

**Hamilton County General Health District  
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH  
July 11, 2022 – 4:00 p.m.  
Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

At 4 p.m., Elizabeth A. Kelly, 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: Elizabeth A. Kelly, M.D., President  
Dan Meloy, Vice President  
Mark A. Rippe

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

Guests: Jessica Santiago, Amita Bryant, Home at Hearthstone

**3. Clean Kitchen Awards**

Craig Davidson read the list of five Clean Kitchen Award recipients and congratulated them for their efforts to maintain a high level of sanitation and staff education. Representatives from The Home at Hearthstone were present to receive their awards and were thanked for all their good work.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**Mr. Rippe** moved to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2022 Board of Health meeting.

**Mr. Meloy** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**5. Public Comment: None.**

**6. Health Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Kesterman shared that the lobby is now 85 percent complete. The large conference room will be able to be used next month. Concerning COVID-19, case numbers are starting to increase, with 35 cases per day in Hamilton County. The BA.5 variant accounts for 60 percent of total cases across the country, becoming the predominant variant. Hospitalizations predominantly represent the unvaccinated. The severity of the B.A.5 variant isn't worse, but it is extremely contagious. Hospitalization numbers are around 100 in the region, with 15 individuals in the ICU. The majority of people are now testing at home, not in a PCR setting, so the most consistent metric is the hospitalization numbers. COVID-19 deaths in Hamilton County are one every four days, up from one every ten days.

CDC data shows Hamilton County with 169 cases per 100,000. Community transmission remains low. Regarding vaccinations, HCPH has vaccinated 600 children in the six-month to five-year-old age group.

Commissioner Kesterman gave an update on the Oral Health Coalition. A new director has been selected, Dr. Joe Crowley. He will oversee two primary programs; the "One to One" program will entail hiring an intern to go to every dentist office and teaching them how to accept Medicaid and Medicare better and increasing the dollars dentists can capture when they take in a patient. The second program is called "Dollars to Dentures" where free dentures will be able to be provided to income qualified individuals.

The Commissioner gave a staff retention update that the Board requested: five individuals have left during the second quarter of 2022. One has retired, two left to pursue other opportunities, and two relocated out of state for other opportunities.

Commissioner Kesterman shared that he will be in Germany for the scheduled September Board meeting, visiting a sister city. He asked if the meeting could be changed to Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. if the Board is available.

**Mr. Meloy** moved to reschedule the September Board meeting to September 6 at 4 p.m.

**Dr. Kelly** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

Dr. Kelly asked if the Oral Health Coalition Director works for HCPH? Commissioner Kesterman answered yes, he is a contracted employee for HCPH. There was a sub-committee that met to vote on Dr. Crowley being appointed director. Mr. Rippe asked who is on the Oral Health Coalition? Commissioner Kesterman answered that the coalition was founded by the County Commissioners, who are the appointing authority for the Oral Health Coalition. It is comprised of about ten members, including several people from non-profits and dentists in the region. Mr. Rippe asked how often they meet? The Commissioner answered that they meet monthly.

## **Staff Reports**

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

Dr. Steve Feagins Medical Director shared the four COVID-19 treatment options that are currently available for local healthcare systems. Specific details of those are outlined in the Medical Directors report. He shared there is steady increase in hospitalizations.

Hamilton County is leading the region on vaccination for six-month to five-year-old children. The reason for that being we have the Moderna vaccine. Out of the two vaccines that are authorized, the Pfizer is a three-dose series vs. Moderna vaccine, which is a two dose vaccine.

The majority of COVID-19 cases are BA.5. The next time a booster is made, it will likely be specific to the spike protein. They are moving to figuring out what part of the spike protein we are vulnerable to and vaccinate against that. BA.5 doesn't appear to have an increase of severity in disease.

Dr. Feagins shared that there is a positive case of monkeypox in Hamilton County. Testing is not readily available at this point. If there is a suspected case of monkeypox that shows up in urgent care, they are being sent to the ER, as they have the appropriate PPE to handle it. There is a pivot in healthcare, with a greater awareness of transmission of disease. Monkeypox is transmitted through surfaces and touch. There is no smallpox/monkeypox vaccine.

