

**Hamilton County General Health District**  
**REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**February 10, 2014**  
**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

At 6:30 p.m., President, Jim Brett, 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: Jim Brett, President  
Dr. Kenneth Amend, Vice President  
Thomas Chatham  
Tracey Puthoff  
Mark Rippe

District Staff Present: Timothy Ingram, Health Commissioner  
Nee Fong Chin, Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney  
Greg Kesterman, Asst. Health Commissioner  
Kathy Lordo, Asst. Health Commissioner  
John Teufel, Finance Officer  
Greg Cassiere, Supervisor, Water Quality Division  
Dr. Stephen Bjornson, Medical Director  
Mike Samet, Public Information Officer

Guests: Frank Sizemore, variance requestor  
Marci Edgell, student

**3. Clean Kitchen Awards**

Mr. Kesterman read the list of 20 Clean Kitchen Award recipients.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**Dr. Amend** moved to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2014 Board of Health meeting.

**Ms. Puthoff** seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote – All aye**

**5. Health Commissioner's Report**

Dr. Stephen Bjornson, Medical Director, has agreed to a new, one-year contract.

The District Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2014, noon.

Mr. Rippe has agreed to an additional term on the Board of Health, if appointed by the District Advisory Council.

HCPH has requested a 10 percent funding reduction from the 2015 Tuberculosis Levy.

Commissioner Ingram discussed changes at the Ohio Department of Health, including the resignations of Director, Dr. Ted Wymyslo and Assistant Director, Anne Harnish, also noting that replacements are expected to be named within one month.

Commissioner Ingram reported that WCPO Digital received the Foundation for Public Health Unsung Heroes of Public Health Award in the media category. The Agency Public Information Officer worked with WCPO to develop a three-part series on the County syphilis epidemic and subsequently submitted the series for the award.

Commissioner Ingram shared that a customer who purchased a birth certificate submitted a highly complementary note on the service received.

Commissioner Ingram also shared two news stories – one is a Health Commissioner Column in the Cincinnati *Enquirer* covering the anniversary of the U.S. Surgeon General's report on smoking; the other in *Cincinnati Magazine* covering the tuberculosis program.

## 6. Staff Reports

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

Ms. Lordo noted that the Disease Prevention Division is hiring two staff nurses, one of whom will manage the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps caseload and the other in a supervisory role.

The immunization funding program, Vaccine for Children, will be continued. Hamilton County Public Health is restructuring its clinic locations to best reflect neighborhood usage patterns and convenience for clinic users.

Ms. Lordo reported on social media success in bringing attention to the agency's "Fish Fry" training program to members of the Archdiocese and for demonstrating pertussis sounds in news coverage of the disease.

Dr. Bjornson reported on increasing cases of influenza, noting that hospitalizations have shown a five-fold increase this year. He also noted a 50 percent decrease in pertussis cases, while reporting that TB case numbers are identical to 2013.

### **Greg Kesterman, Assistant Health Commissioner, Department of Environmental Health Services**

Mr. Kesterman presented swimming pool licensing fees for 2014, indicating that the fees were developed using cost methodology procedures. Fees represent a 10 percent increase for main pools and 12 percent for each additional pool at a facility. Mr. Kesterman also noted that the fee increase, which is the first requested since 2000, places Hamilton County Public Health in the 36th percentile among pool fees in Ohio. He proposed that the new fees be scheduled for hearing at the March 10, 2014 BOH meeting.

Ms. Puthoff suggested reminding operators in communications on swimming pool fees that this is the first increase since 2000. She also asked if operators are charged an additional fee if a subsequent inspection is necessary. Commissioner Ingram explained that pool inspections are a state-mandated program with no fees for additional inspection.

Mr. Kesterman provided a detailed description of the pool inspection program. Mr. Rippe asked if the inspection program covered pool drain safety. Mr. Kesterman explained that drain apparatus is regulated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission and that all pools under the Agency program are in compliance.

**Ms. Puthoff** moved to hold a hearing for the new swimming pool fees March 10, 2014, 6:15 p.m.

**Mr. Rippe** seconded the motion.

#### **Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

Mr. Kesterman introduced proposed Food Program fees for the 2015 licensing year, explaining that it saves time and money to include new fees in the current licensing mailing, versus having to send separate communications to some 3,000 licensees. He explained that food fees are among the lowest in Ohio.

Mr. Chatham asked what Agency costs had increased, necessitating the program fee increase. Mr. Kesterman explained that costs are calculated to reflect staff hours spent in the program and that the Environmental Health Division is now fully staffed versus last year, reflecting an increase in program hours. He also explained that administrative overhead fees are capped at 30 percent, by statute and are not responsible for fee increases.

**Ms. Puthoff** moved to hold a hearing for the new food fees May 12, 2014, 6:15 p.m.

**Mr. Rippe** seconded the motion.

#### **Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

Mr. Kesterman discussed the application for Compost Cincinnati's proposed location in Whitewater Township. Further information has been requested prior to considering the application. No Board of Health action is currently necessary.

Mr. Kesterman briefly discussed Regulation 529 changes and noted that variance SVAR2013017 would not be required upon successful passage of regulation changes, as Hamilton County Public Health regulation is more stringent than Ohio code. The proposed regulation is more in line with State code.

### **7. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

### **8. Finances**

Mr. Teufel, reported that January disbursements were larger than prior months because of the County's accounting closure in December, meaning that several of the disbursements moved into January.

Mileage reimbursement for 2014 is in accordance with Internal Revenue Service rates.

### **9. New Business**

- a) Variance WVAR20114001 – 8285 East Miami River Rd., Colerain Township

**Ms. Puthoff** moved to approve Variance WVAR20114001 contingent upon adherence to the listed staff recommendations; **Dr. Amend** seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote – All aye**

- b) Variance WVAR2013-02 – 9044 New Haven Rd., Harrison

**Mr. Rippe** moved to approve Variance WVAR2013-02 contingent upon adherence to the listed staff recommendations and addition of a backflow device, if necessary; **Ms. Puthoff** seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote – All aye**

- c) Regulation 1-2014 – Amending Hamilton County General Health District Sewage Code Regulation 529 – Section 529.01 (FF), 529.02 (N) (1), 529.02 (N)(7), 529.02(S), 529.18(E) and Table 1.

Commissioner Ingram read a summary of the regulation.

**Mr. Chatham** moved to approve Resolution A-2014; **Dr. Amend** seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote – All aye**

- d) Medical Director Contract

**Ms. Puthoff** moved to approve the Medical Director's contract. **Mr. Rippe** seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote – All aye**

## 10. Adjournment

**Dr. Amend** moved to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.; **Ms. Puthoff** seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote – All aye**

Next Board of Health meeting: March 10, 2014.

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Jim Brett, President

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Timothy I. Ingram, Secretary  
Health Commissioner