

**Hamilton County General Health District  
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH  
August 12, 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  
Elizabeth A. Kelly, M.D.  
Tracey A. Puthoff, Esq.

District Staff Present: Tim Ingram, Health Commissioner  
Dr. Jennifer Mooney, Assistant Health Commissioner  
Greg Kesterman, Assistant Health Commissioner  
Dr. Steve Feagins, Medical Director

Guests: Ryan Adcock/Cradle Cincinnati  
Garth Truter/Chick-fil-A

**3. Clean Kitchen Awards**

Greg Kesterman read the list of six Clean Kitchen Award recipients and congratulated them for their efforts to maintain a high level of sanitation and staff education. Garth Truter was present to receive the award on behalf of Chick-fil-A in Kenwood Mall.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**Mr. Rippe** moved to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2019 Board of Health meeting.  
**Dr. Kelly** seconded the motion.  
**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**5. Health Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Ingram reported the 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration event was a great success. Several accolades are in the Board packet. The anniversary community events continue, full details are in the Board packet, and they have been well attended thus far.

The preceding HIV Roundtable focused on the CDC's reduction and the President's elimination plans. Commissioner Ingram is working with other Ohio cities to develop a HIV elimination plan using the CDC guidance. More details are in the Board packet.

Commissioner Ingram introduced Ryan Adcock from Cradle Cincinnati who provided the 2019 Infant Mortality Report. Mr. Adcock explained the definition of the rate and criteria of the data. 2018 Trends show Hamilton County with fewer deaths than ever before with an average rate of 8.6. However, Hamilton County is still above the Ohio average rate of 7.2

and above the national average rate of 5.8. The local leading cause is pre-term birth (57%), birth defect (22%), sleep related (13%), and other (8%). This year's crisis is the rise in sleep related deaths. Dr. Feagins inquired about breast feeding recommendations. Cradle Cincinnati is an advocate of breast feeding; the sleep related deaths appear to be a racial disparity issue. Pre-term birth mortality was reduced in communities where concerted public education effort is taking place. Jim Brett inquired about staffing. Mr. Adcock gave credit to great collaborations between Cradle Cincinnati and several service provider agencies, including Hamilton County Public Health. The Board thanked Mr. Adcock for his presentation and Cradle Cincinnati's great work. The presentation shall be credited to the Board for 30 minutes of continuing education.

Commissioner Ingram handed out an overview of budget issues-HB 166, 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly from the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners. Commissioner Ingram called attention to the creation of a fetal infant mortality review board and commission on infant mortality. Mr. Rippe inquired about the line item that creates harm reduction fund \$50,000. Commissioner Ingram said HCPH should receive \$15,000 per year and it is a good start because there remains resistance to support this initiative at the state level.

The Department of Homeland Security visited Hamilton County Heroin Coalition last week, and Commissioner Ingram told them the primary goal of the harm reduction program is to keep people alive while preventing them from getting sicker until they are ready to seek treatment. The statistics show harm reduction programs cost less than one HIV/hepatitis treatment.

Tobacco to 21 increases from 18 to 21 the legal age for a person to receive or purchase cigarettes, etc., but it is still unclear how it will be enforced.

## **Staff Reports**

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

Dr. Steve Feagins Medical Director explained the Ohio Board of Pharmacy visit findings on syphilis treatment with doxycycline for patients with penicillin allergies (approximately 5% of HCPH syphilis patients) and that protocol needs to be onsite pharmacist or prescribing clinician – not standing orders. Dr. Feagins worked with the Ohio Board of Pharmacy to write a new policy and put the new policy into effect immediately. Dr. Feagins congratulated Tuberculosis Clinic Pharmacist Gail Goedde-Chin for her excellent processes and record keeping.

Ohio Hepatitis A cases were mostly attributed to drug use (53%) which was surprising. Dr. Feagins states this statistic changes the paradigm to reinforce harm reduction programs.

2019 Reportable Infectious Diseases in Ohio – Dr. Feagins highlighted new and reviewed the reporting requirements. Full details are in the Board packet.

Shortage of Aplisol Tuberculin Skin Test – Dr. Feagins reported HCPH has plenty and provided resources to 2020 Hamilton County Juvenile Justice Center.

Epic Immunization Reconciliation – ODH Interface has errors with the February 2019 upgrade. HCPH is working with ODH and infection preventionists/IT leadership resources to resolve the issue.

