

**Hamilton County General Health District**  
**REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**June 13, 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 (HCPH), followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call of Members**

Members Present: Tracey Puthoff, President  
Jim Brett  
Dr. Kenneth Amend  
Thomas Chatham

District Staff Present: Timothy Ingram, Health Commissioner  
Greg Kesterman, Assistant Health Commissioner  
Craig Davidson, Assistant Health Commissioner  
Christy Cauley, Electronic Communications Specialist

Guests Present: Candace Fischer, Xavier University  
Elizabeth Luchman, Xavier University  
Tom Johnston, Xavier University  
Kathleen Clifton, Xavier University  
Amanda Metz, Xavier University  
Emily Zerhuser, Xavier University  
Melissa Berg, Xavier University  
Emily Dowden, Xavier University  
Taylor Carusone, Xavier University  
Kaelene Acosta, Xavier University

**3. Clean Kitchen Awards**

Mr. Kesterman read the list of 16 Clean Kitchen Award recipients. First time winners included Mariemont Elementary School, Mariemont Junior High School, Sharonville LaRosa's, and St. Nicholas Academy (Reading). Second time winners were Deer Park High School, Mt. Healthy Sr. High Kitchen, St. Clement School (St. Bernard), Transfiguration Spirituality Center (Glendale), and Winton Woods Middle School. Four-time winners were Holmes Elementary School, Mariemont High School, Winton Woods Intermediate, and Winton Woods Primary South. Five-time winners included Gold Top Dairy Bar (Green Township), St. James School (Green Township), and St. Rita's School for the Deaf (Evendale). Mr. Kesterman explained that fewer than 5% of our restaurants receive this award. Commissioner Ingram asked if the five-time winners have been with us since the program first began. Mr. Kesterman stated that there have been some six-time winners since the program began in 2011. Mr. Kesterman also

explained the criteria for winning a Clean Kitchen Award. Commissioner Ingram congratulated the winners.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Amend had one change to the minutes on page 2, changing the word "she" to "he and later in the same sentence, the word "he" to "she".

**Dr. Amend** moved to approve the amended minutes from the May 18, 2016 Board of Health meeting.

**Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – Ms. Puthoff, Dr. Amend, Mr. Brett – Aye, Mr. Chatham abstained**

#### **5. Health Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Ingram addressed the attack in Orlando. He expressed sympathy for the victims and their families and stressed our need to address gun violence as a public health issue.

Commissioner Ingram reported that the Hamilton County Budget Commission met on May 10, 2016 and unanimously approved the Health District's 2017 budget. This included the three percent increase to village and township assessments and the city contracts. The Commission members complimented the Board and staff of HCPH. Ms. Puthoff asked who makes up the Commission. Commissioner Ingram stated that Robert A. Goering, Treasurer, Dusty Rhodes, Auditor and Joseph T. Deters, Prosecutor make up the Commission.

Commissioner Ingram stated that the inaugural meeting of the HCPH Ethics Committee was held on May 25, 2016 and they will be meeting again on June 14, 2016. The committee is made up of HCPH's medical director, staff members, Tucker Stone and Pat Allingham and staff from the prosecutor's office as well as community members. The purpose of the committee is to provide guidance to our staff and management on ethical issues; encourage and support institutional culture of ethical awareness and high ethical standards; and to provide a process of open and transparent decision-making.

Commissioner Ingram referred to a presentation attached to the board packet, "What Good is Health Insurance if Doctors Won't Accept It?" Commissioner Ingram stated that there is still a lot of cultural shifting that needs to happen within the healthcare industry in order to increase the availability of physicians to people who are on Medicaid in Ohio.

Commissioner Ingram reported on the proposed employee wellness program policy that was included in the Board packet. He stated that Ms. Puthoff had made some changes to section 5.13 and he requested that the Board add the policy as an action item for later in the meeting agenda.

