

**Hamilton County General Health District  
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH  
January 13, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.  
Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

At 6:30 p.m., James Brett, President, 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: James Brett, President  
Mark A. Rippe, Vice President  
Tracey A. Puthoff, Esq.

District Staff Present: Tim Ingram, Health Commissioner  
Dr. Jennifer Mooney, Assistant Health Commissioner  
Greg Kesterman, Assistant Health Commissioner  
Dr. Steve Feagins, Medical Director  
Nee Fong Chin, Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney  
Greg Varner, Finance Officer

Guests: Cyndi Wineinger, Consultant

**3. Clean Kitchen Awards**

Assistant Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman read the list of 15 Clean Kitchen Award recipients and congratulated them for their efforts to maintain a high level of sanitation and staff education.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**Mr. Rippe** moved to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2019 Board of Health meeting with an addition to the last paragraph of the Medical Director's report to include "20 minutes of continuing education was provided to the Board Members in attendance."

**Ms. Puthoff** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**5. Health Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Ingram shared that the HCPH Holiday luncheon went very well. The list of Health Commissioner Award Recipients and photos of award presentations are in the Board packet. The 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration Planning Team also received an award.

Consultant Cyndi Wineinger is here this evening to share the Birkman Questionnaire results with the Board.

Finance Officer Greg Varner will present tonight on Fourth Quarter and Preliminary Year to Date 2019; reports are subject to ratification by the auditor. Commissioner Ingram presented the 2019 Fourth Quarter Performance Results and reviewed the Administrative

Reports. A stronger year was had in 2019 than in 2018 relative to completion of Program Implementation Plan targets. HCPH has exceeded slightly more than 98% of program metrics. We are in the third year of our five-year strategic plan. HCPH has a great Oral Health Committee which former County Commissioner Portune chaired. Victoria Parks was recently appointed as County Commissioner finishing Todd Portune's term and Ms. Parks will be a great advocate for oral health. Dr. Joseph Crowley, Past President of the American Dental Association, is a terrific local partner on the Oral Health Committee.

Assistant Health Commissioners Dr. Jenny Mooney and Mr. Greg Kesterman reviewed their respective department's Program Implementation Plan metrics in detail.

Dr. Mooney called attention to the Disease Prevention report with a reminder that the changes in color were addressed last quarter. Staff found that the previous numbers were incorrect, and they have since been revised.

Dr. Mooney explained a partnership with skilled nursing facilities. Preparedness staff worked alongside the Director of Nursing to push flu vaccines in the fourth quarter. Grant metrics for HIV have been completed. HCPH received praise from the state for our efforts to do contact investigations in a timely fashion. The benchmarks that the state has set for the Disease Investigation Specialists have been adhered to. Note that some of these metrics may change going forward in 2020.

Dr. Mooney explained the Emergency Preparedness grant based program. Funding is drawn down on by the deliverables written into the grant. HCPH is exceeding the number of anticipated POD drills. HCPH is meeting all deliverables and is a leader in the state as far as the Emergency Preparedness system. There have been a higher number of disease investigations this past year.

Harm Reduction Program exceeded the number of clients that were expected to be served with syringe services as well as exceeded testing projections. HCPH hopes to keep increasing HIV and Hepatitis C testing. Ms. Puthoff inquired what is HIV+. Dr. Mooney explained this is how a positive HIV test result is shown. The state commented that we are testing the population that we should be testing and finding the positivity rate within the community that should be found. Their benchmark is set at 1% and we are currently reaching around 2%. Other efforts to be incorporated are expanding our reach to serve populations not necessarily represented in these numbers.

Mr. Rippe asked about additional distribution points. Dr. Mooney said that yes, expansion is another goal. Exploration of more opportunities with brick and mortar versus just mobile. Talbert House on the West Side is a great partnership, they are allowing their parking lot to be used. Mr. Brett inquired if there was anything coming up on the far west side of the Harrison, White Water, Miami Township areas. Dr. Mooney said that this is not happening now but could in the future if there are partners. Mr. Brett said that he would make it his personal goal to find a spot out there.

Dr. Mooney touched on grant metrics that were met for Tobacco and expects this to shape shift in 2020. Dr. Mooney also shared that WeTHRIVE! and Matt Child does well at meeting their grant metrics. Language will be revised to spell out grant metrics to be program specific in 2020.

