

**DRAFT**  
**Hamilton County General Health District**  
**REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**November 12, 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  
Kenneth G. Amend, M.D.  
Elizabeth A. Kelly, M.D.  
Tracey A. Puthoff, Esq.

District Staff Present: Tim Ingram, Health Commissioner  
Dr. Jennifer Mooney, Assistant Health Commissioner  
Dr. Steve Feagins, Medical Director  
Nee Fong Chin, Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Guests: Melissa Confer and Kristen Lanier

**3. Clean Kitchen Awards**

Commissioner Ingram 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.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**Dr. Amend** moved to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2019 Special Board of Health Public Hearing meeting.

**Ms. Puthoff** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**Ms. Puthoff** moved to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2019 Board of Health meeting.

**Dr. Amend** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**5. Health Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Ingram mentioned that the Tb-Screening Bill, HB210, is going to the House floor for final vote tomorrow and that there may be amendments from the floor. Ms. Puthoff asked for the HB210 background. Commissioner Ingram explained the background and Dr. Feagins noted that 25 percent of the world's population tests positive for Tb.

Hamilton County health insurance rates for 2020 have increased significantly, full details are in the Board packet. Ms. Puthoff asked if there is a stop gap for the County's self-insured

plan. Commissioner Ingram explained that the County is offering a third option to help control costs.

Opiate Litigation and Settlement Discussions: Hamilton County and Cincinnati are going to trial next. Commissioner Ingram expects a settlement offer based on recent settlement offers to other communities. A state plaintiff (vs individual communities) option is still being discussed.

## **Staff Reports**

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

Dr. Steve Feagins Medical Director highlighted new interim CDC guidelines on Vaping/E-Cigarettes. Clinicians are working on follow up nicotine withdraw treatment. 100 percent of fatality lung tissue samples found Vitamin E acetate (a thickening agent for THC vaping). Dr. Amend inquired about the average age that is vaping. Dr. Feagins reported the average age in Ohio is 30; but Dr. Feagins expects an average in the 20s to be more accurate (because self-identifying is not accurate data). Cause and effect tests are still being conducted. Prescribed medical marijuana vaping is manufactured differently. The CDC recommends advising patients to stop using e-cigarettes or other vaping products.

Death Certificates are an important source of local, state, and national mortality statistics. Those statistics drive which conditions receive research and development funding, set public health goals, and are used to measure health status. The CDC now has an App to assist physicians with completing death certificates and the CDC is providing education on certifying the cause of death; which is very important information.

The Hamilton County Infection Control group continues to meet monthly via conference call. This month's agenda includes drug shortages strategy.

Dr. Feagins is going to Atlanta with FC Cincinnati's medical team to represent and discuss best practice healthcare related to MLS international teams.

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

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

Assistant Health Commissioner Dr. Jennifer Mooney highlighted from her report tobacco/vaping prevention education. HCPH's Jessica Skelton, a Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist, is mentoring UC medical students for two semesters and they are focusing on Vaping education. They have trained over 400 students, 3 teachers, and numerous community members. The Loveland School District Board is looking at streaming a Facebook Live panel on Vaping on November 21<sup>st</sup>. This panel will also feature Dr. Feagins.

Dr. Mooney is working with the Epi team on syringe exchange data and is putting together a formal report for the Board next month. This syringe exchange data will help drive intervention efforts. Dr. Amend inquired why syringe stats are lower this year than prior years. Dr. Mooney explained it could be an anomaly, also, we still have two months to go and the van does go out of service at times. Mr. Brett requested an update about the syringe exchange limit. Commissioner Ingram explained that law enforcement asked for a

limit to be placed while they were working a human trafficking case. The syringe exchange limit has since been lifted.

Mr. Brett strongly encouraged Board Members to support the WeTHRIVE! recognition event on December 3 at Sharonville Convention Center at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Kelly may be able to attend.

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

Commissioner Ingram reported on behalf of Assistant Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman. Fretboard Brewery was a success story with HCPH staff helping micro-breweries to improve their management of spent grain and HCPH staff provide ideas on how to direct any leaks to the sanitary sewer.

Digital trail cameras on strategic dead-end roads have been very successful in identifying open dumping offenders. Hamilton County Sheriff – Environmental Crimes Deputy can then prosecute and fine offenders. The cameras are an efficient tool to deter open dumping.

HCPH averages one home condemnation per week. HCPH staff work to get compliance through education and, when necessary, enforcement action. The goal is to get properties cleaned up and livable.

Commissioner Ingram brought up two food service enforcements to note. Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Nee Fong Chin, explained that the owner of A&A Restaurant is 95 years old and still runs the restaurant. Fortunately, another restaurant staff member was able to assist the elderly owner with compliance issues. Dr. Amend asked if roaches can spread disease. Dr. Feagins reported yes, that roaches are highly correlated with asthma and unsanitary conditions.

**6. Unfinished Business: None.**

**7. Finances**

The October 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; - Mr. Brett abstained on White Water expenditures.**

**8. New Business:**

The Brinkman Method Assessment explanation and proposal is in the Board packet. Commissioner Ingram provided the consultant with detailed information about HCPH. The focus is on the Commissioner's staff (8 people). The cost would increase to expand the scope to include Division Directors (20 people). The Board would like to obtain a broader view and believe expanding the scope would be a good investment. Commissioner Ingram asked for direction if this would be in parallel with the current staff Success Factors Assessments. The Board directed Commissioner Ingram to follow up with Mark Rippe and the consultant on the expanded scope and timing.

**9. Executive Session:**

**Ms. Puthoff** moved to go to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 7:28 p.m.  
**Dr. Amend** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

The Board of Health came out of Executive Session at 8:07 pm where no decisions were made.


**10. Adjournment**

**Ms. Puthoff** moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

**Dr. Kelly** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

Next Board of Health meeting: December 9, 2019.

  
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James Brett, President

  
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Tim Ingram, Secretary  
Health Commissioner