

**Hamilton County General Health District
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
September 9, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.
Minutes**

1. Call to Order

At 6:35 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. (arrived at 6:42 p.m.)

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

Guests: Ryane Warner, Cincinnati State

3. Clean Kitchen Awards

Greg Kesterman read the list of 13 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 August 12, 2019 Board of Health meeting.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

5. Health Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Ingram was pleased to present Mr. Brett with the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Food Service Audit results. HCPH received glowing reviews, and Commissioner Ingram congratulated the HCPH staff for their excellent services. Additional staff compliments are in the Board packet. The Board expressed their deep appreciation to all the staff for their excellent service to our community.

Commissioner Ingram was excited to share that HCPH was only 1 of 16 localities to be awarded the federal Overdose Data to Action Grant (OD2A). This is the second largest grant in the history of this health district. This necessitates a reorganization of the HCPH structure, first by creating a new Division of Harm Reduction. Shana Merrick, MSW, LSW, has been promoted from within to be the new Division Director of Harm Reduction. Revised reorganization chart distributed tonight; the changes made were per legal counsel and reorganization will be discussed in greater detail this evening.

The Board receives 30 minutes of Continuing Education for the board governance and fiduciary duties (presentation in the Board packet). The presentation is from the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) annual conference. Commissioner Ingram encouraged the Board to attend next year's conference in August 2020, in Grand Rapids, Michigan

HCPH was recently honored by a visit from the Surgeon General, Dr. Jerome Adams. Dr. Adams spoke with staff about HIV, vaping, and the Harm Reduction Program. The highlight of his visit was spontaneously visiting the harm reduction van while it was in service at HCPH (this location is the second busiest location). Dr. Adams engaged with staff and clients. He was extremely compassionate with staff and clients and sought actionable feedback.

Staff Reports

(a) Medical Director's Report

Dr. Steve Feagins Medical Director highlighted from his written report to the Board the Pulmonary injuries due to vaping with a high concentration of THC. Vaping has been added to provider intake questionnaires and an investigation has been initiated.

Dr. Feagins called attention to the OHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee's recommended changes to pre-participation physical exam forms. Dr. Feagins is on the committee and highlighted the changes include recommending that yearly sports physical visits occur at a physician office rather than "mass physicals." The changes also add behavioral health questions. Mr. Rippe inquired about the timing of the new physical evaluation form and Dr. Feagins reported it will be ready for spring of 2020. Mr. Brett congratulated Dr. Feagins for this important work to safeguard our youth.

The Influenza Data from Australia was looking very severe last month; however, new data is showing it to be an average season. The initial spike is attributed to an early flu season. Vaccinations are still highly recommended.

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

(b) Department of Community Health Services

Assistant Health Commissioner Dr. Jennifer Mooney distributed a draft Harm Reduction Division organization chart that is separate from disease prevention. These new positions are attributed to the OD2A grant. Mr. Rippe asked for clarity around the open positions. Dr. Mooney explained the syringe exchange program staff have been moved into this new division and that Ms. Merrick (new division director) was promoted within.

The Board inquired about funding for the new staff after the three-year OD2A grant. Commissioner Ingram will manage funding to retain the positions after the grant is over. However, he expects there to be additional funding. The Opioid lawsuit is expected to settle by the first of the year. Commissioner Ingram proposed for equitable use of the opioid settlement funds that Ohio establish 8 regional foundations governed by a board of trustees (city, county, providers) with performance-based metrics and with the a focus on assisting those fighting the disease of addiction. Ms. Puthoff asked for clarity around the timing of

new division positions. Commissioner Ingram stated positions will be filled as we scale up. Mr. Rippe asked if the metrics for the OD2A grant are known. Commissioner Ingram does have the details and will share them with the Board. The hard part will be overcoming the 42CFR regulations about Behavioral Health records. Policy needs to change (to allow for a public health exception) for the program to succeed. Mr. Rippe suggested patient IDs; however, Commissioner Ingram explained why that is not feasible. Dr. Feagins explained this behavior health blind spot in the EMR data is a significant detriment to delivering care and furthering research. Ms. Chin asked for clarity around the new Peer Recovery positions and Medical Director roles. Dr. Mooney explained Peers are similar to an AA sponsor but help navigate the system of social services. Commissioner Ingram explained that the Harm Reduction Medical Director position would be a liaison with the hospitals.

Commissioner Ingram reviewed the revised HCPH proposed reorganization chart and explained that the positions in yellow are for OD2A support. Digital communications are essential going forward and will be the responsibility of the new Digital Communications & Marketing Manager. To date, Commissioner Ingram has taken the lead on health policy issues, but the new Office of Compliance & Health Policy will set HCPH up for the future. The part time Sheriff will be used for delivering citations. The Performance Management & Grants Coordinator will allow HCPH to have a dedicated staff person. Full details are in the Board packet.

Ms. Puthoff asked for clarity about funding for these new positions. Commissioner Ingram explained restricted funds will cover all but the Grants Coordinator. HCPH will need to revise the 2019 budget because the grant started September 1. It is a reimbursement grant and HCPH has the cash to cover the initial outlay. Dr. Mooney will get clarity from the grant program manager on the reimbursement timeline. Mr. Rippe looks forward to receiving the revised program metrics. Commissioner Ingram will dedicate time at a future Board meeting and feature the new Division of Harm Reduction.

(c) Department of Environmental Health Services

Assistant Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman highlighted license fee changes driven by cost methodology as specified in the Ohio Administrative Code. HCPH food service fees average 13% increase and are still below most neighboring jurisdictions. Public Swimming Pools, Spas, and Special Use Pools average 10% increase. Campground Fee is 64% increase to cover audit findings correction for annual inspections within 365 days. This change has required staff to conduct two annual inspections at campgrounds. Public Accommodation Facilities Fee (hotels) 3% increase. To proceed, a public hearing is required, and Mr. Kesterman proposed October 14, 2019 at 6:15 p.m. so that all facilities can be notified by postcard.

Mr. Kesterman called attention to his report on China Experience's grease trap plumbing issues. Staff received a complaint regarding a poorly kept dumpster at Northgate Mall, where upon investigation, they discovered a PVC pipe routed to an outside drain. The facility was immediately voluntarily closed until full remediation. Ohio EPA and Metropolitan Sewer District were also notified for additional enforcement action. HCPH staff will follow up for the next six months while the facility is in the probationary period.

Mr. Rippe inquired about the proposed fee increase language on cost of living 1.9%. Mr. Kesterman explained that is just for the vending fee COL which is capped. Mr. Rippe also remarked that more frequent smaller increases are easier for constituents to plan for.

6. Unfinished Business: None.

7. Finances

The August 2019 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.

Mr. Rippe asked how the budget for the HCPH 100th Anniversary is doing. Commissioner Ingram reported we are under budget.

8. New Business:

Mr. Rippe moved to hold a License Fee Adjustment public hearings on October 14, 2019 at 6:15 p.m.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

The Board approved proceeding with the Health District reorganization proposal as presented by the Health Commissioner.

9. Executive Session:

Ms. Puthoff moved to go to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 7:57 p.m.

Mr. Rippe seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

The Board of Health came out of Executive Session at 9:39 pm where no decisions were made.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Puthoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Mr. Rippe seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Next Board of Health meeting: October 14, 2019.



James Brett, President



Tim Ingram, Secretary
Health Commissioner