

# Measures Are Proposed For Health Dept. Merger

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## Planning Association Of Northwest Ohio Lists 5 Steps To Be Taken Immediately

Specific steps for consolidating the Toledo and Lucas County health departments are recommended in a study by the Health Planning Association of Northwest Ohio.

Announcement was made Friday that both the city and county boards passed resolutions of intent to merge.

Five measures which should be taken immediately are suggested by the Health Planning Association:

- ▶ Consolidate the visiting nurse service and nursing services of the county and city health departments and hire a nursing director to administer the combined program.
- ▶ Combine city and county environmental health programs to allow for expansion into areas not now covered by either: air and water pollution, mosquito control, waste control, housing code enforcement.
- ▶ Consolidate administrative services in such areas as budget, personnel policies, and review of public health regulations, program goals, and objectives.
- ▶ Proceed with plans for consolidating medical and dental services to provide a broader base of primary health care, and to allow more adequate participation in preventive health programs in coordination with other agencies.

The Health Planning Association suggests that consideration be given to placing the consolidated health department services in the proposed extension to the Toledo Health Center, presently housing the city health department.

Also proposed is adopting a name for the new combined department.

### Names Suggested

Suggested names are Metro Health District Serving Toledo and Lucas County, Lucas County-Toledo Health District, Lucas

County — Toledo Combined Health District, Combined Health District of Toledo and Lucas County.

The study also proposes forming a contract development team of city and county health board representatives, a city councilman, city law director, administrative representatives of city and county health departments, representatives of the city finance director and the county auditor, representative of city management services, and mayors of Oregon, Maumee, and Sylvania, or their representatives.

This team would be charged with developing a contract in accordance with the state code. Final selection of the method for consolidation should be considered after development of the contract.

### Study Was Requested

The study, headed by Samuel S. Long, executive director of the Health Planning Association, was requested by Dr. Hilbert Mark, city health commissioner and acting chairman of a special committee exploring consolidation methods.

The report was prepared in coordination with the Community Planning Council, the Council of Governments, the Municipal League, and the Chamber of Commerce.

A primary recommendation of the study states:

"It has been most strongly suggested by all parties consulted that the strength for any union or consolidation will not come about as a result of lengthy debates on mechanics, but through the consensus of agreement among all concerned that such a union is in the best interest of the communities concerned."

*Consolidate Health Council. T/C*