

**Hamilton County General Health District
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
December 11, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.
Minutes**

1. Call to Order

At 6:30 p.m., Kenneth G. Amend, M.D., 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: Kenneth G. Amend, M.D., President
Mark A. Rippe, Vice President
Tracey A. Puthoff, Esq.
Thomas W. Chatham
James Brett

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

3. Clean Kitchen Awards

Greg Kesterman read the list of nine Clean Kitchen Award recipients and congratulated them for their efforts to maintain a high level of sanitation and staff education.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Brett moved to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2017 Board of Health meeting.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye; - Mr. Chatham and Mr. Rippe abstained.

Ms. Puthoff moved to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2017 Special Board of Health Public Hearing meeting.

Mr. Brett seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye; - Mr. Chatham and Mr. Rippe abstained.

5. Health Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Ingram introduced Greg Varner, CPA, the new finance officer for Hamilton County Public Health. Mr. Varner prepared the budget memo included in the Board packet. On the agenda for consideration is Resolution G-2017, Revising the 2018 budget and adopting the 2019 estimated budget. At the November meeting, the Board of Health tabled acting on Regulation 1-2017. It is also on the agenda for your consideration.

An acronym list has been added to the Board of Health Orientation Manual. With the Board's official adoption of the new Orientation Manual, this PHAB recommendation will be fulfilled. Commissioner Ingram reminded the Board of their invitation and encouraged them to attend the staff Holiday Luncheon on December 13 and the WeThrive Community Recognition Event on December 13 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Commissioner Ingram called attention to the very nice handwritten letter and article from Paul Schmidt, a Sharonville Council member, regarding joining HCPH. Commissioner Ingram shared his recent presentation to the Cincinnati Regional Business Committee about the opioid crisis. It was well received. Dr. Amend gave compliments to the staff; all the thank you notes are a great reflection on the department and it is nice to see what people think of the services they receive.

Staff Reports

(a) Department of Community Health Services

Assistant Health Commissioner Craig Davidson highlighted from his report the forum hosted by Clermont County Public Health (CCPH) for community members to offer input and ask questions about the harm reduction program, the updates on the Cincinnati Exchange Project (CEP) transition to a public health partnership, the Narcan Distribution Collaborative (NDC) distribution summary, and additional grant funding for Public Health Emergency Preparedness.

Tracey Puthoff inquired about where the Clermont County harm reduction program would be located and when it is projected to start. Mr. Davidson stated it will be on the Mercy Clermont Hospital property and is slated to start in the first or second quarter. Should the Clermont County Board of Health approve the program to operate, CCPH plans to contract with HCPH to carry out the program on its behalf. The fees will cover the cost of administering the program.

There were no objections raised at the community forum. One attendee at the forum identified himself as a Batavia Township Trustee offered comment indicating he had worked to change the Township zoning to permit the harm reduction program to operate on the Mercy Clermont Hospital campus. He did so after receiving feedback from Township staff charged with cleaning litter from parks that have increasingly raised concerns about needle stick injuries resulting from the discarded needles. Anderson Township is another community that may be participating soon.

Board members inquired about the scope of services, testing, and treatment. Dr. Feagins explained the base program is needle/equipment exchange, testing, and most importantly referral to treatment. The development of additional services is being thoughtfully worked on during the transition. The Board inquired about the addition of fixed sites. Dr. Feagins stated transportation may be a barrier so the van is important. Mark Rippe inquired if permission had been obtained from all property owners. Mr. Davidson reported that all locations have provided permission.

The Board inquired if the local police departments have been notified. Commissioner Ingram reported they have and cited a recent meeting with the Hamilton County Sheriff at which he and Mr. Davidson were able to answer their questions and provided them a summary of Ohio Revised Code (ORC) statutes authorizing the operation of the program.

The Board inquired about the naloxone distribution locations. Dr. Feagins and Mr. Davidson reported the Justice Center has been very successful reaching people at discharge as well as visiting friends and family. The officers on patrol "use one leave one" effort is also being initiated.

Thomas Chatham inquired about "bad" product on the streets. Dr. Feagins indicated fentanyl is very strong and users discharged from the Justice Center are especially at risk for overdosing as their tolerance is low. Nee Fong Chin inquired about controls to deter recipients from reselling naloxone distributed by NDC staff. Mr. Davidson will advise staff of this concern and request them to take into consideration during distribution activities.