Dr. Amend asked about the Council on Aging section in the Commissioner's report. Commissioner Ingram explained that he was asked to join their Board, as they would like to have someone from the public health field. Commissioner Ingram explained that the Council on Aging serves Medicare patients that are discharged from the hospital. Commissioner Ingram would like Board of Health input before making a decision. Mr.

Chatham asked about time commitment. Commissioner Ingram responded that the Board meets in the late afternoons/early evenings and he would find out more from their board president when they meet next week. Mr. Brett said it would be a good partnership. Ms. Puthoff and Dr. Amend expressed their approval.

## **Staff Reports**

### **(a) Department of Community Health Services**

Mr. Davidson addressed questions from the previous Board of Health meeting. Mr. Rippe had asked about some of the data points relative to home visits conducted by the tuberculosis control program. He wanted to know why the numbers were so high in April 2016 compared to April 2015. Mr. Davidson explained that HCPH currently has seven cases requiring direct observation therapy (DOT), four of which need home visits. He stated that Disease Prevention will see the same numbers this month and will continue until those cases conclude DOT.

Mr. Davidson reported that the annual Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) meeting was held on May 18, 2016. In that meeting, the staff gave an overview of changes to the WeTHRIVE! pathways. We also reported to the PHAC on the progress made toward the three-year targets in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). He stated that there had been a discussion about plans to enhance the CHIP implementation through WeTHRIVE! and other programs. There was also an open discussion and period for questions at the PHAC meeting. Some of the items discussed included a conversation about connecting at-risk youth in Lincoln Heights with YMCA programs to teach them how to swim as well as the potential for implementing a "sharing table" in school cafeterias. This is a program where, rather than discard unwanted food, kids place food items on a table to be shared with others, thus reducing waste in schools.

Mr. Davidson stated that HCPH's Ebola response planning is winding down. The Southwest Ohio Public Health Region held a tabletop exercise on May 24, 2016 to test and evaluate individual local health department responses as well as the collective response as a region to a potential Ebola-related incident. The exercise scenario involved a large number of local residents employed by a fictitious federal agency who recently returned home after providing public health support in West Africa, taxing the local public health system due the monitoring requirements. A final after-action report is pending and will be submitted to the Ohio Department of Health as evidence of completion of the grant deliverables addressed in the exercise.

In addition, Mr. Davidson reported that HCPH is working to move the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) to HCPH in order to align the program with the Child Fatality Review process. Significant progress to date includes the transfer of all electronic FIMR data to a secure location on HCPH's servers. Epidemiology is looking at the data in order to identify potential improvements. Work is underway to execute new contracts with several individuals who perform the FIMR interviews and the medical record and data review and transcription. Mr. Davidson would like to have everything fully implemented by July 1, 2016.

Ms. Puthoff asked who requested the move from the Cincinnati Health Department to our Agency. Mr. Davidson stated that the work is a collaborative effort with Cradle Cincinnati, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and others and the time was right to make the move happen. Ms. Puthoff asked if the Ohio Department of Health was involved. Commissioner Ingram stated that it was a local decision and there was a need to align the reporting processes.

Mr. Davidson recently presented at a meeting at the United Way. He spoke on a panel about harm reduction in regard to our opiate program, along with Mary Haag, with PreventionFIRST!, Steve Walkenhorst, with The Health Experiences, and Tom Synan, Chief, Village of Newtown Police Department. Mr. Davidson was specifically asked to address harm reduction and the work HCPH has been doing in public health associated with the bloodborne infectious disease prevention program and the distribution of and training in the administration of naloxone.

Mr. Davidson also reported that Commissioner Ingram afforded him the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill 332 (SB 332) before the Ohio Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Mr. Davidson stated that SB 332 is largely a result of Commissioner Ingram's efforts. It addresses specific recommendations from the Committee's final report. His testimony resulted in two questions. One question was related to the work HCPH has been and is currently doing in Hamilton County to analyze and report maternal and child health data. The other concerned a provision in Senate Bill 332 to specifically provide geocoded data to local infant mortality collaboratives in Ohio. Proponent testimony was also provided Dr. Patricia Gabbe, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Angela Dawson, Ohio Commission on Minority Health, and Simone Crawley, Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence. Commissioner Ingram complimented Mr. Davidson on his testimony.

