discontinues funding emergency program

The program would enable a physician in a hospital to provide directions to paramedics in the field via UHF telemetry radio, Hanna said. The UHF system would have eight channels to transmit vocal instructions and medical data between hospital and ambulance, he said.

Federal instructions said such a plan only "had to be conceptualized in this grant year," Hanna said. "We thought we had satisfied them on this point."

OTHER REGIONAL EMS programs have communication and medical control plans that differ very little from WOEMS's yet these programs were funded, Huntington said.

"It appears that HEW's disapproval of our project, particularly in light of its high ranking in the review process was unfair and capricious," Huntington said. WOEMS has directly trained 40 percent of the cardiopulmonary resuscitation instructors in Montgomery, Greene and Preble counties and 43 percent of the CPR instructors in Campbell, Clark, Clinton, Darke, Miami, Shelby and Warren counties, according to the agency.

WOEMS-trained instructors provided CPR training to an additional 5,050 persons in the 10-county region in 1977 and trained 5,100 persons in first aid for choking in the last two years, according to agency figures.

Hanna said the agency is seeking other sources of funding.

 unary hearing waived

Two police detectives had waived a preliminary hearing for grand theft and the case will be set to the Montgomery County 28th District Court No. 2.

Melton resigned two days earlier after he had been arrested and charged with taking about $1,000 in evidence from a December bank robbery, along with guns and narcotics from the evidence room. The guns and drugs were to have been destroyed.
board needs levy to retain services

Afford, by approving the resignation of all 15 employees.

The board also approved the layoff of two employees of its alcoholism program and the termination of a contract with a third. Two other positions vacated because of resignations also won't be filled in an effort to offset an $81,000 loss of funds, Petrokas said. The program already has reduced its beds, available to persons without insurance or other coverage. It is considering moving because of an increase in rent proposed by the Ohio Department of Mental Health.

Petrokas said that without passage of a levy the board will have to look at laying off of about 75 more employees in 1982.

As the board members examined the budget, Petrokas asked them to look at several options when they consider what to do in 1982. Petrokas recommended that they look at salaries to help narrow the gap between employee wages. He also suggested the board look at putting a ceiling on escalating health insurance costs — a move which brought the city of Dayton to the brink of an employee strike when it was suggested earlier this year. Petrokas also called for a reassessing of environmental health and air pollution control programs, both of which place a drain on local resources.

Petrokas also recommended the board scrutinize its alcoholism program, which may be competing with detoxification programs at Miami Valley and Good Samaritan hospitals at a time when the district cannot afford to duplicate services.

Some thought should be given to combining neighborhood health centers, he suggested.

The board also may have to look at raising fees for some services and charging fees from some services now provided at no charge, board member Edward N. Rausch said.

In other action, the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency presented its proposal for revising air pollution control regulations for Montgomery County and announced a public hearing for Aug. 4 on the changes.
Qualifications Are Questioned

A former county health commissioner said he was not qualified to serve as health commissioner. The Western Star — Page 2 - A

ON March 14, 1989, a board of health commissioner, the executive session of last month's board meeting, heard the question regarding the appointment of a new health commissioner. Wahl has a master's degree in public health.

State law requires the health commissioner to be a licensed physician, dentist, or veterinarian, or to hold a master's degree in public health. Wahl has a master's degree in health administration.

An attorney general's opinion, rendered in March in response to a request from Greene County, quoted the section of state law (Ohio Revised Code 3709.11) for determining whether a candidate for health commissioner is qualified by educational background.

"It has been left up for local determination," Wahl said during question. "When I was hired, it was determined that I was qualified," he added.

He agreed with Heery, however, that the latest attorney general's opinion was a strict interpretation of ORC 3709.11 and is not an "equivalency." "I discussed this with a state legislator, and the regulation (3709.11) needs to be changed," Wahl said. "There is a proposal in the legislature to broaden qualifications for health commissioners, and it might be two years before something happens," Heery responded. "Somebody has to be health commissioner who is qualified."

Contingency Plans

Dr. Fred Guenther of Springboro, president of the board of health, said, "I think I mentioned at last month's executive session that we'd have to face this situation and make some contingency plans (if Wahl was ruled unqualified)."

