

**DRAFT**  
**Hamilton County General Health District**  
**REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**December 9, 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.

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  
Greg Varner, Finance Officer

**3. Clean Kitchen Awards**

Assistant Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman read the list of 11 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 November 12, 2019 Board of Health meeting.

**Dr. Kelly** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**5. Health Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Ingram shared that Medical Director Dr. Feagins will present tonight on Vaping and Lung Injury to better explain the harms and science behind vaping. Dr. Feagins will also make this presentation to the Cincinnati Board of Health at their meeting tomorrow per their request.

Resolution E to adopt 2020 Budget Revision and 2021 Estimated Budget is on the table tonight for the Board's consideration. Later this evening, Finance Officer Greg Varner will present the information in more detail.

Please see Commissioner Ingram's update on the Performance Management Council Meeting in the Board packet.

## **Staff Reports**

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

Dr. Steve Feagins Medical Director presented on E-cigarette of Vaping Product Use and Associated Lung Injury. Dr. Feagins explained what vaping associated respiratory failure is and what it looks like. Since the first case, physicians are learning more about it and there is more data. Symptoms appear like bronchitis (fever, nausea, cough, etc.); however, they do not respond to bronchodilators or antibiotics treatment and patients require mechanical ventilation. Steroids are the only treatment that works.

Dr. Feagins explained the history of additives. Vitamin E acetate was found in 29 lung fatalities over 10 states. Vitamin E acetate is a major contributor of the current illicit vaping lung injury outbreak. Dr. Feagins shared images of acute lipid pneumonia that is caused when oil enters the lungs as well as images of vaping associated pulmonary injury.

New reporting modules have been created in Epic EMR for reporting severe pulmonary disease associated with vaping to the CDC. There are approved medical marijuana dispensaries that are not linked to the illicit vaping lung injuries. Mr. Rippe inquired what the difference is between E-Cigarette and vaping. Dr. Feagins explained that vaping (JUUL) is a more potent E-Cigarette. The nicotine in one JUUL pod is equal to a pack of cigarettes. Nicotine dependence from vaping may be different than smoking. Young people are withdrawing from nicotine, but most treatments today are not intended for minors. Nicotine patches are the only treatment for adolescents.

Local hospitals are expected to have flu restrictions this week. Our flu season typically peaks around the end of December. Mr. Rippe asked about the "super flu shot." Dr. Feagins explained it is recommended for the older population in order to extend their protection from a few months to several more months. Twenty minutes of continuing education was provided to the Board for attendance at the presentation.

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

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

Assistant Health Commissioner Dr. Jennifer Mooney reviewed the syringe exchange client data from June 2018 to November 2019. The number of new clients and the number of syringes exchanged are up (more locations were added in 2019). The 25 to 34 age range of white males continues to trend. Most clients live with friends or family. Most clients are not working, but some do have full-time or part-time employment. Most clients spent one night at a jail/prison in the past two weeks. Most clients were introduced to opioids in their teens and most received their first opioid injection from a friend. HCPH Epidemiologists are planning to look further into the veteran population.

Mr. Rippe asked for clarification about the stated percentages. Dr. Mooney and Dr. Kelly explained it is comparing 6 months and 12 months of data. Mr. Rippe finds it interesting that two-thirds are living with someone and wonders where the unemployed are getting the funds for their habit. Dr. Mooney explained all walks of life visit the exchange program. Mr. Brett was surprised that 30% are employed. Dr. Mooney was pleased to report that the new exchange location in the west side off Glenway Ave. had a client ask for rehabilitation services and they were treated right away. Updated client data will be shared out on a regular basis going forward.

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

Assistant Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman explained that the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund is a grant from the Ohio EPA. The grant is given based on income levels of families with failing sewage treatment systems to bring them into compliance with state and local requirements. In 2019, HCPH received \$350,000 to assist 15 households. HCPH applied for the maximum \$150,000 in 2020 and look forward to continuing this great program to help needy families make the necessary repairs to their sewage systems. Mr. Rippe asked how much the grant covers. Mr. Kesterman explained that most are 85% or 100%, it is based on their poverty level.