#### **1. Medical Director's Report-Communicable Diseases**

Due to Dr. Bjornson's absence, Mr. Davidson reported that Shigellosis was the fourth most frequently reported disease in the region. He expressed his hope that we will see fewer cases since it has already been around awhile, especially in local daycare centers. He added that Hepatitis C is still a problem, as well as syphilis. Mr. Davidson added that influenza is winding down. He stated that enteric illnesses usually rise in summer. There have also been a few cases of Salmonellosis in the U.S. associated with hatcheries.

#### **(b) Department of Environmental Health Services**

Mr. Kesterman reported that the Ohio Board of Building Standards (BBS) Code Committee met on May 19, 2016 to consider how to handle proposed changes to Section 312.4 Drainage and Final Air Test. A compromise was reached. The BBS Code Committee adopted language that provided the regulatory community the option of performing a visual test, drainage and vent final test using air, and alternative drainage and vent final test that are equal to the one-inch water column. This was a successful outcome for HCPH and public health in general. Commissioner Ingram complimented Mr. Kesterman, Lisa Humble, Plumbing Director, Mr. Chatham and Mr. Rippe on their work finding a compromise.

Commissioner Ingram explained that the state was going to eliminate the final air test HCPH performs in plumbing inspections. It is an important process for public health and helps to protect homeowners and he expressed his appreciation for everyone's efforts.

Mr. Kesterman reported that HCPH has submitted a grant application to the Ohio Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency in order to obtain \$30,000 in funding to expand the mosquito surveillance program. HCPH currently has traps that test for West Nile virus and this would help the Agency identify the mosquitos that are in the county. The proposed implementation plan includes a robust education program, with mosquito bite prevention and remediation materials made available in two languages. The proposal includes the addition of an intern to: conduct community outreach; carry out additional trapping; and educate citizens on all aspects of bite prevention, diseases and elimination of breeding sites.

Dr. Amend asked what kind of mosquitos we currently have in Hamilton County. Commissioner Ingram said *Aedes aegypti* has not yet been found in Ohio, but *Aedes albopictus* is in our area.

Mr. Kesterman reported on our partnership with Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) concerning lead in water, specifically in schools. GCWW launched a public education campaign in January in light of the Flint Michigan water issue. The primary focus was informing those who have lead service lines and providing sampling for their water. Depending on sampling results, replacement of lines/fixtures may be indicated, as well as blood testing of students. HCPH will be performing sampling in the fall.

Mr. Kesterman reported that five homes were condemned this month, four of which were unoccupied.

Mr. Chatham asked about the timeline from remediation to condemnation. Mr. Kesterman stated that when there is a housing code violation, it does not necessarily warrant condemnation, so we give the homeowner 30 days to fix the problem. If there is progress, we can extend that time if needed. If progress is not made, HCPH would then involve the prosecutor. Some homes require immediate condemnation when there are conditions so deplorable that they cannot be fixed. Dr. Amend asked if condemned property might be sold. Mr. Kesterman stated that it has happened in the past, but the new owner must work with HCPH to be sure the home is safe once the condemnation is lifted. An inspection is required by HCPH prior to the removal of a condemnation. Sometimes the home must be demolished when conditions are so deplorable or the home is beyond repair.

## **7. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

## 8. Finances

### a) **Monthly Disbursements Report**

As advised by Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Mr. Brett recused himself from voting on the Whitewater Township line item of the monthly disbursements due to a conflict of interest.

**Mr. Brett** moved to approve the monthly disbursements, noting his abstention.

**Dr. Amend** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye.**

## 9. New Business

Ms. Puthoff asked the Nurse Practitioners present if they wanted to address the Board. The graduate students were observing for a course they are taking at Xavier University and did not wish to address the Board.

