

Hamilton County General Health District
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
January 11, 2010
Minutes

1. Call to Order

At 6:35 p.m., President Tracey Puthoff called to order the regular session of the Board of Health of Hamilton County General Health District followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call of Members

Members Present: President, Tracey Puthoff, Esq.; Jim Brett; Mark Rippe; Kenneth Amend, M.D.; Tom Chatham arrived at 6:50 p.m.

District Staff: Timothy Ingram, Health Commissioner; Kathy Lordo, Asst. Health Commissioner; Clara Hughes, Fiscal Officer; Chris Berger, Financial Analyst; Nee Fong Chin, Hamilton County Chief Prosecuting Attorney; Terri Memory, Administrative Secretary.

3. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Amend moved to approve the Board of Health minutes from the December 21st regular meeting with the following changes: Add meeting guests, Harvey and Susan Crihfield, to the list of meeting attendees; Item 7a add Mr. and Mrs. Crihfield's comments; Item 8 add "Upon recommendation of the Chief Prosecuting Attorney...to discuss the 2007 audit." **Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

Roll call vote – Yes: Amend, Rippe, Brett, Puthoff

4. Health Commissioner's Report

Mr. Ingram will meet individually with the Board of Health members to discuss topics for the 2010 Board of Health strategic planning session that will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Kenwood Country Club on February 27th. Mr. Ingram asked the Board of Health members to state topics they would like to discuss at the planning session. Mr. Rippe would like to discuss "The Green Initiative", the new healthcare bill, graywater and water reduction in new home construction. Mr. Brett would like to identify grant areas and the integration of public health as part of the Planning Commissioner/Home Builders to allow for a more active lifestyle. Mr. Ingram also requested the input of the Directors. They will submit their information by January 21st.

Ms. Puthoff stated that she would like the BOH to discuss programs that are currently being operated by other entities that could be run more efficiently by HCPH. The BOH will also discuss the 2011 village and city contracts.

2009 was a good year financially for HCPH. Overall, actual revenues exceeded our projections and the expenditures were below budget.

Changes were made to the Environmental Health rabies program in 2009. Staff has reduced the amount of time it takes to release offending dogs by privatizing the rabies program. Time has been reduced 45 percent by year-end and owners are now responsible for taking the dog to the vet or facing prosecution.

All HCPH divisions had goals to reduce staff mileage expenses in 2009. Thirteen to fifteen percent reductions were achieved by re-aligning staff member's areas of inspection.

The Plumbing division's backflow program continues to grow despite the fact that fees have not increased in fifteen years. Revenues continue to grow due to staff surveying businesses and other establishments.

Mr. Ingram stated that he will delay the issuing of Rumpke's 2010 operating license until January 20, 2010. Rumpke is currently developing an action plan with USEPA, OEPA, DOES, HCPH and Colerain Township for the underground reaction.

Staff Reports

Kathy Lordo, Assistant Health Commissioner

Ms. Lordo reported that the negotiation process for the electronic medical record (EMR) system has ended without a contract. This was a primary objective for 2009. The 2010 budget accommodates this expense.

HCPH continues to provide on-site TB screening at the Drop-Inn Center during cool-weather months. During November and December 148 residents were tested. In addition to entering TB testing information into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the database has been utilized to locate homeless TB suspects, cases and contacts. A letter of agreement was recently signed with the Anthony House. There were 22 confirmed TB cases in 2009.

Falls were the leading cause of injury and death in Hamilton County in 2009.

Fourth quarter began year two of the CDC Strategic Alliance for Health grant. During the fourth quarter, HCPH expanded its existing Community Consortia membership, adding 33 diverse community partners, and reaching a year-end total of 91 members. Year one met all grant goals including completing the needs assessment and developing action plans for 2010. Priority goals for the year two action plan include establishing and expanding community gardens, adopting shared-use agreements between village administration and the schools to increase physical activity opportunities. HCPH applied for additional funding; award recipients will be announced in February 2010.

HCPH's Twitter account continues to grow with 526 followers. Announcements during the fourth quarter of 2009 focused largely on H1N1 flu. HCPH's Facebook page initially started small and saw little interaction from friends, however, the number of friends has doubled to forty-six.

In 2008 immunization clinics had 1,738 patient encounters. That number decreased to 1,713 in 2009. Immunizations are made available at thirteen different locations within HCPH's jurisdiction.

The Child Care Health Consultant position has been vacant since the end of October 2008. The contract for State Fiscal Year 2010 was not renewed until September 2, 2009 delaying efforts to fill the position. The funding formula changed from an hourly reimbursement to reimbursement by deliverables completed.

The Vital Statistics Program has been observing two trends this year. The first observation deals with the total number of certificates ordered on a monthly, quarterly, and yearly basis. The second observation was the ordering method of certificates. The number of birth and death records registered in 2009 was slightly lower than those

registered in 2008. These patterns aid in predicting customer demand and ordering preference.

5. Unfinished Business

The Board of Health members received red-lined copies of proposed regulation 2-2009, School and Environmental Safety. After a brief discussion, Mr. Ingram requested that the BOH members review the regulation and email questions, comments or concerns to him. Mr. Ingram would then review them with Mr. Kesterman, Environmental Health Director. A revised draft may be distributed in March and ready for adoption in April.

6. Finances

HCPH finished in the black for 2009. The Ohio State Auditors have made recommendations regarding the 2007 year-end audit. Mr. Ingram, Ms. Hughes and Mr. Berger will meet with the Auditors on Wednesday, January 13th regarding the 2008 audit.

- a. Revenues and Expenditures, Mileage and Disbursements

Mr. Rippe moved to approve the Revenues and Expenditures, Mileage and Disbursements. **Dr. Amend** seconded the motion.

Roll call vote – Yes: Amend, Rippe, Brett, Chatham, Puthoff

- b. Mr. Ingram will present the 2010 revised budget for adoption at the Wednesday, February 10th BOH meeting. At that time, the BOH will also decide if approval of the 2011 proposed budget will be moved to the District Advisory Council meeting in March 2010.
- c. Once finalized numbers from the Hamilton County Auditor's office are available, they will be included in February's budget recommendation.

7. New Business

No new business to discuss.

8. Adjournment

At 8:25 p.m. **Mr. Rippe** moved to adjourn the meeting. **Dr. Amend** seconded the motion.

Roll call vote – Yes: Chatham, Rippe, Brett, Amend, Puthoff

The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2010.

Tracey A Puthoff, President

Timothy I. Ingram, Secretary
Health Commissioner

Additional topics for discussion at the strategic planning session:

- Green initiative
- Recycling of Graywater
- Integrate Public Health as part of Planning Commission/Home Builders to allow for a more active lifestyle.
- State-of-the-art, cutting edge ideas
- Medical gas
- Identify grant areas
- Programs from other entities that could be run more efficiently by HCPH
- Cash balance
- 2% increase to the township, villages and city contracts for 2011