$53,000, The Ohio State University pays \$49,500. The University of Kentucky pays \$50,000.</p> <p>Motion: That the BOH Finance Committee recommends approval.</p> <p>State of Ohio, Ohio Department of Development (ODD) – 45x10609 Dr. Maryse Amin provided background for this grant for lead safe housing. This agreement is like the contract with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), just an additional funding source to provide both lead safe housing and lead abatement.</p>	<p>Motion: Young Second: Mussman Action: Pass</p> <p>Motion: Young Second: Collier Action: Pass</p>

	<p>Motion: That the BOH Finance Committee recommends approval.</p> <p>Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District – 45x10608 Tiffany White explained that this is an award of \$15,000 for a pilot of a community freezer program. CHD will partner with the Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) to place freezers at the Hirsch and Millvale locations indoors in a public space for community members to access meals and soups from rescued food provided by La Soupe. Once approved, the term would be 12 months. Ashlee Young commented that it will be interesting to see how this innovative project progresses.</p> <p>Motion: That the BOH Finance Committee recommends approval.</p> <p>Ohio Department of Health (HEAL grant) – N/A Ms. White provided the background for this grant from ODH for \$10,000 that will contribute to capacity building in Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL). CHD will conduct Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) assessments to identify one priority health strategy for Carthage residents. The term is October 1, 2023, to September 29, 2024. CHD submitted quarter one updates on January 11, 2024.</p> <p>Dr. Mussman asked why there was no contract number. Mr. Menkhaus suggested that some grants do not require a signed contract, but a different type of agreement.</p> <p>Motion: That the BOH Finance Committee recommends approval.</p>	<p>Motion: Young Second: Herzig Action: Pass</p> <p>Motion: Young Second: Collier Action: Pass</p> <p>Motion: Young Second: Tate Action: Pass</p>
<p>Review of Contracts for BOH Information: Jan. 23, 2024</p>	<p>The Chair began reviewing contracts going to BOH for information.</p> <p>OCHIN – 45x10607 Dr. Courtney described this contract as a one-time payment from OCHIN for a 1-hour interview with an adult medicine provider to obtain general information about patient occupations and how that might relate to health outcomes.</p> <p>Envolve Vision, Inc. – 45x10612 Lauren Thamann-Raines explained that Envolve Vision is the vision contractor for Buckeye Medicaid Plan patients. This is a renewal for a contract that CHD has had in place since 2014 to get paid for claims for Buckeye patients. Buckeye is updating wording for the contract.</p> <p>Dr. Herzig asked if these changes have been reviewed and approved by Law. Ms. Thamann-Raines replied in the affirmative and explained that legal is still reviewing the language, but any amendments will not change the substance of the contract. Thus, Law suggested presenting the contract at the January Committee meeting.</p> <p>Cardinal Health – 15x10418 – 5th Amendment Mark Menkhaus Jr. explained that CHD is extending the current contract with Cardinal for another 6 months while CHD negotiates a new contract with the organization. CHD went through a new Request for Proposals (RFP) process, and Cardinal was selected again as the supplier.</p>	

