

**Hamilton County General Health District**  
**REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**July 9, 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  
Kenneth G. Amend, M.D  
Tracey A. Puthoff, Esq.

District Staff Present: Tim Ingram, Health Commissioner  
Craig Davidson, Assistant Health Commissioner  
Greg Kesterman, Assistant Health Commissioner  
Greg Varner, Finance Officer  
Dr. Steve Feagins, Medical Director

**3. Clean Kitchen Awards**

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

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**Dr. Amend** moved to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2018 Board of Health meeting.

**Mr. Rippe** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**5. Health Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Ingram reported that we have had another busy month. He is very pleased to share that HCPH received the National Health Security Award for the Emergency Preparedness Program. Special thanks to Assistant Health Commissioner Craig Davidson and Emergency Response Supervisor John Sherrard for their good work on this program. Mr. Davidson will share more information in his report tonight.

Commissioner Ingram called attention to his report in the Board packet the leadership changes in the Tb Program. He is working on getting a different infectious disease physician assigned as medical director for the program.

The Multi-State Hepatitis A outbreak is in the news. While Ohio numbers are not as high as neighboring states, we are on high alert. The report in the Board packet explains the regions impacted, what the disease is, how it is spread, at-risk population, symptoms, and Ohio statistics. Two of the outbreak-associated cases are in Hamilton County. Hepatitis A

vaccinations are offered on The Exchange Project Van. HCPH and Cincinnati Health Department staff are meeting to discuss a coordinated prevention campaign.

Second quarter financial and performance reports in your Board packet will be reviewed tonight. At the half-way point in the year, we are doing well and on target.

## **Staff Reports**

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

Dr. Steve Feagins, Medical Director, reported that the FDA recall of Naloxone products did not apply to the Ohio Central Pharmacy where local health departments get their supply for Project DAWN and first responder allocations. The Narcan Distribution Collaborative doses are not affected by the recall either.

The FDA has also reported the penicillin shortage in the nation has been resolved. Dr. Feagins said we did not have any issues locally.

As previously mentioned by Commissioner Ingram, the Hepatitis A cases in Ohio recently broke 100. Staff is working on getting vaccinations for the people at risk (homeless, intravenous drug users, and men who have sex with men). There is not a recommendation for vaccinating health care workers at this time.

In Dr. Feagins report, he provides detail about a penicillin allergy study finding that a 69% increased risk for MRSA and a 26% increased risk for C. difficile. The recommendation is a systemic effort to confirm or rule out the presence of a penicillin allergy for inpatients who require antibiotics.

Dr. Feagins explained the red meat (and occasionally high-fat dairy such as ice cream) allergy attributed to a Lone Star tick bite. The Lone Star tick has expanded its range beyond the Southeast and covers much of Ohio.

The Board inquired if there was an increase in medical emergencies attributed to the July 4 celebrations. Dr. Feagins did not observe higher than usual fireworks injuries; however, there were injuries attributed to the Spartan Race that took place in Dearborn County, IN. Several of these patients were transported to Hamilton County hospitals due to the nature of their injuries.

The monthly Communicable Diseases and Overdose Epi reports were provided the Board packet.

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

Assistant Health Commissioner Craig Davidson echoed Commissioner Ingram's thanks to John Sherrard who, with his staff member Kelsie Rudell, was instrumental in HCPH receiving the National Health Security Award. Mr. Davidson explained the award process, criteria, and winning application.

Mr. Davidson reported that on its first day in Westwood, the Exchange Project provided service to 41 clients. Stats for the Exchange Project are in the Board packet and by the end of July, we expect to reach 250,000 syringes exchanged since the program's inception.

A ZIP code map showing home location of recipients of Narcan doses distributed by the Narcan Distribution Collaborative is included the report and reviewed by Mr. Davidson. Mr. Rippe inquired what the repeat visitor stats are and he requested to include YTD Exchange Project stats too. Mr. Davidson will follow up with that data analysis and provide the YTD in next month's and future reports. Forty treatment referrals have been made; we are still collecting follow up statistics. Justin Berry from the Cincinnati Health Department matches those seeking treatment with service providers. As mentioned earlier, we will start administering Hepatitis A vaccinations at the van. Mr. Brett asked about sharing this program information with the rest of the state for those that are interested. Commissioner Ingram said there are state officials who receive our monthly reports. Adding the YTD totals will help to better communicate the impact of this comprehensive program.

On June 6-8 there was a spike in overdoses so HCPH issued a Public Health Alert to increase community awareness and alert all healthcare providers. A Public Health Advisory for Hepatitis A was also issued on June 13 by HCPH and Cincinnati Health Department. This was prior to ODH's outbreak declaration.

Mr. Davidson was pleased to represent HCPH at the public release of Cradle Cincinnati's new five-year strategic plan. Event attendees, strategic goals, and a link to the full plan are provided in the Board packet.

Tracey Puthoff inquired about the Narcan doses spike in the Loveland area. Mr. Davidson has seen upticks in that area (and Norwood); however, the reason is not known for their increased activity. Tracey Puthoff inquired where do we get more Narcan when we exhaust our supply. Mr. Davidson explained that state allocations for Project DAWN and first responder doses will be used in the future.

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

Assistant Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman called attention to his report on public swimming pools and diving boards. After receiving a complaint for Sunlight Pool at Coney Island, an inspection was conducted. The Ohio Department of Health reviewed the Ohio Administrative Code and indicated that all pools are required to comply with dive well depth requirements – even when not undergoing a plan modification through ODH. HCPH has preliminarily identified three pools that had diving boards removed and staff will be measuring all pools in Hamilton County. ODH indicated that they will be notifying all pools throughout the State of the requirement.

Mr. Kesterman provided an update on Farwick Fields lead testing. The contamination was limited to field 5 and plans are in the works to get funding from the US EPA to clean up the lead and arsenic contaminated soils. Field 5 remains closed and the Taylor Creek Youth Organization Board continues to remain cooperative with both the HCPH and the US EPA.

Staff presented the Second Quarter Program Implementation Plan results. At the agency level, 35 initiatives are exceeding/complete, 95 are on track, 3 are behind, and 2 are road block/postponed. Department level metrics were reviewed and variances explained. The Board thanked all the staff for their good work.

**6. Unfinished Business: None**

**7. Finances**

Finance Officer Greg Varner distributed the 2018 Quarter 2 Financial Review report. Mr. Varner covered revenue, expenditure, and grant summaries explaining the variances and timing issues. We are financially healthy and all grant reporting is current. The state auditors will begin their field work this month and we expect to receive the final audit report by September 17.

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

**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. New Business: None**

**9. Adjournment**

**Mr. Rippe** moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

**Ms. Puthoff** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

Next Board of Health meeting: August 13, 2018.



James Brett, President

Tim Ingram, Secretary  
Health Commissioner