### a) **Personnel Policy Amendment-Sec. 5.13 Employee Wellness Program**

Commissioner Ingram presented the amended Section 5.13 of the Employee Wellness Program.

**Mr. Chatham** moved to approve the amended Section 5.13 Employee Wellness Program.

**Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye.**

### b) **Health Care Access-Medicaid Impact Study**

Commissioner Ingram addressed the previously mentioned study, *"What Good is Health Insurance if Doctors Won't Accept it?"* He stated that it is important for people to have access to care. There is a cultural shift occurring, albeit slowly. Commissioner Ingram stated that nurse practitioners are doing more work that physicians used to do and they have increased practice authority. Commissioner Ingram also believes health systems will initiate a shift in their patient mix as well. He was surprised that the number of physicians accepting Ohio Medicaid was this low after two years. He expressed the importance for all Medicaid patients to have the same access to care as privately insured patients.

Mr. Chatham stated that he did not see what we could do to change the physician culture. It's not so much about having providers available, he said, it's convincing them take lesser fees. Commissioner Ingram stated that we are probably close to 90% of primary care physicians being employed by one of the five major healthcare systems in our area. This begins to turn the patient mix decisions over to managers within the systems, rather than just the physician. He is surprised that the process has not moved faster. Mr. Chatham said it also speaks to not having cost containment in Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Chatham also asked a question about the number of hospital beds that would be available in our area if we had a mass casualty event like the one that happened in Orlando on Sunday morning. Commissioner Ingram spoke about an alternative

care center containing 210 beds enclosed within seven self-contained units.

Mr. Chatham asked what would happen if we had an even bigger event. Commissioner Ingram stated that we have to protect hospital infrastructure for the most critically injured. Triage of patients and addressing the "worried well" would be critical. Less severely wounded patients would have to be treated in other areas.

Mr. Chatham asked if HCPH is planning for such an event. Commissioner Ingram responded that HCPH is planning for such events. Mr. Davidson stated that HCPH recently participated in a mass casualty tabletop exercise for our county. There will be another exercise in the spring addressing a mass fatality incident. Mr. Davidson said that HCPH's major role in the exercise would be vital records and our ability to handle a big surge in requests for death certificates.

Mr. Chatham asked how much surge local hospitals can take. Commissioner Ingram responded that each institution is different, but Mr. Davidson will get an answer as to how many beds are available in our region.

Commissioner Ingram asked the nurse practitioners attending the Board meeting if they had ever experience a mass casualty disaster in their work. A guest spoke about a disaster in Topeka, Kansas. A nursing home had caught fire and many residents suffered from burns. They put up curtains and located patients in the hallways. They were very organized and she was impressed with the response. Commissioner Ingram thanked her for sharing her story.

**c) Health Commissioner Out of State Travel Requests**

Commissioner Ingram requested approval of the following travel requests:

- NACCHO conference July 18-22 Phoenix, AZ
- APHA annual meeting Oct 29-Nov 3 Denver, CO

**Dr. Amend** moved to approve.

**Mr. Chatham** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye.**

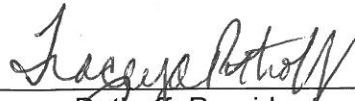
**11. Adjournment**

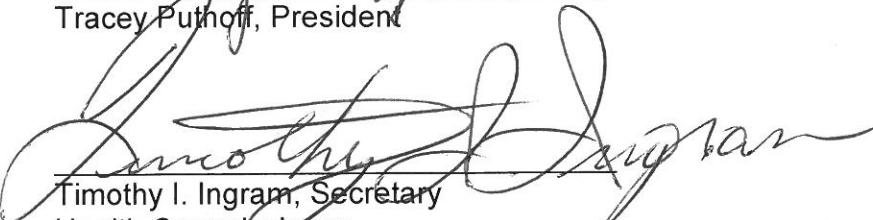
**Mr. Chatham** moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

**Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

Next Board of Health meeting: July 11, 2016.

  
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Tracey Puthoff, President

  
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Timothy I. Ingram, Secretary  
Health Commissioner