Medical Explorers – TAP MD is 50 rising seniors and is a competitive process. Dr. Feagins reported this is a powerful experience and one student has become a harm reduction volunteer. Dr. Feagins thanked the Health District for their participation in this event.

This year's flu season is expected to be severe based on record high diagnosis in the southern hemisphere which is just heading into winter. Data statistics are in the Board packet.

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

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

Assistant Health Commissioner Dr. Jennifer Mooney is happy to answer questions from her Board report. Tonight Dr. Mooney would like to highlight two staff success stories. HCPH Disease Investigation Specialists (DIS) are a critical part of the public health infrastructure and in building the link to health care. One tough case is from a DIS after his client's release from prison. This man faced numerous challenges and our DIS helped secure stable housing, income, and access treatment for HIV. The client expressed appreciation for helping to get his life back in order. Another case the TB team faced with an entire family affected by TB. They had to work across borders to ensure a decedent's final wishes were carried out while ensuring a child affected by TB could access treatment.

Mr. Rippe asked about multi-cultural communication issues. Dr. Feagins stated a certified medical telephone translation service is used.

Dr. Mooney reported we did expand syringe exchange into Fairfield and Caracole this past month. Caracole is our only brick and mortar location and they report that clients are appreciative of the evening hours offered because of work schedules. As trust is built, and word spreads, we imagine both locations to grow.

Mr. Brett inquired about emergency dispatches false reason claims to avoid police dispatch. Dr. Feagins stated that is not new and has gone on for a long time. Dr. Mooney will work on public education messages.

Dr. Mooney provided a preliminary glance at the demographics of the Narcan Distribution Collaborative. Ms. Puthoff inquired about higher Narcan distribution numbers. Commissioner Ingram will get more details and report back at the next Board meeting. We are in the second year of the program and are looking at future supply options. Dr. Mooney is working with harm reduction staff to create a more targeted approach for dissemination of Narcan. For instance, we plan to extend opportunities for Narcan training to employers and employees of local businesses.

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

Assistant Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman provided an update on Farwick Fields lead contamination. Remediation work should be complete by the end of August at an estimated cost of \$689K. Federal superfund money helped save this small nonprofit youth organization.

West Nile Virus testing procedure and statistics are in the Board packet. The first positive mosquito pool was collected on July 2 and reported to HCPH on July 15. A press release was issued with educational messaging and staff conducted a half-mile radius surveillance. There are no human cases reported to date.

Resolution C-2019 Certification of Delinquent Sewage Fees - Mr. Kesterman reviewed the numerous letters to compel payment that are sent out prior to HCPH's annual assessment to the County Auditor. Statistics and fees are in the Board packet. Payments can be made until certification occurs by the Hamilton County Auditor. The Board of Health's new processing fee for delinquent invoices is included in the list.

Commissioner Ingram reported that Rumpke Landfill in Colerain Township received today their permit from the EPA to expand. This will be a large construction project.

Mr. Brett asked leadership to carry back to their staff his 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Event message crediting staff for HCPH's success and that the Board sincerely appreciates all their hard work.

**6. Unfinished Business: None.**

**7. Finances**

The July 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.**

**8. New Business:**

**Ms. Puthoff** moved to approve Resolution C-2019, to certify the August 12 list of delinquent sewage fees to the Hamilton County Auditor's Office.

**Dr. Kelly** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye; Mr. Rippe abstained on the following three parcels: 550 162 22; 529 121 7; and 529 124 7.**

**Mr. Rippe** moved to approve Personnel Policy Revision-Vacation Section 5.0(c) as proposed, effective August 6, 2019.

**Ms. Puthoff** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**9. Executive Session:**

**Mr. Rippe** moved to go to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 8:00 p.m.

**Ms. Puthoff** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**Mr. Rippe** moved to come out of Executive Session. **Dr. Kelly** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote-All Aye**

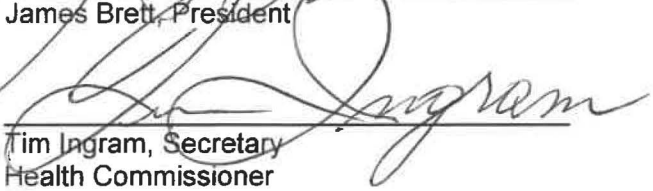
## 10. Adjournment

**Mr. Rippe** moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37p.m.

**Ms Puthoff** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

Next Board of Health meeting: September 9, 2019.

  
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James Brett, President  
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Tim Ingram, Secretary  
Health Commissioner