The Board inquired about the success of treatment programs. Dr. Feagins cited medically assisted treatment (MAT) is evidence-based; has even been proven successful in treating babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome. Commissioner Ingram stated the numbers of children in the system are upsetting and thanked the Board for their leadership on the opioid crisis and funding the Harm Reduction Program.

The monthly Communicable Diseases Epi report was provided in the Board packets. Thomas Chatham inquired about latent TB testing. Dr. Feagins reported latent TB can be treated but most doctors do not have it at the top of their list of differential diagnoses. A video is being created by staff to help remind physicians to be on the watch for reasons to test. Syphilis in Hamilton County declined in recent years since HCPH began operating the program; however, syphilis overall is on the rise in other communities.

(b) Department of Environmental Health Services

Assistant Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman highlighted from his report the proposed fee adjustment for campground licenses stating that there has been no comment from the campground owners. Staff recommends adjusting the base fee for campgrounds from \$75 to \$110 annually. There is no recommended change in the extra lot fee. In addition, the establishment of new fees for temporary and resident camps is recommended at \$110.00 for each category.

Mr. Kesterman reported Construction and Demolition Debris (C&DD) license applications have been reviewed and Notice of Deficiency letters have been sent. Mr. Kesterman shared with the Board that Loveland Landfill has not been issued a license since 2014 due to their inability to provide the required financial assurance. The landfill owner provides frequent updates to the Health District and prosecutor's office as they pursue alternative capping options and sale of the property. The Hafner and Sons C&DD Landfill are currently working with the Ohio Environmental Protection agency to adjust their environmental covenant. Once complete, the facility should be able to receive their license. It is expected to be completed in first quarter of 2018. Full details are provided in the Board packet.

The Board inquired about Rumpke as an option for C&DD waste. Mr. Kesterman stated they do take C&DD but it costs more. Liners and development costs could deter expansion at landfills that have additional acreage.

Dr. Amend inquired of the two success stores and if there is any follow up after abatement of condemned properties. Mr. Kesterman confirmed there is follow up. A family member has moved in to provide assistance. The other property is scheduled to have follow-up from staff.

6. **Unfinished Business:** Regulation 1-2017, Revising Local Fees for Temporary Camps, Resident Camps, Combined Park-Camps, Recreational Vehicle Parks, and Recreation Camps.

Ms. Puthoff moved to approve Regulation 1-2017.

Mr. Rippe seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

7. **Finances**

Finance Officer Greg Varner reviewed the 2018 Revised/2019 Estimated Budget. Tracey Puthoff inquired about the medical costs increase to get in line with other Hamilton County departments. Mr. Varner reported the County is self-funded and this is a per capita catchup.

Ms. Puthoff also inquired about the Dental Health Needs Coalition. Commissioner Ingram explained this is the starting point. Dental practice has different regulations and scope of practice so it will take time to find more providers to take indigent patients. Desired outcome is a dental home instead of going to the hospital emergency departments

The Board discussed the pros and cons of increasing assessments with an increasing carry over balance. Commissioner Ingram reported we have been fortunate that actual numbers have been better than budgeted. Mr. Brett mentioned that a fixed 3% increases are more manageable for constituents and there have been no objections. Mr. Chatham inquired about increasing merit bonus to help retain staff of hard to fill positions and suggested an updated market rate analysis in 2018. Commissioner Ingram agreed and will schedule an updated market rate analysis to be completed in the spring.

The November 2017 Disbursement Reports are included in the Board packet.

Ms. Puthoff moved to approve the November monthly disbursements.

Mr. Rippe seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

8. **New Business:**

Resolution G-2017, adopting the 2018 revised budget/2019 estimated budget.

Ms. Puthoff moved to adopt the 2018 revised budget/2019 estimated budget.

Mr. Brett seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Adoption of 2017 Board of Health Orientation Manual.

Mr. Rippe moved to approve the 2017 Board of Health Orientation Manual.

Mr. Chatham seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

9. Executive Session

Ms. Puthoff moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 8:25 p.m.

Mr. Brett seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

The Board of Health came out of Executive Session at 8:38 pm where no decisions were made.

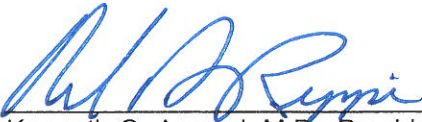
10. Adjournment

Mr. Rippe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Mr. Chatham seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Next Board of Health meeting: January 8, 2018.



Kenneth G. Amend, M.D., President

Mark Rippe, Vice-President



Tim Ingram, Secretary
Health Commissioner