Contingencies Dr. Guenther mentioned might include elevating a board of health member (two are physicians and two are veterinarians) to health commissioner, or changing Dr. Ray Simagen's title of medical director to health commissioner and changing Wahl's title to administrator.

"Somebody's got to get this on the track," Heery persisted. "Suppose someone questions the salary (paid to Wahl). There's a lot of angles on this thing."

Wahl suggested that the board consult with county prosecutor Morris J. Turekson to see what his current view of the situation is. Wahl made an opinion, and it's pretty black and white," Dr. Guenther said.

"We could be in serious trouble," Heery contended. "A taxpayers' suit could be brought on the question of salaries."

Dr. Beverley Ungereider, then a board member, ...
survey shows health care misconceptions

GARRETT MILTON Staff Writer

A number of residents of county don't find the county Combined Health facilities to them, a survey commissioned by the county concluded that those who did not use the services believed they were available to the poor. They also people who could pay for them did so. Others said they had no need for them.

The survey showed that only 38.5 percent of the participants were aware of the Vogel clinic and the majority of them felt the facility was "not useful." Dr. Inder P. Khera, who directed the survey, said that he was not shocked by the findings. He said comparable surveys in other metropolitan areas showed people generally believe there is a stigma associated with participation in government-financed health programs.

The local survey was based on questionnaires answered by 559 people from Dayton, and Montgomery and Greene counties. Questionnaires were mailed in May 1979 to 750 people on a Wright State consumer panel, and to 500 Daytonians selected at random.

Vogel said the health district has hired a Wright State marketing student, an assistant of Khera's, to help analyze the findings and work with each department. He said the survey will be used in developing the health district's five-year plan for 1981 to 1986.

HE SAID THE DISTRICT would consider whether some services need to be cut back or eliminated, and others expanded.

Of those surveyed, 41.4 percent said they found the immunization clinic useful to them. The highest rating given any of the services. Heading the list was health information, cited by 31.4 percent.

The most frequent reason given for contact with the health district by those surveyed was to obtain birth and death certificates, with 17.7 percent. After that, 11.7 percent said they had blood pressure testing, 10.9 percent had visited the tuberculosis clinic and 8.8 percent had used the immunization clinic.

The services listed as the least used by the respondents were the Hawthorne School program for unwed student-parents, occupation therapy, hot meals delivered to the sick and elderly's homes, alcoholism treatment, and prenatal care.

ALSO, AT THE meeting, the board approved its contract with the city of Dayton for $1.44 million, the same amount as last year. Vogel said he has heard that the federal government may also hold its allotment at the same level as last year or reduce it. The federal government normally provides 34 percent of the district's $8.5 million annual budget.

Vogel said 70 percent of the district's budget is used to provide state-mandated services, such as inspections, but the state provides less than 1 percent of district funds. The rest comes from the townships and other revenues.

If the district's funds do not increase, he said, it will mean some job freezes through attrition and, consequently, decreases in services. The largest impact would come in 1981, he said.
County cost plan criticized

By D.J. Hill
Staff Writer

Health officials said Wednesday that they don't have the money to absorb the cost of air pollution control and housing code enforcement from the Montgomery County Commissioners.

"It's the old passing the buck," said Dr. Robert A. Vogel, who left the job as health commissioner Monday, but remains as a consultant to the Combined Health District of Montgomery County.

"Now they're trying to pass the cost along to us."

County officials have proposed not supporting the program next year to save costs. The county commission's 1983 contribution to air pollution control was $100,000 and the housing code enforcement contribution was $245,000.

Dr. Morton Nelson, Vogel's successor, said the money that the county commissioners have spent over the years for air pollution control and housing inspection was "well spent" and a minima investment for the county.

In a letter to Vogel last month, County Administrator Claude D. Malone said the county planned to withdraw its contribution to the air pollution and housing inspection programs run by the health district.

Malone suggested that the health district use part of the revenue it receives from a levy approved by voters last year to cover the pollution control and collect fees from local governments to pay for housing inspection.

