

**Hamilton County General Health District**  
**REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**August 2, 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, Mark Rippe, Tom Chatham.

District Staff: Timothy Ingram, Health Commissioner; Kathy Lordo, Assistant Health Commissioner; April Wendling, Assistant Health Commissioner; Chris Griffith, Water Quality Director; Greg Cassiere, Water Quality Supervisor; Dr. Bjornson, Medical Director; Robin Fristoe, Secretary.

Guest: Rob Overbeck

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**Mr. Brett** moved to approve the Board of Health minutes from the July 12, 2010 regular meeting; **Mr. Chatham** seconded the motion.

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

**4. Health Commissioner's Report**

Mr. Ingram reported on the GE-led Health Care Initiative and stated this project is gaining momentum. He said the goals of the initiative are:

- 1) Higher quality of health care
- 2) Payment reform
- 3) Population based focus

Mr. Ingram stated that ideally a patient's data would follow them with one goal, to end the duplication of services. He explained that this will become the pilot project, with a lot of emphasis placed on using health information exchanges and health information technology as the venue to create better quality, better transparency, better population health, and ultimately payment reform.

Mr. Ingram informed the Board that currently, Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) is the only public health entity at the table.

Mr. Ingram also reported on the NACCHO conference he recently attended.

## **Staff Reports**

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

#### Health Promotion and Education Division

Ms. Lordo informed the Board that the Division of Health Promotion and Education, Active for Life grant has ended. As previously mentioned at the July Board of Health meeting, this program was moving to study chronic disease health management and the Council on Aging has decided to manage this program themselves.

#### Vital Stats Division

Ms. Lordo reviewed the attached draft for the Central Issuance of Birth Records Suggested Standards. At this time she is not sure what process ODH will go through to adopt these standards but she will keep the Board updated. Currently your vital stats team is participating in the ODH training for statewide issuance.

#### Nursing Division

Ms. Lordo distributed to the Board a leaflet with information about our immunization clinics. This will be included with all outgoing birth certificates. We also will be working with Job and Family Services, Catholic charities, etc. to discuss distributing this leaflet to clients they contact that may benefit from our services. Ms. Lordo also discussed revenue generated from the immunization clinics as well as the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. She added that the school nurses are reminded of our immunization clinics at the beginning of each school year. Ms. Puthoff suggested providing information about our immunization clinics to the unemployment offices. The Board feels the "no pay" option is something that needs to be highlighted. Ms. Lordo will have information about these clinics added to the Community news papers. Ms. Puthoff also suggested contacting television stations.

#### Emergency Preparedness Program

On Saturday, August 1, 2010, the Bio Terrorism (BT) program held another gathering for volunteers, of which 150 people attended. This gathering included Southwest Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. The health departments in those areas came together to educate new volunteers and recognize established volunteers involved in the Medical Reserve Corp.

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

#### Environmental Health Division

Ms. Wendling pointed out another job well done by Tucker Stone, Environmental Health Sanitarian, in regards to a home owner with a hoarding problem. Tucker worked with the Village of Fairfax along with several local community groups and churches to assist the homeowner in providing items for a large community garage sale.

Ms. Wendling reported that the Division of Environmental Health (EH) is very close to unveiling a new digital application for completing swimming pool inspections. This is expected to go live the first part of August, 2010.

Mr. Rippe began discussion on proper food handling at non-profit events. Ms. Wendling informed the Board that she and Greg Kesterman, Director of EH, have been discussing ways to prevent such outbreaks with events that are not required to have a Food Service Operation license. She and Greg are working together to develop an education program and they plan to have it ready by next year. Ms. Wendling will keep the Board up to date on their progress.

#### Waste Management Division

The sub-surface reaction continues at Rumpke Landfill. Ms. Wendling reported on her field visit to Rumpke Landfill. Issues on the sub-surface reaction were addressed. The police and fire departments who attended the meeting stated they feel safe in knowing this is being closely monitored.

Ms. Wendling informed the Board that the tattoo/body piercing inspection reports are now available on our website.

