

Hamilton County General Health District
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
September 10, 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
Tracey A. Puthoff, Esq.
Kenneth G. Amend, M.D

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

Guests: Debra Downing, Donna Keyser, and Sister Adelaide Link with St. Clare Convent and Kimberly Clack and Stephanie Chappell with Hillcrest Academy

3. Clean Kitchen Awards

Greg Kesterman read the list of ten Clean Kitchen Award recipients and congratulated them for their efforts to maintain a high level of sanitation and staff education. Representatives were on hand to receive the award for Franciscan Sisters of the Poor and representatives from Hillcrest Academy were proud to receive their 5th award; a very high achievement.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Rippe moved to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2018 Board of Health meeting.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

5. Health Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Ingram reported that unfortunately Robin Fristoe could not attend tonight to receive her 31 years of service and retirement recognition, but there will be a breakfast in her honor where tonight's Resolution will be presented. We wish Ms. Fristoe the best and she will be missed.

Hamilton County Oral Health Coalition kicked off on August 28th with the help of musician Bootsy Collins and his wife who lost their nephew due to a dental infection. They are passionate about this initiative. Coalition function, duties, and vision are in the Health

Commissioner's report. The new part-time contractual Oral Health Coordinator, Dr. Chuck Madden, DDS, also has a passion for the work.

Commissioner Ingram met with Ms. Melba Moore, the new Cincinnati Health Department Commissioner. He thinks she will do a good job and looks forward to working with Ms. Moore.

HCPH received the Village of Lincoln Heights Legacy Award. Mayor Mumphrey recognized our WeTHRIVE! program for the many policies adopted that created a tobacco free Village, as well as community gardens, safe routes to schools, mobile food pantry days, and sidewalk and playground improvements.

September 2019 will be the 100th anniversary of the Hamilton County Health District. Commissioner Ingram would like a board member to sit on an ad hoc planning committee to coordinate funding and a celebration event in the Fall of 2019 and possibly monthly public health events. The Board discussed inviting past board members and past health commissioners; we have a lot of history to celebrate. Mr. Rippe recommended retaining an event planner; he will send some leads. Potential venues for a reception with cash bar are Pinecroft, Kenwood County Club, or Xavier Cintas Center.

Staff Reports

(a) Medical Director's Report

Dr. Steve Feagins, Medical Director, stated the first West Nile human case has been reported in Hamilton County. There have been learning opportunities from this diagnosis (details in the Board packet) that will be shared with healthcare providers in the region to optimize testing and reporting.

Public Health is extremely important to sports medicine; many fall sports programs in High Schools and Middle Schools follow guidelines and procedures (detailed in the Board packet) that came from the Public Health industry.

Dr. Feagins called attention to the CDC preliminary data in his report. There has been a sharp increase in sexually transmitted diseases, syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhea, and there are concerns regarding gonorrhea and resistance to treatment.

With the approach of the 2018-2019 influenza season, preparations are underway. Dr. Feagins explained that the vaccine has been changed to be a better match. Pneumococcal vaccine recommendations can be unclear so Dr. Feagins is working on communications to eliminate unclear pneumococcal vaccine recommendations.

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

(b) Department of Community Health Services

Assistant Health Commissioner Craig Davidson provided a follow up from our last meeting with more exchange project data in his report. Year to date, in August we exceeded a quarter of a million needles exchanged, the new Westwood site opened which opened in June continues to grow, and the program is going very well.

Mr. Davidson shared HCPH's response to a report of possible tuberculosis in circus elephants. The Ohio Department of Agriculture provided due diligence instructions. Local public health representatives conducted a site visit and met with circus officials. Their paperwork was shared with Dr. Tony Forshey, ODA State Veterinarian, and he cleared the elephants.

The second quarter syphilis and HIV reports are in the Board packet. Mr. Davidson indicated we are seeing increases in syphilis above historical averages and other areas in Ohio and nationally are seeing the same. A possible reason for this has been cited as public perception that HIV is now treatable and therefore an increase in higher risk sexual behaviors. Mr. Davidson is working on targeted public health messages to the public as well as healthcare providers to emphasize and encourage prevention and testing.

(c) Department of Environmental Health Services

Assistant Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman reviewed the food program recommended fee changes. Comparison details are in the packet; HCPH fees are still low. Ms. Puthoff asked why HCPH fees are lower. Mr. Kesterman explained that HCPH is able to conduct the majority of the mobile unit inspections onsite which saves staff travel time. And HCPH uses all staff, including newer staff while the City of Cincinnati traditionally used only a food program supervisor with a higher wage. When completing the cost methodology, this would support having higher fees.

Mr. Rippe moved to conduct a proposed food program fee adjustment Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m. on October 8th in HCPH's large conference room.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Mr. Kesterman followed up on discussion at our last meeting regarding an administrative fee assessment for collecting delinquent sewage treatment system permit fees. Staff are working through the cost methodology for the sewage treatment system permit fees and once the review is complete, proposed changes will be provided to the Board for consideration.

Mr. Kesterman explained House Bill 263 which allows dogs on the patios and outdoor eating areas of food service and retail food establishments. No other animals are permissible and no dogs are permitted to travel through the licensed food service establishment in order to get to the patio. While ODH and ODA are drafting proposed rules, they will issue a guidance document and memo to provide additional information on handling inspections and complaints associated with facilities that allow dogs on their patios.

Performance Management System survey feedback is in the Board packet. Mr. Kesterman called attention to a request for further education of proper chemical disposal at schools during school inspections. In addition, the ServSafe survey participants indicated that they have a desire to receive textbooks in advance of the course to help people prepare for the class and test. The Customer Feedback Workgroup will incorporate survey feedback and recommendations into the quality improvement process.

6. Unfinished Business: None

7. Finances

The August 2018 Disbursement Reports are included in the Board packet.

Mr. Rippe moved to approve the monthly disbursements.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye; - Mr. Brett abstained on White Water expenditures.

8. New Business:

Resolution J-2018 expressing appreciation for the outstanding and dedicated service of Robin Fristoe.

Ms. Puthoff moved to approve Resolution J-2108.

Dr. Amend seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

9. Executive Session

Ms. Puthoff moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 7:37 p.m.

Dr. Amend seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Ms Puthoff moved to come out of Executive Session at 7:51 p.m., where no decisions were made. **Dr. Amend** seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote-All Aye

10. Adjournment

Mr. Rippe moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Ms Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Next Board of Health meeting: October 8, 2018.



James Brett, President



Tim Ingram, Secretary
Health Commissioner