Mr. Kesterman reported the Food Safety Program has been pushed across the county and HCPH is continuing food education in Montgomery County in 2020. HCPH had a slight change in operating guidelines which changed the standard for passing. Changes were made to avoid the ability to fail multiple inspections and then be able to immediately turn things around.

Mr. Kesterman reported on Smoke Free Ohio; there was a slight increase in complaints but no increase in violations. An update was given on the Plumbing Division exceeding revenue projections due to large apartment projects and Children's Hospital new tower construction. Ms. Puthoff wanted to know how the need for medical gas inspections was being advertised and inspections confirmed. Mr. Kesterman said that any time someone pulls a building permit, the Building Department is responsible for notifying HCPH and the Department of Environmental Health Services for inspection of plumbing and medical gas. Commissioner Ingram added that the Building Department does not issue certificates of occupancy without the Plumbing Division or Medical Gas Inspections. Mr. Kesterman went onsite at Children's Hospital new tower with Program Supervisor Shawn Moore. The plumbers and medical gas installers are prideful of their work. Commissioner Ingram asked for clarity on pre-fabrication inspections. Mr. Kesterman said that, yes, HCPH is doing pre-fabrication quality control testing both at the pre-fab facility and at the hospital. Mr. Brett wanted to know if they still have the option of asking the state come in. Mr. Kesterman reported, no, that only Federal Buildings are exempt from local inspections; they have their own process.

Mr. Kesterman reported all Waste Management license inspections are complete. There was an increase in blood lead levels tested in children; HCPH has been interviewing families when lead levels are between  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  for the last two years at the request of the state. Mr. Kesterman also presented statistics on Water Quality who exceeded their goals and increased revenue despite a vacant inspector position that was recently filled. Rebecca Stowe was hired to fill in for grants and accreditation manager which will greatly assist Mr. Kesterman with the performance management system.

Ms. Puthoff mentioned she was impressed that there were very few items in yellow and none in the red. Mr. Kesterman will share that feedback with staff. Mr. Brett mentioned that Mr. Kesterman's report has some metrics that will need to be revamped. An example is the re-inspections of household sewage treatment system; track how many are passing the first time and not needing a second re-inspection.

## **Staff Reports**

### **(a) Medical Director's Report**

Dr. Steve Feagins Medical Director was pleased to report a decrease in vaping and e-cigarettes injuries. Mr. Rippe asked if there is a law in place about vaping in a public space. Mr. Kesterman informed that there have been no changes to the Smoke Free Ohio Law to include vaping at this time. There are county properties and certain businesses that have taken it upon themselves to not allow vaping. Commissioner Ingram mentioned that there is no authority for Public Health to step in with a complaint on vaping. Dr. Feagins stated that Nicotine is the most common drug that people are withdrawing from. It is a very powerful substance. There has been much less smoking and more vaping.

Dr. Feagins presented on antibiotic resistance. Healthcare providers are trying to understand the data obtained from blood cultures. In the next three months, they hope to bring healthcare systems together to do a better job at preventing antibiotic resistance.

Dr. Feagins touched on an interesting item from the mortality graph that shows more deaths in winter months than in summer. There are multiple factors including influenza, temperature, full hospitals, etc. There are no real answers as to why. Dr. Feagins feels that if we could better understand the why, we could plan for this with better healthcare systems.

Dr. Feagins mentioned an agenda item for Thursday's Infectious Disease Prevention Committee meeting is Mass Gathering Medicine. Dr. Feagins consults on how stadiums are designed and the need to provide care at the site for 1,000+ attendees. Mr. Rippe mentioned a recent death at the Titans vs. Ravens game and he wanted to know if there are any statistics on deaths in similar mass gathering situations. Dr. Feagins was not familiar with that story but did report there are lots of charts and graphs showing these statistics based on weather, crowd size, alcohol consumption, and average age of the crowd. Dr. Feagins shared a story about defibrillating a fan at a basketball game and later visited her in the hospital.

Commissioner Ingram complimented Dr. Feagins on his leadership with the Infectious Disease Prevention Committee and their monthly calls. It is unheard of to get the amount of system-wide participation that they have received.

The monthly Communicable Diseases Epi report was provided in the Board packet.