#### Water Quality Division

Ms. Wendling distributed a copy of the Hello Hamilton County newsletter, in which our Water Quality Sanitarian, Dave Ellert, is spotlighted in conjunction with a piece about the Hamilton County Home Sewage Treatment System grant program. Through this program, 29 failing home sewage systems were repaired and/or replaced with funds provided by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. Chris Griffith, Director of Water Quality, explained how this program worked as well as how homeowners in Hamilton County were notified.

#### Plumbing Division

This division continues to strategize on ways to market their Medical Gas program.

#### **Dr. Bjornson, Medical Director**

Dr. Bjornson reported that TB Control remains stable. He also spoke of an outbreak of Cryptosporidiosis in Northern Kentucky. A family who lives in Kentucky yet went swimming in a pool in Hamilton County tested positive for Cryptosporidiosis. Although, there have been no other cases reported associated with that pool. There also were cases reported from a church camp located in the County yet the reported cases were people who reside in the City. To date they have not been able to find a connection between the church and other individuals who attended this camp. At this time, Dr. Bjornson does not feel there is anything endemic, pertaining to Cryptosporidiosis, in Hamilton County. Ms. Lordo added that HCPH is working with Cincinnati Health Department, as well as other health departments, to develop a news release targeting proper pool hygiene.

#### **5. Unfinished Business**

There was nothing to report.

## 6. Finances

The cut off for this report was earlier than the average therefore, it does not reflect the full months revenues and expenditures.

### a. Revenues and Expenditures, Mileage and Disbursements

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

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

## 7. New Business

a. Variance – 9432 Brehm Road, Colerain Twp. – applicant’s house burned down and has been rebuilt. The existing subsurface sand filter was in good working condition and the homeowner is requesting to use it for the newly built home.

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Ingram asked the Board to table the decision until the September Board of Health meeting. This will allow staff to investigate, in depth, the rules pertaining to the use of an existing system for a rebuilt or partially rebuilt home. The homeowner, who was present at the Board meeting, requested a temporary plumbing permit to which the Board denied that request due to the uncertainty on the variance.

**Mr. Chatham** moved to table the variance until the September Board of Health meeting; **Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

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

b. Healthy People and Communities Foundation

Mr. Ingram discussed “Go Vibrant”, a new campaign in Hamilton County. While P&G Corporation is the main sponsor of the campaign, it is supported by other major Cincinnati corporations. The goal of the campaign is to make Cincinnati the healthiest place to live within the next ten years. Mr. Mark Jeffries, with P&G, oversees the operation of the campaign. In September he will meet with our staff to discuss areas in which Go Vibrant and our current program, Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) We Thrive campaign, might work collaboratively.

P&G does not want to house the Go Vibrant brand; they want it to be a county-wide initiative placed in a 501(c)(3). Mr. Ingram questions whether the use of the HCPH 501(c)(3) might be an option. All Board members present agreed, for now, to have Mr. Ingram investigate this further and keep them updated.

c. Revision to Section 3.4 of the Personnel Policy – Overtime, Compensatory Time and Hours of Work/Hourly Employees

Mr. Ingram reviewed the change to this policy.

**Mr. Rippe** moved to approve Section 3.4: Overtime, Compensatory Time and Hours of Work/Hourly Employees; **Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

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

## **8. Executive session**

At 8:06 p.m. **Mr. Chatham** moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters;

**Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

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

At 8:45 p.m. the Board of Health concluded the executive session.

**Ms. Puthoff** moved that the Board of Health enter into contract for the services of Health Commissioner with Timothy Ingram. Ms. Puthoff added that the Board of Health recognizes Mr. Ingram's exemplary service to Hamilton County Public Health and that his scope of responsibilities has expanded. Therefore, based on the Board of Health's evaluation of the Health Commissioner's performance, a merit adjustment is approved and the President of the Board of Health is hereby authorized to execute the finalized contract with the Health Commissioner. **Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

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

## **9. Adjournment**

At 8:50 p.m. **Mr. Rippe** moved to adjourn the meeting; **Mr. Chatham** seconded the motion.

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

The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Monday, September 13, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

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Tracey A Puthoff, President

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Timothy I. Ingram, Secretary  
Health Commissioner