

**Hamilton County General Health District
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
August 10, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.
Minutes**

1. Call to Order

At 4 p.m., Mark A. Rippe, President, called to order the regular session of the Board of Health of Hamilton County General Health District, conducted by conference call, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call of Members

Members Present: Mark A. Rippe, President
James Brett, Vice President
Elizabeth A. Kelly, M.D.
Dan Meloy
Tracey A. Puthoff, Esq.

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

Guests: None

3. Clean Kitchen Awards

Commissioner Kesterman read the list of four Clean Kitchen Award recipients and congratulated them for their efforts to maintain a high level of sanitation and staff education. Special congratulations were given to 10-time winner, Mount Washington Care Center Anderson Township.

4. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Kelly moved to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2020 Board of Health meeting.

Mr. Brett seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

5. Health Commissioner's Report and Environmental Health Services Report

Commissioner Kesterman reviewed updated ODH and HCPH COVID-19 statistics. Age group demographics were added to better monitor school age children. Since the governor's mask mandate, the number of cases have declined. Ms. Puthoff requested the Hamilton County Cases mask bar chart slide to share with others. Commissioner Kesterman will email it to the Board.

HCPH continues to work on public education efforts to get compliance. Targeted efforts will be made with Hamilton County Sheriffs/local police departments in areas with higher non-compliance complaints.

Hamilton County awarded \$18.1M for testing to The Health Collaborative. HCPH continues to partner with Ohio National Guard on pop-up testing locations and the process has greatly improved. HCPH also provides information, guidance, and decision tree to local schools to help them respond accordingly.

The Community Health Improvement Plan for April-June 2020 is in the Board packet.

HCPH expects to receive the 2020 HUD Lead Hazard Grant and staff is moving fast to prepare.

The Maternity Licensure Application renewal for Bethesda North Hospital is on tonight's agenda. There are no issues or outstanding violations with the facility. Staff recommend renewing their licensure. Full details are in the Board packet.

Unpaid Sewage Treatment System Permit Fees are certified annually in August. The Board packet list contained 310 properties, but the list is now down to 290. HCPH will continue to give people the opportunity to remove their name until the cutoff. The updated list will be certified to the Hamilton County Auditor on September 1. Full details of the process are in the Board packet.

Mr. Meloy asked about communications with parochial and private schools. Commissioner Kesterman reported they are not in the ESC so HCPH has been communicating with the archdiocese and private charter schools directly. They are being added to the ESC communication group in August, per the superintendent of the group.

Mr. Rippe asked how the lead grant information is shared with the community. HCPH will be targeting the affected communities.

Regarding pandemic public health enforcement, Mr. Meloy shared with Ms. Chin that some community law enforcement agencies have additional resources for multiple alarm ringers that may be a resource for HCPH pandemic enforcement compliance.

Mr. Brett heard conflicting information about back to school procedures, specifically the number of days after COVID-19 exposure. Commissioner Kesterman reported that quarantine is 10 days from onset of symptoms or test date, if asymptomatic. In addition 1 day from the conclusion of symptoms. Close contacts must be quarantined for 14 days from their last exposure to a positive COVID case. The classroom is to be deep cleaned following CDC guidelines. Dr. Feagins shared the conflicting information of 6 days came from athletic coaches in northern Ohio who set their own guideline. Hamilton County has been united with their communications.

Staff Reports

(a) Medical Director's Report

Dr. Steve Feagins Medical Director thanked the Infectious Disease Working Committee for all their efforts and great work. Specifically, the "frequently asked questions" document. Dr. Feagins explained the FAQ testing sheet, the different types of tests, and their effectiveness/accuracy rates. Long-term effects, thrombotic events, and pediatric/return to school details discussed. Full details are in the Board packet.

(b) Department of Community Health Services

Assistant Health Commissioner Dr. Jennifer Mooney called out recent infrastructure improvements for HCPH to be best prepared are high priority. Specifically, increased staffing and scheduling around contact tracing. Dr. Mooney was pleased to report that HCPH received a \$100K grant from NACCHO to enhance HCPH's COVID-19 outbreak team and to share infection prevention and control best practices regionally.

HCPH staff are working to automate overdose data communications and to post the data live on HCPH's website.

The Nurse Practitioner will be coming on board in three months and it will be a hybrid role working on several initiatives.

Mr. Brett observed that HIV and Syphilis numbers are higher. Dr. Mooney confirmed it is a result of a backlog from people not being tested during the stay at home period.

Mr. Rippe asked if the harm reduction monthly totals on Page 4 are for June or July. Dr. Mooney will confirm they are July numbers (likely just a typo on the report).

Ms. Puthoff asked if Dr. Feagins' FAQ report can be shared externally. Yes, it is on the HCPH website and Commissioner Kesterman will email it to the Board.

6. Unfinished Business: None.

7. Finances

The July 2020 Disbursement Reports are included in the Board packet.

Ms. Puthoff moved to approve the monthly disbursements.

Mr. Meloy seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

8. New Business:

Ms. Puthoff moved to approve the Bethesda North Hospital Maternity Licensure Application.

Mr. Brett seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Ms. Puthoff moved to approve Resolution D-2020, Certification of Delinquent Sewage Fees.

Mr. Brett seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Ms. Puthoff moved hold the September 14 Board Meeting at 4 p.m. via Zoom.

Mr. Brett seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

9. Executive Session

Mr. Brett moved to go to Executive Session to discuss legal matters at 4:53 p.m.

Mr. Meloy seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Ms. Puthoff moved to end Executive Session 5:12 p.m.

Mr. Meloy seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Mr. Brett moved to go to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 5:14 p.m.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Ms. Puthoff moved to end Executive Session 5:41 p.m.

Mr. Meloy seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

10. Adjournment

Ms. Puthoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

Mr. Brett seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Next Board of Health meeting: September 14, 2020 at 4 p.m. via Zoom.



~~Mark A. Rippe, President~~ Jim Brett, Vice President



Greg Kesterman, Secretary
Health Commissioner