

**Hamilton County General Health District**  
**REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**April 8, 2019 – 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.  
Elizabeth A. Kelly, M.D.  
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  
Greg Varner, Financial Officer

**3. Clean Kitchen Awards**

Greg Kesterman read the list of nine Clean Kitchen Award recipients and congratulated them for their efforts to maintain a high level of sanitation and staff education. Mr. Gregg Pancero attended earlier to receive the award for Trio Restaurant.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**Dr. Amend** moved to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2019 Board of Health meeting.

**Mr. Rippe** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**5. Health Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Ingram is pleased to share that the first quarter performance results are on track and ahead of last year's program performance results. Craig Davidson and Greg Kesterman will go into the performance results in more detail tonight during their report.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hamilton County Public Health proclamation was received from the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners and a resolution recognizing HCPH for 100 years of public health services was received from Village of Golf Manor. Commissioner Ingram reported there are more community proclamations/resolutions to come and that we will frame them to display around the building.

The Director of The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr. Robert Redfield, MD., has been confirmed as the keynote speaker at our 100<sup>th</sup> year recognition event on August 1 from 4:00 to 6:30 pm at Xavier's Cintas Center. We are inviting other dignitaries to

speak as well. Other community anniversary events are listed in the Board packet and all Board Members are encouraged to attend.

Greg Varner, Financial Officer, will provide a first quarter financial update tonight. Commissioner Ingram is concerned about attracting prospective job applicants to the field of public health for our unfilled positions.

Commissioner Ingram is watching four items from the Governor's proposed State Budget:

1. Creation of County/Regional Drug Overdose Fatality Review Boards,
2. Raising the legal age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21 years of age,
3. State Licensure of Body Art Facilities (formerly known as Tattoo Parlors), and
4. State Rules for Local Fetal/Infant Mortality Review Boards.

Also, the HCPH Tb screening bill of day care workers is close to being introduced by Representative Carruthers.

## **Staff Reports**

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

Dr. Steve Feagins, Medical Director, explained and shared suicide postvention recommendations in the aftermath of a second suicide from Turpin High School. Forest Hills School District requested an evaluation of their postvention efforts. Specialists and organizations were convened as connectedness is an important factor. Full details are in the Board packet.

While we experienced a mild H1N1 influenza, Dr. Feagins reported we are now seeing a second-round influenza A (H3N2). A health advisory was issued by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Feagins indicated the Board report hospitalizations graph numbers are coming down.

Dr. Feagins explained how LifeCenter is an organ procurement agency for 46 hospitals to facilitate organ and tissue donation in 16 counties. Our region continues to improve the effective request rate and organ conversion rate. All systems have cooperated in creating order sets for organ preservation after death by brain criteria. Dr. Feagins answered the Board's questions about overdose organs (Hep C+ curable and HIV is controllable but not curable), and brain death vs. cardiac death (can take tissue). Health systems have an Honor Walk where medical staff line the halls as patient is taken to OR where the harvesting occurs. Ohio driver license sets the stage, but family has the final say. Commissioner Ingram has always been interested in a donor opt out from birth concept. This could also apply to vaccinations.

There were four cases of congenital syphilis diagnosed in Hamilton County in 2018. Dr. Feagins reviewed a prevention action plan and full details are in the Board packet.

Dr. Feagins explained the UC Infectious Disease Fellow Rotations and having them spend a little time with the local health departments to better appreciate the interface between public health and infectious disease clinical care. Most Fellows have not been exposed to this aspect of infectious diseases previously. Dr. Amend asked if a month rotation would work better. Dr. Feagins explained that scheduling is hard, no matter the length of time. Dr.

Amend asked if Infectious Disease Specialist was one more year. Dr. Feagins explained most Infectious Disease programs are two years.

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

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

Assistant Health Commissioner Craig Davidson reviewed his department's Community Health Performance Plan highlights. All programs are on track through the first quarter. Mr. Davidson highlighted the turn-around the BCMH program has seen in recent months thanks to a new staff member that has been working hard to increase activity and associated reimbursements. Full details are in the Board packet.

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

Assistant Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman reviewed his department's Environment Health Performance Plan highlights. All programs are on track through the first quarter. Mr. Kesterman discussed a slight increase in Smoke Free Ohio Complaints that we will be tracking. Dr. Amend inquired about the smoking violation fees. Mr. Kesterman reported about 90% of the fee comes back to Hamilton County.

**6. Unfinished Business: None.**

**7. Finances**

Greg Varner, Financial Officer, presented the First Quarter Financial Review. Mr. Varner discussed details of revenue, expenditures, budget, fund balances, and grant activity. Dr. Amend inquired about source of grants. Mr. Varner explained most is from Ohio Department of Health and some from Interact for Health. Mr. Brett thanked Mr. Varner for the report.

The March 2019 Disbursement Reports are included in the Board packet.

**Ms. Puthoff** moved to approve the monthly disbursements.

**Dr. Amend** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**8. New Business:**

- a) Health Commissioner-Out of State Travel Requests:  
National Epidemiology Conference June 2-5, Raleigh, NC  
NACCHO Conference, July 9-12 Orlando, FL  
National Assn Boards of Health meeting, August 13-16, Denver, CO (Board members encouraged to attend)

**Ms. Puthoff** moved to approve the out of state travel requests.

**Dr. Amend** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

- b) Board of Health Re-organization – Offices of President and Vice-President.

Mr. Brett appointed Health Commissioner Ingram pro-temp chair to oversee the officer nominations to the Board of Health.

**Dr. Amend** moved to appoint James Brett to the office of President.

**Ms. Puthoff** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**Ms. Puthoff** moved to appoint Mr. Rippe to the office of Vice-President.

**Dr. Amend** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

- c) Board of Health Meeting Schedule - After discussion, the Board decided to maintain the current schedule.

**Ms. Puthoff** moved to maintain the second Monday meeting schedule at 6:30 p.m. at HCPH office.

**Mr. Rippe** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**Executive Session:**

**Ms. Puthoff** moved to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation matters at 7:28 p.m.

**Dr. Kelly** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:57 p.m. where no decisions were made.

**9. Adjournment**

**Mr. Rippe** moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM

**Dr. Amend** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

Next Board of Health meeting: May 13, 2019.



James Brett, President



Tim Ingram, Secretary  
Health Commissioner