

**Hamilton County General Health District  
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH  
June 12, 2017  
Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

At 6:37 p.m., President Kenneth Amend M.D., called to order the regular session of the Board of Health of the Hamilton County General Health District, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call of Members**

Members Present: Dr. Kenneth Amend, President  
Mark Rippe, Vice President  
Jim Brett

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

Guests: Marie Gemelli-Carroll, Consultant with Starboard Strategy  
Sandy Spikes, Volunteers of America

**3. Clean Kitchen Awards**

Greg Kesterman read the list of 19 Clean Kitchen Award recipients and congratulated them for their efforts to maintain a high level of sanitation and staff education. Mr. Kesterman stated less than 5% of facilities have risen to this level. Sandy Spikes with Volunteers of America in Mt. Healthy was present to receive their award.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**Mr. Rippe** moved to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2017 Board of Health meeting.

**Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**5. Health Commissioner's Report**

Greg Kesterman referenced Commissioner Ingram's report in the Board packet. Mr. Kesterman called out that local efforts are still ongoing to prevent cuts to the Ohio budget for accredited health departments and to prevent dissolving the Ohio Sanitarian Board.

Mr. Kesterman also indicated that the Tax Levy Review Committee's report speaks favorably of the Health District's three proposals. Mr. Davidson spoke at this evening's Tax Levy Review Committee public hearings and will provide additional details during his report.

Mr. Kesterman introduced consultant, Marie Gemelli-Carroll, who presented her findings on the feasibility of operationalizing the Healthy People and Communities Foundation. Her full report is attached to the Board packet. Jim Brett asked if the Hamilton County Job & Family

Services outline is available. Ms. Gemelli-Carroll stated that she does have it and will email it to the Board. Mark Rippe agreed with the findings to not move forward with activation of the foundation as initially designed. Mr. Brett recalled the foundation was meant to be a vehicle to receive donations, not to compete with other 501(c)(3) organizations. Mr. Rippe would support more grant writing staff efforts and would like to table further discussion to next month. Ms. Gemelli-Carroll will prepare a one-page white paper on maintaining the current 501(c)(3) and an overview of what partner relations would look like.

## **Staff Reports**

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

Greg Kesterman reported that staff continues to conduct timely inspections for the Smoke Free Ohio Program. In 2017, the Environmental Health Division received 12 complaints for various facilities with alleged smoke free workplace violations with only one complaint confirmed. There was a total of \$37,135 of fines paid in 2016. Mr. Kesterman reported that the Ohio Attorney General is pursuing additional enforcement against a Giggity's Bar located in Colerain Township. The facility owes approximately \$25,000.

Review and approval of a design modification for Burger Environmental Landfill has been completed. For the past several years, the Burger family has been evaluating different options to close the landfill prematurely to allow for future development of the property. The design plan has been through several iterations with this latest plan formally submitted April 18, 2017. The current plan allows for expansion of their garden business and associated fall festival with a pumpkin patch and maze onto areas of the capped landfill.

On May 11, the Division of Water Quality received the 2017 Ohio Stormwater Association Award – Government Project Excellence. The purpose of the award is to recognize a government entity for an outstanding project in stormwater management and the benefits that it provides to the environment and local citizens. Staff from the Water Quality, Environmental Health, and Waste Management Divisions used continuous quality improvement tools and identified a test area to explore the severity of the problem. They found that nearly 90 percent of the dumpster issues occurred at foodservice facilities. As the team began working with management and owners to resolve dumpster issues, they were able to affect a reduction in leaks of nearly 70 percent.

The Division of Environmental Health has completed licensing for the 2017 -2018 licensing period for all Food Service Operators and Retail Food Establishments. The license processing continues to be handled through the HealthSpace, our digital food software. There was approximately a five percent increase in the number of facilities licensed in 2017 when compared to 2016. We currently annually license and inspect 2,413 FSO and RFE facilities throughout Hamilton County. In addition, there are nearly 300 mobile licenses issued to vendors that are able to operate anywhere in Ohio. This year, there were approximately 250 food facilities that received a mandatory 25 percent late fee for failing to make payment by March 1. There were 38 facilities received a final notice from Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Nee Fong Chin. The final 15 facilities received a closed sign on May 8<sup>th</sup> and either immediately made payment or had permanently closed prior to our licensing.

Licensing is nearly complete for the public swimming pools and spas for 2017. In 2017, HCPH was responsible for licensing 419 public swimming pools. This is down slightly from the 422 pools licensed in 2016 and 426 pools licensed in 2015. All pool license renewals

are required prior to May 1. Similar to the food program, there is a mandatory 25 percent late fee when the license is not renewed on time. There were approximately 150 pools that received a late fee this year.