Mr. Kesterman explained the landfill and transfer station annual operating license and reviewed the facilities' years remaining data. Hafner Landfill worked with the Ohio EPA to reestablish their Environmental Covenant for stockpiled soils onsite. Loveland Landfill could not meet the required financial assurance level, so they are not licensed. The property is for sale and realtor is working toward closing and redeveloping the site which has many issues to work through. HCPH prosecuting attorney's office receives monthly updates.

Mr. Rippe asked about landfill self-reporting. Mr. Kesterman explained that HCPH staff conduct their own review. Rumpke does accept construction and demolition waste. Rumpke has 30 to 35 years and they will be moving into the expansion areas in a couple of years.

Details of one condemnation and three food enforcement hearings are in the Board packet.

**6. Unfinished Business: None.**

**7. Finances**

Finance Officer Greg Varner first reviewed the 2019 projected year-end results and November 30 cash balances. Favorable variances include timing of hires and replacements, additional receipts over budget, and overall less spending and improved efficiencies.

Mr. Varner then reviewed the highlights and objectives for 2020 and 2021 Budgets. Investments in staff include a 2% merit pay increase, 2% bonus pool based on evaluation and goals, increase Pay Range 1 to \$15.05/hour to remain competitive with other employers, medical costs increase 12% in 2020 and 10% in 2021, tuition reimbursement of \$9,750, \$19,000 in agency-wide training.

Personnel counts reviewed; additional positions are expected for OD2A Grant. Strategic planning initiatives include growth of Opiate harm Reduction Program resources, expand WeTHRIVE! programming into additional at-risk communities, continue work on Oral Health Care Coalition's Strategic Plan, upgrade Time Management System, and improve workplace environment.

Mr. Rippe asked how the time program compares to the county's payroll system. Mr. Varner explained it is separate and has added features that HCPH uses. Mr. Rippe asked if workplace environment improvement plan utilizes carpet tiles. Mr. Varner confirmed the plan is to use carpet tiles and the selected workstation desks will provide a more efficient setup. Mr. Varner explained the increase fees in restricted funds are attributed to STS (to offset costs and maintain a positive fund balance) and Food Service (to offset costs). Mr. Varner reviewed budgeted revenue and expenditure changes.

Mr. Rippe asked about the new vehicles for Exchange Project and TB. Commissioner Ingram explained it will be smaller, like a sprinter, and will need to be retrofitted. Fund balances reviewed; positive trend with the General Fund continues. Mr. Rippe asked if grants are included. Mr. Varner reported that no, grants are a third portion (not in restricted funds). Mr. Rippe requested a grant report be provided in future budget reports to the Board. There were no questions about Resolution E-2019 or the attachment. The Board thanked Mr. Varner for his presentation.

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

**Mr. Rippe** moved to approve the monthly disbursements.

**Dr. Kelly** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

#### **8. New Business:**

**Mr. Rippe** moved to approve Resolution E-2019 - 2020 Revised Budget and 2021 Estimated Budget for the Hamilton County General Health District.

**Dr. Amend** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**Dr. Amend** moved to extend December 24 as a paid holiday for HCPH staff.

**Dr. Kelly** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**


#### **9. Adjournment**

**Dr. Amend** moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

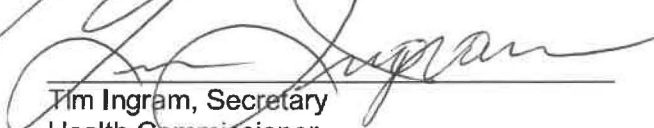
**Mr. Rippe** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

Next Board of Health meeting: January 13, 2020.



James Brett, President



Tim Ingram, Secretary  
Health Commissioner