However, health board members on Wednesday authorized Dr. Herman Abramowitz, board chairman, to tell Malone the health district cannot pick up the costs of the two programs.

Abramowitz said that the district's 0.75-mill levy is being use to maintain services and that there isn't money remaining to take on more programs.

The county commission refused the health district's initial request for a 1-mill levy and would authorize only .75 mills, a position noted by Vogel Wednesday.

"If they had let us have the 1 mill, maybe we would have the money," Vogel said. "But, no. The commissioners and the business community decided we didn't need it."

Even since we have had that levy, they (county officials) think we have more money than we know what to do with here."

Vogel said that health officials would meet with business leaders and chambers of commerce to see how they would suggest the county pay for air pollution control. The health district could charge industries for the cost of air pollution inspection and monitoring. But, some businesses could be stuck with a tab as high as $4,000 a year, Vogel said.

"Basically, I think it's the business community's decision," Vogel said. "If they don't think they need air pollution control for the local community, then let them decide not to pay it."

Malone said later Wednesday that if the health district discontinued its program, then businesses would have to deal directly with the state air pollution control program.

The housing program includes inspection of property considered to be a nuisance or health hazard. The health district has the authority to order landowners to either clean up the property o
County health tax levy back on ballot in June

By D.J. HILL
Daily News Staff Writer

The Montgomery County Board of Health began facing up to 1982 budget cuts Wednesday, but also decided it would try again next June to gain voter approval of a 1-mill property tax levy.

The board decided to withhold across-the-board salary increases for staff next year and eliminate its reserve.

But that is just the beginning. The big decisions come Dec. 16 when the board meets in a special session to adopt a budget.

BOARD MEMBERS left the Wednesday meeting unhappy and still unsure of some key factors: Are any more federal cuts coming after January and will the city of Dayton cut in half its support of the health district in 1982?

The board decided to put the levy on the June primary ballot, with a possible repeat in August or November should it fail in June.

A 1-mill property tax means $1 in taxes for every $1,000 in taxable valuation, which the state defines as being 35 percent of actual market value. Thus, a 1-mill levy would translate into an additional $14 a year in taxes on a typical house with an official county market valuation of $40,000.

The Montgomery County Combined General Health District narrowly lost its bid last month to win passage of a levy which would have generated $3.7 million and eliminated the need for local governments to contribute to the district.

THE BUDGET projections first presented to the board Wednesday showed a deficit of $1.08 million or $1.71 million in 1982, depending on whether Dayton cuts its $1.32 million reimbursement to $726,000 next year.

Those figures don't take into account federal cuts which might come down the road.

The board erased at least $500,000 of that deficit by deciding against the staff's annual salary increases and eliminating its $300,000 reserve.

The staff will be working during the next two weeks to find ways to erase more of the deficit.

The board tabled a proposal by Gregory Rozelle, administrator of personal health programs, to raise fees for immunization, tuberculosis testing and venereal disease clinics. Some fees could more than quadruple if the board accepts his proposals.

FOR EXAMPLE, if his suggestions were adopted, immunization for overseas trips would go from $5 to $20, and costs for a visit to the venereal disease clinic would go from $5 to $25.

His proposal also would eliminate night clinics downtown while maintaining them at neighborhood centers.

Rozelle also recommended elimination of flu shots for senior citizens since the federal and state governments no longer buy the vaccine.

Rozelle said his department is looking at some program changes, such as trimming hours, but a drastic cut in money from the city of Dayton could mean the elimination of some programs or sites.

The revenues from Dayton and the federal government also will affect how many people will be laid off. After the board finishes its business Dec. 16, the administration plans to begin handing out two-week notices.

THE BOARD tried everything it could Wednesday to scrape up money. For example, it decided to ask the County Commission to waive its $17,000 per month rent at the Sunrise Center. It also voted to reconsider its contract with Good Samaritan Hospital for services it provides at Vogel Health Center. The hospital will be asked to share in building costs and to stop charging the health district for non-paying patients seen in the ambulatory clinic.

Health Commissioner Dr. Robert Vogel said, "We will be operating in 1982 on a month-to-month basis."