

Hamilton County General Health District
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
August 8, 2016
Minutes

1. Call to Order

At 6:30 p.m., President Tracey Puthoff, 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: Tracey Puthoff, President
Dr. Kenneth Amend
Mark Rippe

District Staff Present: Timothy Ingram, Health Commissioner
Greg Kesterman, Assistant Health Commissioner
Craig Davidson, Assistant Health Commissioner
Mike Samet, Public Information Officer
Jeremy Hessel, Director, Environmental Health
Dr. Stephen Bjornson, Medical Director

3. Clean Kitchen Awards

Mr. Kesterman read the list of 10 Clean Kitchen Award recipients.

4. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Amend moved to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2016 Board of Health meeting.

Mr. Rippe seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

5. Health Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Ingram reported that the agency responded to questions from the Public Health Accreditation Board and has submitted final documents for consideration. The Accreditation Board has identified a list of 12 potential site visitors for next steps. Commissioner Ingram reported that there were no conflicts with the list of visitors.

Commissioner Ingram said that while construction has begun on the bridges between the parking lot and the south entrances to the building, there has been a temporary delay in the project due to concerns from the Cincinnati Fire Department. The project is scheduled for November 2016 completion.

Commissioner Ingram informed the Board of Health that there is a project underway to deliver a poster detailing the signs of opioid use and treatment to restaurants and food service facilities

in the County. The program was started by the Ohio Attorney General's office and delivery began August 8.

Commissioner Ingram reported that the 2015 state audit has been completed and has been presented to the Board of Health. For another year, the State Auditor made no findings. The audit is now public and available for review on the State Auditor's site. The Board of Health had no comments on audit findings and Commissioner Ingram complimented Chief Finance Officer John Teufel and staff for their work on completing another successful audit.

Commissioner Ingram drew the Board's attention to several staff compliments from citizens contained in the Board packet.

Commissioner Ingram introduced Environmental Health Director, Jeremy Hessel, who delivered a 20-minute continuing education presentation (Accreditation Standard 12.3.1) to Board of Health members covering West Nile and Zika Viruses, as well as the Environmental Health Division's response to surveillance and mosquito control. Mr. Hessel's presentation included examples of traps used for mosquito surveillance; testing protocols for identifying mosquito species; updates on numbers of positive pools and cases of the viruses in Hamilton County and statewide; and tips on protection from mosquito bites.

The Board of Health complimented Mr. Hessel on his presentation.

Staff Reports

(a) Department of Community Health Services

Mr. Davidson discussed hospital bed availability and occupancy rates, in response to a question raised by Mr. Chatham at the July Board of Health meeting. Hospitals average 80-90 percent occupancy year-round, with seasonal fluctuations. Particular times of high occupancy include influenza season, when hospital occupancy approaches 100 percent.

Mr. Davidson reported that there is a collaborative effort by a regional group of public and private funders interested in investing resources to address the heroin epidemic in the region. Called the Funders' Response to the Heroin Epidemic, the group has committed approximately \$500,000 to the effort. Applicants for grants may submit up to 12 projects for consideration.

Ms. Puthoff inquired as to where the drug, carfentanil, currently used to strengthen heroin on the street, is coming from. Mr. Davidson replied that the answer is unclear, as a direct source has not yet been found.

Mr. Davidson reported that the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review program officially transitioned to Hamilton County Public Health from the Cincinnati Health Department, beginning July 1, 2016.

Dr. Bjornson reported that there was nothing remarkable in infectious diseases to report. Hepatitis B and C, as well as syphilis, remain the most-reported infectious diseases in the County.

Mr. Rippe and Ms. Puthoff complimented the WeTHRIVE! quarterly community newsletter, contained in the Board packet.

(b) Department of Environmental Health Services

Mr. Kesterman reported that Hamilton County Public Health and Great Parks of Hamilton County have collaborated on an effort to place posters detailing mosquito bite prevention throughout the park systems' properties.

Mr. Kesterman reported that the Board of Health would be asked later in the meeting to certify unpaid sewage treatment system permit fees to the County Auditor so that the fees can be placed on tax duplicates of delinquent parcels. As of July 25, 2016, there are 508 delinquent accounts, totaling \$42,581. In comparison, in 2015 there were 414 delinquent accounts totaling \$39,336.

Mr. Rippe inquired as to the possibility of diverting collection costs directly to the fees of delinquent customers. Mr. Kesterman responded that inspection fees are determined by cost methodology. While there are applicable late fees for delinquent accounts, cost methodology does not allow for addition of collection costs to fee schedules and that fees would then have to be spread across all inspections in the County.

Mr. Kesterman reported that under enforcement actions, two properties had been condemned and one restaurant agreed to a three-day suspension during July.

Mr. Rippe asked about standards for Clean Kitchen Awards, as we are now seeing six-and seven-time winners. Mr. Kesterman responded that the standards remain stringent. Schools and some chain restaurants are using the Award as internal competition.

6. Unfinished Business

Commissioner Ingram presented a 20-minute session of continuing education for Board of Health members (Accreditation Standard 12.1). The session consisted of a careful examination of all programs and services offered by Hamilton County Public Health and the Board of Health's responsibilities under Ohio law. Commissioner Ingram delineated between locally and state mandated programs. State-mandated programs are those under which the State makes rules and health departments follow those rules in terms of inspections, enforcement, etc. Locally mandated services are those approved by the Board of Health and implemented through this local health department. Grant- and contract-mandated services are governed by the granting entity. There are three mandating bodies within the realm of public health in the State of Ohio: The Ohio Department of Health; The Ohio Department of Agriculture; and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

Some examples of various services provided by Hamilton County Public Health include Housing and Nuisance complaints, for which rules were passed in 1967 and still exist today; body art and piercing facility inspections; residential plumbing rules; storm water management, contracted through the County Engineer's office; emergency preparedness, mandated by the State of Ohio and funded through grants.

Ms. Puthoff inquired as to why body art inspections are carried out by the Waste Management Division. Mr. Kesterman responded that these facilities produce infectious waste, such as used needles, which oversight belongs to the Waste Management Division.

Mr. Rippe asked why the mobile home park program is not a mandated service. Commissioner Ingram responded that the program is mandated through the Ohio Manufactured Home Commission.

7. Finances

a) Monthly Disbursements Report

Mr. Rippe moved to approve the monthly disbursements.

Dr. Amend seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

8. New Business

a) Resolution E-2016 – Certification of Delinquent Sewage Fees.

Commissioner Ingram asked Board of Health members to review the list of names and properties on the Delinquent Sewage Fees list to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest prior to them voting on the Resolution.

Mr. Rippe moved to approve Resolution E-2016 – Certification of Delinquent Sewage Fees.

Dr. Amend seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

b) Board of Health Strategic Planning Meeting will be held Saturday, October 15, 8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Kenwood Country Club.

9. Executive Session

Dr. Amend moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 7:29 p.m.

Mr. Rippe seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote– All Aye

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:45 pm where no decisions were made.


9. Adjournment

Mr. Rippe moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Dr. Amend seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Next Board of Health meeting: Monday, September 12, 2016.


Tracey Puthoff, President


Timothy I. Ingram, Secretary
Health Commissioner