

Hamilton County General Health District
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
June 15, 2015
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 A. Puthoff, President
Mark A. Rippe, Vice President
Dr. Kenneth G. Amend, Board Member
James Brett, Board Member
Thomas W. Chatham, Board Member

District Staff Present: Timothy Ingram, Health Commissioner
Nee Fong Chin, Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Greg Kesterman, Asst. Health Commissioner
Kathy Lordo, Asst. Health Commissioner
Christy Cauley, Electronic Communications Specialist

3. Clean Kitchen Awards

Seven Clean Kitchen Award recipients were recognized.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Rippe moved to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2015 with one minor change.

Dr. Amend seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

5. Health Commissioner’s Report – Staff Reports

Commissioner Ingram provided an update on Resolution D-2015 and Ohio legislature activities on the syringe exchange. The needle exchange amendment is currently not in the Senate budget bill, however it is believed that it will be added soon. Commissioner Ingram distributed the latest amendment to H.B. 64. A few legislators had difficulty with the phrases, “syringe exchange” and “injectable drug user.” Senator Jones received suggestions on how to change those references. They settled on “Infectious Disease Prevention Program” as an acceptable title and “blood borne infection or pathogen reduction program” to replace “syringe exchange.”

Ms. Puthoff asked how the amendment would be added to the Senate’s budget. Commissioner Ingram stated that the Senate would drop it into the bill before passage. It could also be added in conference committee. The Senate and House versions are not aligned, so more work still needs to be done. There are many differences between the two versions. Ms. Puthoff asked if the Senate bill has to go through the House as well. Commissioner Ingram stated that both Houses would need to concur.

Dr. Amend asked how the Governor feels about it. Commissioner Ingram stated it appears that Governor Kasich will not use his line item veto on this amendment.

Commissioner Ingram recognized the good work done by Ms. Lordo with the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

5a) Department of Community Health Services

Ms. Lordo distributed the full Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and reported on the accreditation process. She stated that HCPH had completed a Community Health Assessment (CHA) in 2012 and the data from that assessment was used to compose the CHIP plan.

Common themes from the CHA include healthy behaviors, prevention, and changing sick care to a culture of wellness, collaboration and community. These themes are reflected in the CHIP plan through six priority areas. The CHIP plan will be carried out through the WeTHRIVE Initiative.

Ms. Lordo spoke about the four pathways involved with WeTHRIVE Initiative which are Chronic Disease, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Health, and Community Health. Each has a logic model, which outlines expected outcomes. Currently the WeTHRIVE Initiative has 19 communities on board. Ms. Lordo showed a chart with the per capita income, poverty level, child poverty level, educational attainment, average life expectancy, as well as the uninsured and unemployed rates. There are dramatic differences within our communities in many of these areas.

The CHIP activities were added to HCPH's Strategic Plan. Ms. Lordo asked the Board to approve the CHIP plan and the changes to the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Lordo gave Ms. Puthoff a letter of support for HCPH accreditation to be approved and signed. Ms. Puthoff read the letter aloud and all Board members collectively approved with changes.

Additionally, Mr. Chatham asked if all communities would choose all four pathways. Ms. Lordo explained the community chooses one pathway to start. Communities will then work at their own pace to complete additional pathways. There were no further questions. Commissioner Ingram added that early next year is the target date to have all supporting documents for accreditation uploaded in the Public Health Accreditation Board portal.

Ms. Puthoff wanted to congratulate Ms. Lordo on all of the hard work she put into the CHIP plan. Ms. Puthoff stated that she was very impressed with the entire process. Ms. Lordo stressed that the CHIP plan was a team effort.

Mr. Brett moved to approve the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Mr. Chatham seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Dr. Amend moved to approve the changes to the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Rippe seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

5b) Department of Environmental Health

Mr. Kesterman reported on the Ohio Stormwater Association Award for Program Excellence that was presented to our Water Quality Division. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding programs and projects in the profession of stormwater management, and the benefits they provide to the environment and local citizens.

Mr. Kesterman referred to the Board packet, which highlights the Water Quality Division's training program. He reported that through partnerships with other organizations including county agencies and jurisdiction staff, we have been able to quickly resolve storm water issues. He highlighted an example where the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department sent photos of someone pumping sewage into a storm sewer that went directly to the Little Miami River. The Water Quality Division staff worked with them to eliminate this offense.

He stated that HCPH are already responsible for going to restaurants and other businesses while conducting their standard inspections. By training the inspectors to be aware of stormwater issues, they are able to report problems with dumpsters and other storm water offenses. Water Quality staff works with violators to rectify the situation and clean up the area. Water Quality staff is also mapping every septic tank and septic tank discharge. This allows for fast response to complaints. This process has greatly improved our program.

Mr. Kesterman also reported on enforcement cases. HCPH had four condemnations and one restaurant that was non-compliant and had an administrative hearing with Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Nee Fong Chin.

6. Unfinished Business

Resolution D-2015 was tabled until the July Board of Health meeting.

7. Finances

7a) Monthly Disbursements

Mr. Rippe moved to approve the monthly disbursements.

Dr. Amend seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

8. New Business

Dates offered for next month's Board of Health meeting were July 13, 22 and 23rd. Commissioner Ingram said the July meeting would consist of the second quarter progress reports. The state legislature and governor's decision on the Blood Borne Infection Reduction Program amendment should be known by then. The Board decided to have their next regular meeting on Wednesday, July 22, 2015.

Dr. Amend moved to schedule the July Board of Health Meeting on **July 22, 2015**, at 6:30.

Mr. Brett 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 will occur on July 22, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

Tracey Puthoff, President

Timothy I. Ingram, Secretary
Health Commissioner