


Medical Director Leadership

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HEALTH DISTRICTS

- Local health districts
- Local boards of health
- Medical Director

ENABLING LEGISLATION

- Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3709 - Hughes-Griswold Act of 1919
- State divided into Health Districts
- Each City constitutes a Health District
- Townships and Villages in each County constitute a general health district
- As hereinafter provided for, there may be a **union** of two general health districts or a union of a general health district and a city health district located within such district.

Ohio Revised Code 3709.01

- The state shall be divided into health districts. Each city constitutes a health district and shall be known as a “city health district.”
- The townships and villages in each county shall be combined into a health district and shall be known as “general health district.”

Ohio Health Districts

- There are five different kinds of health districts permitted
 - General - 3709.02
 - City - 3709.05
 - Contracting - 3709.08; 3709.081
 - Combined - 3709.051; 3709.052; 3709.07; 3709.071; 3709.10
 - Part of County Government - 301.24

Ohio Health District

Board of Health

Treasurer/
Auditor

Health
Commissioner

Medical
Advisor

Legal
Advisor

Community
Health
Education

Nursing

Vital
Statistics

Environmental
Health

RC 3709.22 - Duties of city or general health district

- Record prevalence of disease
- Diagnose and control communicable disease
- Medical/dental supervision of school children
- Treatment of venereal disease

3709.11 Organization of board of general health district

- The board shall appoint a health commissioner upon such terms, and for such period of time, not exceeding five years, as may be prescribed by the board. The person appointed as commissioner shall be a licensed physician, licensed dentist, a licensed veterinarian, licensed podiatrist, licensed chiropractor, or the holder of a master's degree in public health or an equivalent master's degree in a related health field as determined by the members of the board of health in a general health district.

3709.11 Organization of board of general health district

- When the commissioner is not a physician, the board shall provide for adequate medical direction of all personal health and nursing services by the employment of a licensed physician as **medical director** on either a full-time or part-time basis. The medical director shall be responsible to the board of health.
- Effective Date: 05-03-1990

The way it used to be

- The position of health commissioner of a general health district can be held only by a licensed physician.
- 1956 Ohio Attorney General Opinion 6417

3709.14 Appointment of health commissioner, physicians by board of city health district

- In any city health district, the board of health or person performing the duties of a board of health shall appoint for full or part time service a health commissioner and **may** appoint such public health nurses, clerks, physicians, and other persons as are necessary.
- Effective Date: 10-01-1953; GC 4408

They way it used to be

State ex rel. West v. Feyler, 138 Ohio St. 251 (Ohio 1941)

Under Ohio Gen. Code § 4408, the board of health of a city health district is authorized but not required to appoint anyone in addition to a whole or part time health commissioner.

3701-36-03 Minimum standards.

- Each health district must meet the minimum standards to receive any state subsidy funds.
- (A) These minimum standards are:
- (6) Provide administrative leadership by:
- (d) Employing as medical director a doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathic medicine who is licensed to practice medicine in Ohio and who is actively involved in providing medical leadership to the local health department if the health district has a non-physician health commissioner

3701-36-03 Minimum standards.

- (A)(5) Be represented ... at each conference provided by the Ohio department of health pursuant to section 3701.29 of the Revised Code.
- The medical director of a health district with a non-physician health commissioner shall attend at least one session of one of the conferences.

Ohio Attorney General Opinion 2011-032

- Board of Health of a general health district **may not** enter into a contract with a hospital whereby the services of the health commissioner (a physician) are leased to a hospital in exchange for a fee.