

**Hamilton County General Health District
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
May 14, 2018 – 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
Tracey A. Puthoff, Esq.

District Staff Present: Tim Ingram, Health Commissioner
Craig Davidson, Assistant Health Commissioner
Greg Kesterman, Assistant Health Commissioner
Nee Fong Chin, Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Chris Griffith, Director of Water Quality
Dr. Steve Feagins, Medical Director

Guests: Crystal Ewing, Chrissy Jones, Jordan Knigga, and Kiersten Vatter
from Seedling Children, LLC

3. Clean Kitchen Awards

Greg Kesterman read the list of sixteen Clean Kitchen Award recipients and congratulated them for their efforts to maintain a high level of sanitation and staff education. Four representatives from Seedling Children, LLC were present to accept their award.

4. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Amend moved to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2018 Board of Health meeting with amendment to include nomination actions for Board President and Vice President.

Mr. Rippe seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

5. Health Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Ingram is pleased to share that Sanitarian Tucker Stone received the Hamilton County Circle of Excellence Award for Outstanding Service on May 9 during Public Service Recognition Week. Mr. Stone, who was nominated by division staff, was chosen because he consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty to make certain Environment Health standards are followed and public health is protected.

The website for WeTHRIVE! was updated by staff. The process was internalized saving HCPH over \$16,000 annually thanks to staff members Becca Stowe, Kim Chelf, Tom Boeshart, Hollis Bass, Ed Moser, and Bryan Hoffman. The WeTHRIVE!

website, www.watchusthrive.org, will be maintained by staff in the Health Promotion and Education Division.

The 2019 Health District budget was reviewed and approved by the Hamilton County Budget Commission on May 8. Township and Village Assessments and the City Contracts were also reviewed at this Budget Commission meeting.

Commissioner Ingram pointed out in the Board packet a testimony from Dr. Jerry Friemoth who, on his way home from work recently, was able to save an overdose victim at UDF because Dr. Friemoth was prepared and administered Narcan. The Narcan Distribution Collaborative (NDC) and our staff continue to provide thousands of doses of Narcan to a variety of access points.

While we are encouraged by the progress Cradle Cincinnati and partners are making to reduce Infant Mortality, we still have work to do to reduce the rate to national averages. Ms. Puthoff would like to see positive publicity around this progress and continued efforts.

Staff Reports

(a) Medical Director's Report

Dr. Steve Feagins, Medical Director, summarized the following topics covered in his report in the Board packet: a recent expansion of capacity to treat syphilis at the clinic, HIV statistics and injection drug use increasing as a reported risk factor among new HIV cases, tick-borne illness (and recommended Lyme disease testing), Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recommendations for Legionella testing, and recent discontinuation of seasonal influenza precautions at area hospitals. Mr. Rippe asked about Lyme disease testing/treatment history. Dr. Feagins explained the background, treatment, and that there is more focus now due to the increased number of cases. Commissioner Ingram thanked Dr. Feagins for his good work on all initiatives.

(b) Department of Community Health Services

Assistant Health Commissioner Craig Davidson called attention to the Harm Reduction program statistics in his report in the Board packet. The Exchange Project continues to see increased growth each month at existing sites. Nearly 11,000 total doses of Narcan have been dispensed from all allocations since inception of the Narcan Distribution Collaborative (NDC) in October 2017. ODH has awarded us \$40,000 through Prescription Drug Overdose (PDO) grant reallocation funding to support a "Community/Correctional Facility" linkage project at the Hamilton County Justice Center. A proposal for an additional \$30,000 for this project has also been submitted as part of the 2018-19 PDO grant renewal application.

Mr. Davidson reviewed significant changes to the ODH Maternal and Child Health grant and thanked Cradle Cincinnati staff for consulting with us on the grant application to ensure alignment of efforts. The Cincinnati Health Department responded directly to the Cribs for Kids component since they had been previously contracted for that work.

