

**Hamilton County General Health District
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
November 5, 2018 – 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
Craig Davidson, Assistant Health Commissioner
Greg Kesterman, Assistant Health Commissioner
Dr. Steve Feagins, Medical Director
Nee Fong Chin, Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Mike Samet, Public Information Officer

Guests: Students from Cincinnati State and UC: Lauren Berding, Nana Bondzie, Terrell Cathey, Jr., Vince Dindia, Andrea Faughn, Kay Gingham, Katelyn Goettemoeller, Leah Grinsheun, Stacy Jarman, Patricia Klein, Edward LeGerdre, Nicole Patrick, Kelsey Schweizer, Bria Scott, Amanda Sowers, Andrew Stender, Tammy Stines, Sidney Wolf, and Ashley Woodroff

3. Clean Kitchen Awards

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

4. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Puthoff moved to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2018 Board of Health meeting.

Mr. Rippe seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

The minutes from the October 8, 2018 Vending and Mobile Service Fee Public Hearing were unanimously accepted.

5. Health Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Ingram elaborated on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) presence in response to HCPH, Northern Kentucky Health Department, Ohio Department of Health and Kentucky Department of Health joint request for Epi-Aid assistance to help local staff with HIV cases. The request for assistance was made due to observing increased HIV

infections in Northern Kentucky and Hamilton County; particularly those associated with injection drug use. Eight CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officers and other CDC subject matter experts are here for approximately four weeks. They will merge and analyze the five-county regional data, conduct interviews and survey assessments, and conduct case reviews. Commissioner Ingram reported numbers were up in 2017 and 2018 is on track to match 2017 numbers with the proportion of cases attributed to injection drug use increasing. Mr. Rippe looks forward to receiving the CDC study results.

Commissioner Ingram explained to the audience that our Narcan Distribution Collaborate helps keep people alive until they are ready to seek treatment. Commissioner Ingram has been invited by Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to speak to their Drug Risk and Advisory Committee in December in Washington D.C. Commissioner Ingram will present local Narcan Distribution Collaborate Project findings and answer their questions.

Commissioner Ingram thanked Jeremy Hessel, Director of Environment Health, and his staff for their great work this season trapping mosquitos. Their trapping, testing, and public education targeted toward affected areas helped to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases. Full details of the trapping program are in the Board packet.

Changes to the employee medical and dental insurance are detailed in the Board packet. It is no surprise that most costs have gone up so there are increased employee contributions.

Commissioner Ingram called attention to the Deaconess Foundation press release in the Board packet and thanked the Deaconess Foundation for their \$25,000 donation toward the Narcan distribution project.

Mr. Brett thanked Commissioner Ingram for his dental health editorial in the October 14, 2018 *The Enquirer*. Mr. Brett shared with the audience that dental is one of our project plan of work initiatives and that HCPH is working closely with the Oral Health Coalition.

Public Information Officer Mike Samet presented on the HCPH 100th Year Anniversary in 2019. Mr. Samet's PowerPoint covered the external (public and stakeholder education on the value of 100 years of HCPH) and internal (staff recognition/appreciation) initiatives. Custom logo, monthly communication plans, events, and budget were reviewed. The Board likes the plans and looks forward to receiving the event dates so everyone can get them on their calendar. There were no objections to the proposed budget.

Staff Reports

(a) Medical Director's Report

Dr. Steve Feagins, Medical Director, shared that 100 years ago this week was the deadliest influenza week in history. The "Spanish Flu" virus infected a third of the world's population with fatalities that surpassed all the military deaths in World War I and World War II combined. That is why today, flu vaccines are highly recommended.

HCPH and Northern Kentucky Health Department continue to observe an increase in HIV diagnoses among persons who inject drugs (PWID). Healthcare providers are implementing a risk factor questionnaire to determine when to test for HIV. As Commissioner Ingram mentioned, the CDC representatives are here and have interviewed local addiction

treatment medical providers. They have collected and will analyze positive HIV test demographic data.

Dr. Feagins called attention to his report in the Board packet on Hepatitis A risk factors and explained we have a person-to-person rather than point-source transmission outbreak. The CDC data overlap graphic shows recreational drug use as the highest risk factor followed by homelessness and men who have sex with men.

While the influenza season may be milder, it is still important to get vaccinated. Dr. Feagins was pleased to report immunization is a community standard condition of employment in our healthcare systems.

Hepatitis A daycare exposure occurs because the vaccine cannot be given prior to 12 months of age. Transmission in this setting has been reduced dramatically in the past ten years due to vaccination, however, and an exposure protocol to administer immune globulin has been developed and executed at the HCPH Clinic for those too young to receive the vaccine.

Ohio reported its first case this past month of acute flaccid myelitis (AFM), a polio-like condition that causes weakness in the arms or legs. The CDC does not know the cause of most of these AFM cases despite extensive lab testing. All of the AFM cases have tested negative for poliovirus. We are working with ODH for any patients that meet the clinical criterion for AFM (sudden onset of flaccid limb weakness) to complete the patient summary form for CDC testing.

