

Hamilton County General Health District
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
July 12, 2010
Minutes

1. Call to Order

At 6:30 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, Kenneth Amend, M.D., Tom Chatham.

District Staff: Timothy Ingram, Health Commissioner; Kathy Lordo, Assistant Health Commissioner; April Wendling, Assistant Health Commissioner; Chris Griffith, Water Quality Director; Clara Hughes, Finance Officer; Dr. Bjornson, Medical Director; Robin Fristoe, Secretary.

Guests: Dale & Jeannette Maris

3. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Amend moved to approve the Board of Health minutes from the June 14, 2010 regular meeting with clarification on approved variance SVAR 201007 for 4721 Dry Ridge Rd. – Colerain Twp. to add that the variance was for an existing nuisance. In the future the Board of Health minutes will include this on all variances that are for existing nuisances; **Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

Roll call vote – Yes: Amend, Brett (abstain), Chatham, Puthoff

4. Health Commissioner’s Report

Mr. Ingram introduced Ms. April Wendling, Assistant Health Commissioner for the Department of Environmental Health Services.

Mr. Ingram explained that the format of this Board of Health report is to provide a better picture of our public health work by comparing it with previous years’ second quarter activities. Both Assistant Health Commissioners Lordo and Wendling will report on their respective departments.

Mr. Ingram continues to work in the area of Health Care Reform. He attended a training seminar on the process to establish a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). He learned that the federal agency, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), has made it more difficult for public entities, such as Boards of Health, to establish a FQHC. This is due to past experiences with public entity governance issues and concerns about the commingling of federal and local funds. HRSA prefers a model where a 501C3 is established to manage funding and the board is comprised of 51% of individuals who use the FQHC services. Mr. Brett suggested using the 501C3 that HCPH has as a means to helping people in the community. Mr. Ingram feels this would be a good vehicle to use, yet there is still the need to acquire funding for start up. HRSA will offer start up funds, although these funds are

targeted for existing FQHC's. Mr. Ingram will be meeting with local FQHC executive directors to discuss their plans regarding expansion of services in Hamilton County.

As Mr. Ingram continues to research this issue, he will keep the Board members informed. When it is timely, he will work with the task force members, Mr. Chatham and Dr. Amend, to develop our position.

Staff Reports

Kathy Lordo, Assistant Health Commissioner, Department of Community Health Services

Emergency Preparedness Program

Emergency Preparedness has completed Point of Dispensing (POD) training for 30 of the 35 communities that will open POD's in emergencies.

Division of Disease Prevention

*Communicable Disease - The overall disease incidence during the second quarter of 2010 was similar to that in the second quarters of 2007-2009. Dr. Bjornson reported on the 29 cases of Shigellosis, and stated it appears to be declining. He also reported on a Salmonella outbreak that stemmed from a church event of which there were four confirmed cases. Dr. Bjornson explained that such events, where 100% of the proceeds go back to the charity, are exempt from food service inspection therefore making it a challenge to determine the exact cause. He feels the best way to keep such outbreaks at a minimum is to continue to educate the public on the importance of reporting illnesses as they occur.

*TB Services – Dr. Bjornson reported that the TB case incidence has been very consistent with an average of twenty five confirmed cases annually.

Division of Health Promotion and Education

*Active for Life program – This program has been extended for another two years. During the new funding period both HCPH and the Council on Aging will deliver the evidence-based Stanford Diabetes and Chronic Disease Self Management programs.

*CDC: Strategic Alliance for Health (SAH) – This grant focuses on three communities within Hamilton County - Lockland, Lincoln Heights and Woodlawn. Due to a high obesity rate within these communities the program looked at ways to reduce obesity as well as reduce smoking. As a result of the hard work from the Community Consortiums and the School Health Advisory Councils, a total of nine community gardens and one school garden were implemented in these communities. Lockland City Schools adopted a comprehensive tobacco-free policy. The SAH grant also developed the "We Thrive" campaign of which Ms. Lordo presented sign's that demonstrates this campaign.

*Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) - The SAH grant gave HCPH the capability to obtain the Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) grant. The final CPPW grant objectives are under review with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and plans to begin implementation are scheduled for mid July.

Division of Nursing

*Immunization clinics - Citizen use of our immunization clinics has seen a significant decline. Although there are no plans to close our clinics, we will look into possibly combining some of them. The clinics are posted on our website, community news letter and through the school nurse bulletin. Ms. Lordo will see to it that clinic information is given to the Department of Job and Family Services.

*Immunization Action Project (IAP) – There are two components to the IAP program. The first is vaccine education known as MOBI or Maximizing Office Based Immunizations. This educational program is provided to vaccinating practices to keep them current with the CDC approved vaccination policies and procedures. The second component is AFIX or Assessment, Feedback, Incentive and eXchange. This evaluates a physician practices' vaccination rate for two year olds.

*Healthy Child Care Ohio (HCCO) – This program is multi-faceted. One facet is the consultative services offered to child care providers via phone, email or on site. The second facet of the program is training. Some training is center specific where others are more generic, such as medication administration, playground safety, allergies, asthma and more.