Dr. Amend inquired about the number of syringes exchanged. Mr. Davidson replied that we are now over 140,000 syringes exchanged as of last week. Mr. Davidson reported averages of 10 to 15 percent new clients are coming through the program and the needles cost less than 10 cents. There is a lot of great work going on with the Harm Reduction initiatives.

The monthly communicable disease and overdose reports, the quarterly HIV, syphilis and Community Health Improvement Plan reports, and the quarterly Public Health Advisory Council newsletter were provided in the Board packet.

(c) Department of Environmental Health Services

Assistant Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman would like to change up the Clean Kitchen award to shift focus to four categories. This is to focus more on public facing restaurants to better help the public easily determine facilities in which they can dine. Mr. Rippe indicated that it might be better to separate out groceries and restaurants in the categories. Mr. Rippe inquired if the website has metrics on visitors to the clean kitchen reporting portal. Mr. Kesterman will look into the website stats and report back to the Board.

Congratulations to staff member, Chuck DeJonckheere, for winning the President's Award from the Ohio Environmental Health Association on April 17 for his involvement and making a strong and useful impact in the association protecting the environment.

A citizen complaint was sent to the Ohio EPA with concern that lead from the weekly turkey shoots in the winter at Taylor Creek Youth Organization (a non-profit sports organization) contaminated their playing fields. Ohio EPA referred the case to HCPH. Inspectors conducted confirmatory soil and water samples testing. The soil tested positive and the water sample results showed no contamination (full details are in the Board packet). HCPH referred the complaint to US EPA and we are awaiting further test results. The facility has voluntarily closed field 5 and has fenced the area off to prevent use until all tests are completed. Once sampling is complete, a remediation plan will be created, and work scheduled.

Rumpke Sanitary Landfill has sent their permit to install the expansion to Ohio EPA discussed (full details in the Board packet). The permit is currently under review by Ohio EPA and staff and public meetings will be held in May/June 2018. Rumpke's site engineer has offered to make a presentation to the HCPH board if so desired. Ms. Puthoff inquired about HCPH involvement. Mr. Kesterman indicated we will be responsible for permitting the operations portion of the landfill. The new landfill and construction will be handled by the Ohio EPA. Mr. Kesterman is not anticipating increased issues for HCPH from the expanded operations. HCPH have no authority regarding their permit to expand. Commissioner Ingram recommends inviting them to make a presentation to HCPH since Rumpke is the largest landfill in the state of Ohio.

Regulation updates to the Rabies Prevention Program will be coming before the Board after staff has consulted with other agencies based on most current science in regards to the rabies virus.

Commissioner Ingram introduced "education over enforcement" and "be free from the three" campaign that will be going out with annual licensing renewals for the Public Swimming Pool Program, Tattoo Program, and Food Service Program. Staff

will also handout the documents out during inspections at the facilities. Mr. Rippe suggested making the educational flyer so that it can be posted onsite – such as a sticker.

Mr. Brett inquired about the recent backflow incident that occurred in Wyoming as the result of back siphonage from a fire truck. Wyoming did significant water line flushing and sampling to ensure the water's safety prior to lifting the drinking water advisory.

Mr. Kesterman thanked Director of Water Quality Chris Griffith for attending in the event he was needed to present tonight.

6. Unfinished Business: None

7. Finances

The April 2018 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:

Ms. Puthoff inquired about status of the staff 360-evaluations. We need to make progress by July so Mr. Rippe will follow up with Mr. Chatham.

The Health Commissioner travel requests for NACCHO meeting July 10-14 in New Orleans, APHA meeting November 10-14 in San Diego, and NALBOH meeting August 8-10 in Raleigh were discussed. Mr. Brett was invited and encouraged to attend the NALBOH meeting.

Mr. Rippe moved to approve the three travel requests for the NACCHO, APHA, and NALBOH meetings.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye


9. Adjournment

Mr. Brett moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Next Board of Health meeting: June 11, 2018.



James Brett, President



Tim Ingram, Secretary
Health Commissioner