Dr. Feagins shared that 10-20 percent of COVID-19 patients have long term symptoms. Immune response that lasts long after the initial infection.

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

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

Assistant Health Commissioner Dr. Jennifer Mooney shared that the harm reduction team is launching a summer round table series every few weeks to discuss ways that they can better enhance their services. Other stakeholders that are involved in harm reduction work also come and share data. Discussions have been engaging. Shana, the division director of harm reduction, is going to do a presentation for the HCPH Board next month on the data collected from SAFE services clients.

Disease prevention has been very busy with over 400 visits this past month. The Injury Surveillance Report is expected to be completed at the end of this month and will represent program activities for 2021.

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

Assistant Health Commissioner Mr. Davidson reported they have administered over 600 vaccinations in the age range of 6 months through 4 years. Significant preparations were done in advance of getting the green light for the vaccine so that the team was ready to go. Because HCPH is one of the few providers offering the Moderna vaccine, the response has been significant, and they have far exceeded other county numbers of vaccinations done in this age range. Other efforts include reaching out to local libraries to have nurses on site to provide vaccines during story time and summer programming.

In the Emergency Preparedness field, Mr. Davidson shared that the county is eligible for funding from Homeland Security and FEMA. \$1.5 million dollars will be available to Hamilton County through this funding. A majority of this money will go to law enforcement and first responder training, but \$75,000 was allocated to go to HCPH for planning and response efforts related to supporting operations of mass care shelters.

Mr. Davidson shared that the ODH conducted a site visit at HCPH to determine compliance with policies and procedures outlined in the Public Health Lead Investigations Manual. Full details on the site visit are provided in his report.

Mr. Davidson shared that they received acknowledgement from U.S. EPA colleagues regarding the Water Quality team's sharing of data associated with wastewater concentrations of SARS CoV-2 from three Hamilton County sewer sheds. An article was published by the journal *Science of the Total Environment* which details the work and thanks and acknowledges the Water Quality team.

A summary of the results of annual cost methodologies performed for food, swimming pool, and hotels was shared, showing proposed license fee increases for 2023. The proposal also included a fee increase for the Manager Certification in Food Protection Course after evaluating our fees for the course relative to other local health departments offering the course. A specific sequence is required for the fee increases, including a public hearing in September, should the Board choose to move forward at that time.

**Mr. Rippe** moved to have a public hearing for the proposed fee increases at 3:45 p.m. on September 6, 2022.

**Mr. Meloy** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote- All Aye**

## **7. Finances**

### **Monthly Disbursements**

Greg Varner, Finance Officer, reviewed the year-to-date June 30, 2022, revenue, expenditures and fund balance reports and grant summary. Revenues in many program areas and as a whole, exceed budgeted expectations and expenditures are less than budgeted expectations. The full report is included in the Board packet.

The June 2022 Disbursement Reports are included in the Board packet.

**Mr. Rippe** moved to approve the monthly disbursements.

**Mr. Meloy** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

## **8. Unfinished Business: None.**

## **9. New Business: Resolution G: Revision to the 2022 Revised Budget**

**Mr. Rippe** moved to approve Resolution G: Revision to the 2022 Revised Budget.

**Dr. Kelly** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote- All Aye**

## **10. Executive Session**

**Mr. Meloy** moved to go into Executive Session at 5:13 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

**Dr. Kelly** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote- All Aye**

**Mr. Meloy** moved to end Executive Session where no action was taken at 5:50 p.m.

**Dr. Kelly** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote- All Aye**

**Mr. Meloy** moved to authorize Board President Dr. Kelly to conduct an annual employment review and compensation adjustment with the Health Commissioner.

**Mr. Rippe** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote- All Aye**

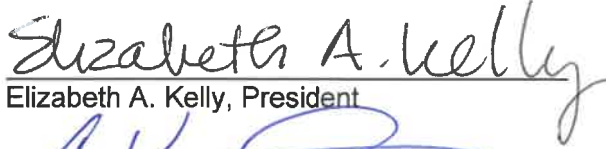
## **11. Adjournment**

**Mr. Rippe** moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

**Mr. Meloy** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

Next Board of Health meeting: August 8, 2022.



Elizabeth A. Kelly, President



Greg Kesterman, Secretary  
Health Commissioner