	<p>Dr. Herzig asked for confirmation that the Committee does not need to vote on the amendment. Mr. Menkhaus replied that there is no need for a vote since it's a \$0 change to the contract.</p> <p>Ohio Department of Health – N/A</p> <p>Mr. Menkhaus shared information about this contract with ODH for Medicaid administrative claiming. CHD signs this contract with ODH every two years. CHD has ODH submit their claims to Ohio Medicaid, and ODH charges CHD a 2.5% fee.</p>	
<p>Financial Update</p>	<p>Mr. Menkhaus began reviewing the revenue and expenses through November 2023, comparing them to the numbers from November 2022. He began the presentation with overtime expenses, stating they have decreased significantly, from \$110,370.36 in 2022 to \$72,337.92 in November 2023.</p> <p>Total Revenue: \$24.8 million compared to \$29.5 million in the year prior, a decrease of 15%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decrease is almost entirely due to the 8736-Medicaid line item. So far this year, CHD has received \$4.5 million in Medicaid revenue, compared to \$8.1 million last year. \$4.8 million of the \$8.1 million from last year was the Medicaid Maximization payment which CHD had received in arrears from the prior year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removing the \$4.8 million in arrears creates a more accurate comparison, showing that CHD has significantly increased revenues in 8736-Medicaid. ○ Factoring the \$4.8 million additional payment into Total Revenues would show that CHD is about equal to last year's revenue. ○ While CHD has increased its 8736-Medicaid revenue, the number of patients being seen with Medicaid coverage has decreased. Dr. Herzig asked how that could happen, and Mr. Menkhaus replied that it could be due to several variables, like different services being provided. • Dr. Herzig inquired about 8571-Specific Purpose/Private Org. line item. Mr. Menkhaus explained that those revenues are from private organizations or that have been given for a specific purpose; these are grant funds that are not from the state or federal government. The increase could be due to funds in that line item having been moved from different line items, or it could be a specific grant like the one from Delta Dental contributing to the construction of the Roberts Dental Center. Mr. Menkhaus offered to dig into 8571 to provide more detailed information next month. • 8733-Self-Pay Patient: Decrease of 7%. • 8734-Medicare: Decrease of 2%. • 8737-Private Pay Insurance: Increase of 13% • The patient mix is tending in the opposite direction; City of Cincinnati Primary Care (CCPC) is seeing more self-pay patients right now than last year. <p>Total Expenses: \$24.2 million in FY '24 compared to \$23 million in FY '23.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 71-Personnel: Decrease of 2.38% due to position vacancies. • 75-Fringes: Increase of 5.61%, due to increases in retirement rate plus medical, dental and vision rates for employees. • 72-Contractual and 73-Material: Increased, but this is starting to level out. CHD was ahead of invoice payments last year, making it seem like they were spending more. The 72-Contractual increase is 0.23% for November, last month it was 1.5%. 73-Material expenses were up 133% last month compared to 36.06% in November, so these numbers are leveling out. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 74-Fixed Cost: Increase of 86% due to a grant with Talbert House for COVID supplies in congregate living facilities. • 76-Property: Increase of 116% due to dental operatories installed at the health center on Elm Street. <p>8936-Transfer: As of November 2023, CHD has not received any capital money. Mr. Menkhaus expects \$1.2 million in the next month or two from the City as they sell their bonds.</p> <p>Total Available: \$660,666.04 in FY '24 compared to \$13 million in FY '23. The amount was higher in FY '23 due to capital and Medicaid Maximization funds.</p> <p>Robert Brown recalled that Medicaid was paying CHD much slower in recent months and asked Mr. Menkhaus if they have recovered from this. Mr. Menkhaus replied in the affirmative. When the Medicaid payment platform changed, CHD and other Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in the area experienced delayed payments for several months in a row. There are now fewer outstanding accounts receivable, and the payment dates are much faster than they were before.</p> <p>Mr. Brown then asked if the Medicaid Maximization payments would be back on schedule this year. Mr. Menkhaus replied that yes, CHD hopes the late payment from two cycles ago was an isolated event. Mr. Brown followed up by asking about the anticipated amount of this payment. Mr. Menkhaus suspects the payment will decrease from last year because there was previously an inflation in the amount of funds distributed due to COVID.</p> <p>Mr. Brown asked if there was a correlation between the Medicaid patient population and Medicaid Maximization funding. Mr. Menkhaus replied yes; the Medicaid Maximization is payment for governmental FQHCs for any of the costs of delivery that are not covered by basic Medicaid payments. Other non-governmental FQHCs do not receive Medicaid Maximization.</p> <p>Finally, Mr. Brown asked what CHD was doing to promote flu vaccinations considering the increase in detection of flu virus in wastewater surveillance. Dr. Mussman replied that CHD conducted a media campaign to promote vaccines in response to the wastewater data. Joyce Tate said messages go out to patients through the WELL platform and healthcare providers continue to promote vaccinations during patient visits.</p>	
New Business	This is the last Board of Health Finance Committee meeting with Hannah Back as the Clerk. Ashanti Salter will take over starting in February 2024.	
Public Comment	Ms. Back stated that as of 5 p.m. today, no questions or comments from the public were received. Ms. Tate sent a message through Zoom chat to the Committee during the meeting saying, "Any contracts pertaining to [City of Cincinnati Primary Care] (CCPC) will be included in the CEO fiscal report to the CCPC Board."	

Meeting Adjourned: 5:33 p.m.

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 5 p.m.**

Minutes prepared by Hannah Back.

The meeting can be viewed and is incorporated in the minutes: <https://fb.watch/pD-N3kOzkN/>

Board of Health Finance Committee Roll Calls for January 16, 2024:

	Roll Call	Minutes	OCHIN – 45x10572	UC Winkle College of Pharmacy – 35x10529 – 1st Amendment	State of Ohio, Ohio Department of Development (ODD) – 45x10609	Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District – 45x10608	Ohio Department of Health (HEAL grant) – N/A
Dr. Amar Bhati	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Robert Brown	P	MY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tim Collier	P	Y	Y	2Y	Y	2Y	Y
Dr. Edward Herzig	P	2Y	Y	Y	2Y	Y	Y
Mark Menkhaus Jr.	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dr. Grant Mussman	P	Y	2Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Joyce Tate	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2Y
Ashlee Young	P	Y	MY	MY	MY	MY	MY

Y = Yes | N = No | A = Abstain | P = Present | R = Recuse | M = Moved | 2 = Second

Others present: Dr. Maryse Amin, Hannah Back (Clerk), Dr. Stephanie Courtney, David Miller, Lauren Thamann-Raines, and Tiffany White.