Public Relations

Media contacts are down for the second quarter but are up for the year, as well as news releases and media clips. Hamilton County Public Health's Twitter account continues to show growth. Our Facebook page has remained stagnant throughout 2010. It is recommended that our Facebook page be used for specific localized communication rather than broad public health messages.

Vital Statistics

The Vital Statistics Program continues to monitor the number of registered births, the number of birth certificate purchases and the turn-around time to process as well as issue an infants' first birth certificate, once it is processed by the hospitals. This same practice is being implemented to gather data on death certificate issuance and turn around time.

April Wendling, Assistant Health Commissioner, Department of Environmental Health Services

Environmental Health

*Food Education Program – The Food Education Program is a new revenue source for the 2010 fiscal year and is expected to meet the projected budget of \$6,500.00. To date there have been 274 people attend the two-hour Level 1 Food Handler Training at a cost of \$20 per person and 20 people have attended the two-day Level 2 ServSafe Training at a cost of \$150 per person.

*Nuisance Complaint Program – The Environmental Health Division worked with Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Nee Fong Chin, to obtain our first administrative search warrant for a property located in Anderson Township. This action was based on previous issues with the resident and a strong odor coming from the condo unit. On June 11, 2010 the unit was condemned due to poor living conditions. On June 21, 2010, after two additional follow up inspections, the occupant had corrected all violations and condemnation was lifted. Ms. Wendling showed before and after photos of a job well done.

*Food Service Plan Reviews – Comparing year to date totals, for 2010 there are 61 in 2009 there were 37 and in 2008 there were 44.

Plumbing Division

The number of permits issued year to date for 2010, pertaining to replacement water heaters and back flow, has increased, yet overall revenues are down. This is due to the decline in residential building.

*Non-Flammable Medical Gas Program – This program became active on July 1, 2010. The HCPH web site has been updated with the required medical gas information. The state has been notified so applicants in our jurisdiction get routed to the correct office along with sending the “Toolbox” newsletter to all bonded and registered contractors and plumbing organizations. Further updates will be given at future BOH meetings.

Waste Management Division

The Waste management staff continues to assess the sub-surface reaction at Rumpke Landfill. As of June 1st, the Odor Control Blanket (OCB) is in place and all protrusions have been sealed tight.

Water Quality Division

Year to date revenues are up in 2010 from 2009 but have not recovered to the 2008 levels due to the sluggish economy. The number of late fees collected in 2010 are less. The number of inspections and people paying their bills has increased in 2010. Percent failure rates comparing 2010 to years past have been increasing. Of the inspections completed the first inspection failure rate for 2010 is 24%, for 2009 it was 27%, in 2008 it was 18% and in 2007 it was a 16%. It is felt that the high failure rate on first inspections is due to people not making the necessary repairs.

5. Unfinished Business

There was nothing to report.

6. Finances

Clara Hughes reported that Agency revenue collection is 4.0% below expected totals at this time. Annual revenue is expected to recover to within 2.0% of budgeted totals by the end of the year.

Mr. Ingram spoke of the article in the Saturday Enquirer that stated Hamilton County Public Health was requesting 1.2 million dollars in surplus levy dollars. This was an erroneous statement and Mr. Ingram spoke with the person in the Hamilton County Budget office who released that information and provided her clarification. The Enquirer will print a retraction to this statement.

The TB Control fund balance remains sufficient. Therefore a transfer from the Indigent Care levy has not yet been requested.

This year Hamilton County is self insured under Humana. In our budget, approximately 40% of the medical insurance cost was transferred and paid to the County. We will wait for other grant budgets to be put in place to see what will be paid out of the grants before paying out of the general fund.

a. Revenues and Expenditures, Mileage and Disbursements

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

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

7. New Business

a. Health Commissioner’s travel:

NACCHO conference in Memphis July 13 through July 16

BioWatch conference in Milwaukee August 23 through August 26.

Mr. Brett moved to approve the Health Commissioner’s travel to the NACCHO conference and BioWatch conference; **Mr. Chatham** seconded the motion.

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

b. Variance – 8495 Harrison Ave., – Whitewater Twp. – homeowner is requesting to utilize their existing fiberglass septic tank as a rainwater harvesting tank to water their garden/yard, once the tank has been adequately cleaned and disinfected.

Mr. Brett moved to approve variance SVAR 201008, subject to the conditions in the variance request for the septic tank cleaning/disinfecting process; **Mr. Chatham** seconded the motion.

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

c. Variance – 4330 Hubble Road – Colerain Twp. – (existing nuisance) homeowner requests to cross more than one property to reach the point of discharge.

Dr. Amend moved to approve variance SVAR 201009 to abate the nuisance; **Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

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

8. Executive session

At 7:40 p.m. **Mr. Brett** moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters or pending litigation; **Dr. Amend** seconded the motion.

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

At 8:26 p.m. the Board of Health concluded the executive session.

9. Adjournment

At 8:27 p.m. **Mr. Chatham** moved to adjourn the meeting; **Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

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

The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Monday, August 2, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

Tracey A Puthoff, President

Timothy I. Ingram, Secretary
Health Commissioner