Mr. Rippe inquired about the percentage in the neonatal abstinence syndrome – opioid withdrawal in newborns report. Dr. Feagins clarified that the 31% are mothers that tested positive. The Ohio numbers are included in the report for comparison purposes. Commissioner Ingram pointed out that Cincinnati is the home of the national research study and mentioned the significant extended-stay hospitalization costs of addicted babies. Dr. Feagins elaborated that since 2009, studies show that newborns who get a methadone taper to be cognitively within normal limits.

The monthly Communicable Diseases Epi report was provided the Board packets.

(b) Department of Community Health Services

Assistant Health Commissioner Craig Davidson reviewed highlights and stats from the Harm Reduction Program. Mr. Davidson explained to the audience that this is a comprehensive, public health harm reduction program that includes needle exchange; provision of clean supplies; Narcan and condom distribution; testing for HIV, hepatitis C, and pregnancy; vaccinations; and linkage to treatment. He cited the good work that has been done since HCPH established operations as of January 3. New visits number is increasing and Narcan is being strategically dispensed. Expiring Narcan is redistributed to those in need before it expires. A spike in emergency department visits and preliminary deaths triggered an OD public health alert. The standard alert language was modified to add detail on how to obtain naloxone and this will be included in future alerts. Mr. Davidson encouraged the audience to visit our website that has full details of both initiatives and data is updated every Monday morning. Ms. Puthoff asked if the cause of the OD spike was known. Mr. Davidson has no way to confirm at this time; however, a change in the street drug supply is the suspected cause.

Mr. Davidson invited all Board members to attend the 2018 WeTHRIVE! Community Recognition Event at the Mayerson Jewish Community Center on December 4. Commissioner Ingram explained to the audience that each community passes a resolution that binds the initiative since community leaders change year to year. Ms. Puthoff explained to the audience that the WeTHRIVE! program came from the CDC grant from President Obama's administration. HCPH was one of only six entities in the nation who received CDC funds. Mr. Davidson encouraged visitors to check out www.watchusthrive.org for full details.

An application for both the Early Intervention Services (EIS) Grant and the Harm Reduction Services Pilot Project funding was submitted on October 29. Full details are in the Board packet.

(c) Department of Environmental Health Services

Assistant Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman reviewed the Private Water System Fee Revision schedule in the Board packet. If the Board wants to move forward with a fee adjustment, a public hearing would need to be set before the next Board meeting at 6:15 p.m. Ms. Puthoff asked if revised fees are comparable to other agencies. Mr. Kesterman stated that it varies and reminded that our fees cover staff time 100% and HCPH is not subsidized by any levies or other agencies. Mr. Kesterman shared that, through the cost methodology, permit prices were adjusted to most accurately account for staff time.

Mr. Rippe moved to hold a Public Hearing for Private Water System Fees at 6:15 p.m. on December 10, 2018.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Mr. Kesterman reviewed the Sewage Treatment System Fee Revision that was last adjusted in 2015. There have been many programmatic changes since that time and new fees will need to be considered. Full details are in the Board packet. Proposed fees will be brought for the Board's consideration at the December 10 meeting. If the Board would like to proceed, then a Public Hearing would need to be scheduled.

Congratulations to Chuck DeJonckheere who received the Southwest Ohio Environmental Health Association Outstanding Sanitarian Award. Mr. Kesterman was pleased to report that HCPH staff have won this award seven of the last eight years.

Details of a backflow cross connection incident are included the Board packet. Staff received a complaint of "blue water" coming from a water fountain inside of a manufacturing facility. HCPH quickly responded and found the source of the contamination. Fortunately, there were no issues for employee safety and the fountain was taken out of operation until the backflow device was installed.

This past month, there was one apartment building condemnation in Lincoln Heights. Photos and more details are in the Board packet.

6. Unfinished Business: None

7. Finances

The October 2018 Disbursement Reports are included in the Board packet.

Mr. Rippe moved to approve the monthly disbursements.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

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

8. New Business:

Ms. Puthoff moved that HCPH close for Christmas Eve December 24, 2018 and New Year's Eve December 31, 2018 holidays.

Mr. Rippe seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Ms. Puthoff moved that HCPH adopt the Hamilton County Commissioners 2019 Holiday Schedule making July 5, 2019 an additional holiday.

Mr. Rippe seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Ms. Puthoff moved to approve Commissioner Ingram's out of state travel to Washington D.C. for the FDA- Narcan Distribution Collaborative, December 13 through 18.

Mr. Rippe seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Ms. Puthoff will not be at the December 10 Board meeting. Commissioner Ingram will make sure we have a quorum.

Mr. Brett explained to the audience that Nee Fong Chin is the HCPH prosecutor and that she has served since 1996. Mr. Brett asked for questions from the audience. Guests appreciated hearing and learning more about the work and research that HCPH is doing.


9. Adjournment

Mr. Rippe moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Next Board of Health meeting: December 10, 2018.



James Brett, President



Tim Ingram, Secretary
Health Commissioner