**(b) Department of Community Health Services**

Assistant Health Commissioner Dr. Mooney also reported that HCPH applied for funding opportunity to mentor other local health departments on efforts around addiction, surveillance, overdoses, linkage to care, etc. They applied for two mentees but were offered a third. One in Washington State, Michigan, and Illinois. Part of this mentorship is a site visit. The funding award is \$100,000. Dr. Mooney will co-mentor with Commissioner Ingram. Mr. Brett praised the Harm Reduction Program and staff.

Mr. Rippe mentioned that he is interested in the addiction treatment approach to the diagram submitted in the report. Dr. Mooney offered clarity as to why they used this approach to get everyone at the table and develop the workforce. Mr. Brett mentioned housing after jail and treatment and the impact on jobs and employment. Mr. Rippe inquired about relationships with Cincinnati Works. Dr. Mooney mentioned that HCPH is working with Ohio Needs Jobs but is unsure on Cincinnati Works and will follow up.

**(c) Department of Environmental Health Services**

Assistant Health Commissioner Mr. Kesterman added that he was able to shadow an inspection at Rumpke Sanitary Landfill; they are expanding from 597 acres to 939 acres. There have been some increases in odor complaints and noise and vibration complaints. The noise and vibration complaints are deferred to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources who provides information to the individuals. Mr. Kesterman complimented Rumpke staff for their professional handling of the blasts. Since Rumpke is not considered a mining facility, they are not regulated for blasting activity, but they are doing a great job. They plan to be doing this blasting for the next 25 years.

Mr. Kesterman congratulated HCPH Director of Plumbing Lisa Humble for receiving the Herbert J. Vonderheide Award from the Cincinnati Master Plumbers Association. Commissioner Ingram and Mr. Brett agreed that Ms. Humble has always been a pleasure and goes above and beyond.

**6. Unfinished Business: None.**

**7. Finances**

The December 2019 Disbursement Reports are included in the Board packet. Finance Officer Greg Varner reviewed the Fourth Quarter and Preliminary Year to Date 2019 reports. Ms. Puthoff inquired if the CDD revenue shortfall coincides with construction. Mr. Kesterman mentioned that the rain may have slowed construction disposal and recycling is diverted. Mr. Rippe mentioned the increase of LEAD projects due to the tax credit. Grant numbers reviewed and are to be certified by the auditors in a couple weeks. Projecting \$70,000 to the good for the entire Health District. Mr. Rippe asked what happens to money that is left from grants. Mr. Varner explained that this is considered earned revenue (only for deliverable based grants) and the money can be spent if it fits with the grant intent.. Commissioner Ingram added why we shouldn't be able to keep the money if we were able to accomplish objectives in less time than other county Boards of Health. Ten percent is indirect cost for administrative overhead. Commissioner Ingram said that the auditors are the checks and balance of this system, the Board of Health is doing the right thing. The money sits until it is used for the purpose in which the money was intended. Commissioner Ingram said that this was a very good question.

Ms. Puthoff pointed out that the end date for the CDC grant end date is 8/31/19 and it was confirmed that this was a typo (it is a three-year grant). Mr. Varner and Dr. Mooney provided additional feedback on grants, applications, and hiring timing. The CDC may allow for carryover into the next year, but we will not know for sure until later in the grant year. Ms. Puthoff inquired about a detailed project budget and whether it has been developed. Commissioner Ingram stated it was part of the application and that it is revised as we go and that he likes the conservative approach they are taking. Commissioner Ingram complimented Mr. Varner and his staff for all their good work.

**Ms. Puthoff** moved to approve the monthly disbursements.

**Mr. Rippe** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye- Mr. Brett abstained on White Water expenditures.**

**8. Executive Session:**

**Ms. Puthoff** moved to go to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 7:37 p.m.

**Mr. Rippe** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**Mr. Rippe** moved to return to Executive Session at 8:36 p.m.

**Ms. Puthoff** seconded the motion

**Roll Call Vote-All Aye**

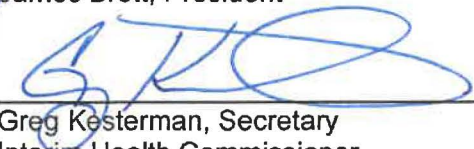
**9. Adjournment**

**Ms. Puthoff** moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

**Mr. Rippe** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

Next Board of Health meeting: February 10, 2020.

  
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James Brett, President  
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Greg Kesterman, Secretary  
Interim Health Commissioner