

**Hamilton County General Health District**  
**REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**March 9, 2009**  
**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

At 6:30 p.m., President Mark Rippe called to order the regular session of the Board of Health of Hamilton County General Health District.

**2. Roll Call of Members**

Members Present: President, Mark Rippe; Vice-President Tracey Puthoff, Esq.; Jim Brett; Kenneth Amend, M.D.

District Staff: Timothy Ingram, Health Commissioner; Kathy Lordo, Asst. Health Commissioner; Stephen Bjornson, M.D.; Ted Folger, Program Manager; Terri Memory, Administrative Secretary.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the February 18, 2009 Board of Health meeting minutes were tabled until the next Board of Health meeting on April 13, 2009. Ms. Puthoff recommended that a format change be made to the roll call listing of the Board members names.

**4. Health Commissioner's Report**

**District Advisory Council** - The District Advisory Council met on Monday, March 2, 2009 at Noon in the large conference room. A quorum was not met and an Executive Committee was formed. Mr. Ingram gave an overview of the Health District's 2008 operations. Mr. Rippe was re-appointed to the Board of Health for the 2009 through 2013 term.

**State Audit** - State of Ohio Auditors are in the process of auditing the 2007 Hamilton County Public Health's finances which should be completed in about ninety days. Mr. Ingram stated that the Board of Health will be invited to the post-audit meeting once the audit has been completed.

**CDC Leadership Forum** - Mr. Ingram stated that he had the privilege to speak at the Center for Disease Control National Leadership Forum in Atlanta and was asked to join a panel to address the senior management team of CDC.

**Gifts and Donations** - Children's Hospital requested information about how to donate to the Infant Mortality Reduction project. As a result, Nee Fong Chin, Chief Assistant Prosecutor submitted an Opinion regarding gifts, donations and contributions to Hamilton County Public Health. According to Ohio Revised Code Section 2743.01(B) Hamilton County General Health District falls under the definition of a political subdivision and may accept gifts and donations under the Ohio Revised Code Section 9.20. Donations are tax deductible if given for a specific public purpose.

**Stimulus Package** - Mr. Ingram stated that Hamilton County Public Health submitted two project-funding proposals to the State of Ohio. The first proposal synchronizes with the federal government's initiative to create a national electronic health information network and exchange, and the other falls under the area of environmental improvement. This second proposal is needed for upgrading and/or providing public sewers for 14,000 discharging septic systems.

**Smoke Free Hearings** - Mr. Ingram stated that the Judge affirmed, in our favor, all three Board of Health Smoke-Free Ohio cases appealed to the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas.

**Thank You Letters** - Mr. Ingram included in the Board member's packets, three letters received from customers, thanking staff for their customer service.

## Staff Reports

**Kathy Lordo, Assistant Health Commissioner Report** - Ms. Lordo stated that survey results showed that timeliness of receiving a vaccine is more important than the convenience of location; therefore, we anticipate consolidating two of the immunization clinics. Children who attend our immunization clinics and meet certain criteria are offered a finger stick blood test for lead poisoning. Test results are reported to ODH. We are currently in the process of hiring a registered nurse for the Childcare Health Consultant position in the Nursing division.

**Ted Folger, Senior Epidemiologist and Dr. Stephen Bjornson, Medical Director Reports** - Mr. Folger and Dr. Bjornson gave presentations about Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA). In very informative presentations, Mr. Folger explained the public health implications and Dr. Bjornson explained medical treatments for MRSA.

## 5. Finances

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

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

## 6. New Business

**a. TB Clinic Tour** - At 6 p.m., before the Board of Health meeting, the Board members took a tour of the TB Clinic, located at 184 East McMillan Road.

**b. Contract - Medical Director - Dr. Amend** moved to approve the contract between Hamilton County General Health District and Stephen Bjornson, M.D., Medical Director. **Ms. Puthoff** seconded the motion.

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

**c. Board Reorganization - Mr. Brett** moved to approve the April 2009 through March 2010 regular Board of Health meetings be held on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the large conference room of the Hamilton County Public Health offices. **Dr. Amend** seconded the motion.

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

**d.** Mr. Ingram was appointed Chair Pro-Temp of the Board of Health. **Dr. Amend** nominated Mr. Tom Chatham for the position of Vice President to the Board of Health for the 2009 - 2010 term. **Mr. Brett** seconded the nomination.

**Vote: All aye**

**e.** **Dr. Amend** nominated Ms. Tracey Puthoff for the position of President of the Board of Health for the 2009 - 2010 term. **Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

**Vote: All aye**

Mr. Ingram thanked Mr. Rippe for serving as President of the Board of Health. Mr. Ingram stated it was a delight to work with Mr. Rippe and he thanked him for the contributions he made to the Board of Health for the past two years.

**f.** Mr. Rippe announced that he nominated Mr. Ingram for the 2009/2010 Leadership Cincinnati U.S.A. Class Conducted by the Regional Chamber of Commerce.

## 7. Adjournment

At 7:50 p.m. **Dr. Amend** moved to adjourn the meeting. **Ms. Puthoff** seconded the motion.

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

**Next Board of Health meeting is April 13, 2009.**

---

Mark Rippe, President

---

Timothy I. Ingram, Secretary  
Health Commissioner