Following a request by community members of the Village of Terrace Park, a meeting was held on May 2, 2017. The goal was to educate the residents of Terrace Park about the requirements for drywell sewage disposal systems. Beginning on January 1, 2015, drywell systems were no longer authorized to be permitted by health districts for continued operation as specified in the Ohio Administrative and Revised Codes. In Hamilton County, drywells began to be addressed around 1997, by no longer allowing them to be installed. By 2004, replacement of drywell systems started when certain home/property upgrades occurred. The requirement for drywell replacement continues today and as a result 188 fewer drywells exist in Terrace Park than would have otherwise been. There remains 634 drywells that still need to be addressed. Our goal is to work with the community to develop a plan for the remaining drywells over the next eight years. A stakeholder committee is being formed now by residents of the village that will work with HCPH to develop our plan over the next 12-18 months.

Beginning on January 1, 2017, the Division of Water Quality began conducting operation permit inspections of sewage treatment systems (STS) within Indian Hill. There have been 753 inspections already conducted over the past five months. We have found it extremely helpful to have their presence during this transition phase to help with system history, property knowledge, communications and the special liaison roll that the play.

There were 4 Housing Program Condemnations and 2 Food Safety Enforcement issues. Their reports can be found in the Board packet.

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

Craig Davidson reported that Staff from Epidemiology and Assessment Epidemiology continues work on the planned expansion of regional surveillance of overdose-associated data. As previously reported, agreements with other local health departments (LHD) have been secured to institute daily surveillance updates for Northern Kentucky, Clermont County and Butler County alongside Hamilton County via a web-based data visualization platform. Staff remains on track for implementation by early July. Clermont County Public Health has assisted in securing our first feed of 911 dispatch data outside of Hamilton County. A feasibility assessment for Butler County 911 dispatch data is ongoing. Finally, a meeting has been scheduled with Warren County Combined Health District to discuss incorporating both their ED visits and 911 visits, and we have been informed of the strong interest in Southeast Indiana to begin working with us.

Mr. Davidson thanked the staff work working on weekends and evening to get alerts out (spike over Memorial Day weekend). The Board discussed how these alerts give first responders and emergency rooms a heads up to staff accordingly. Dr. Feagins stated it now often takes higher doses of naloxone to resuscitate overdose victims so areas experiencing a spike may run out. Alerts help guide decisions about moving the inventory to where it is most needed.

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) issued guidance on May 18 covering newly enacted policies to address the issue of expiring naloxone that has already been distributed to first responder agencies. In response to the guidance issued, Emergency Response Coordinator, John Sherrard, has begun



coordinating a transfer of doses set to expire by September 30, 2017 from law enforcement agencies to fire/EMS agencies with the highest rates of overdose runs to ensure this life-saving resource is not wasted. Nearly \$4,000 worth of naloxone thus far has been saved from expiration.

The regional after-action report/improvement plan (AAR/IP) for the mass fatality management functional exercise conducted on March 30 has been issued and approved in final form by all participating partners. The following national Public Health Emergency Preparedness capabilities were tested:

- Community Recovery
- Emergency Operations Coordination
- Fatality Management
- Information Sharing

The Board packet contains lists of the major strengths, primary areas for improvement and summary analysis reports. Mr. Davidson highlighted that HCPH was rated as “Performed without Challenges” for all capabilities.

A mini-grant for \$500 was recently received as a result of partnerships formed through the HCPH-lead Ohio Equity Institute (OEI) program and Cradle Cincinnati that will benefit Forest Park (specifically the 45240 ZIP code) — one of our communities outside the City of Cincinnati with the highest level of need with respect to maternal and child health. As a result of the partnerships we have formed with Cradle Cincinnati and other partners, this demonstrates how even a small amount of funding can be stretched and leveraged to provide a relatively sizable impact. Cradle Cincinnati will train two OEI peer advocate moms who live in Forest Park to deliver safe sleep presentations and demonstrations. They will be outfitted with safe sleep kits, consisting of items and materials to conduct safe sleep trainings. Each kit will include a portable crib, baby doll and sleep sack, so that trainers can model safe sleep. In addition, each kit will include safe sleep handouts — fliers, door hangers, etc. — which childcare providers can distribute to their families. Each trained daycare will be given a set of sleep sacks and copies of ‘Sleep Baby, Safe and Snug’ so they can practice safe sleep. As part of the training, daycare providers will be encouraged to promote the local Cribs for Kids program so that families in need of a safe sleeping space for their infant can be connected to a portable crib. Cradle Cincinnati and OEI will coordinate trainings. Peer advocates will conduct trainings, oversee pre- and post- tests, and provide ongoing technical support to daycares.

The monthly Communicable Diseases Epi report was provided in the Board packets. Dr. Bjornson reported no major communicable disease problems, but noted the spike in syphilis is concerning. Mark Rippe asked if we are fully staffed on syphilis. Mr. Davidson responded that yes, we are. Dr. Feagins reported that ODH has issued a request to healthcare providers to continue influenza testing through the summer and that this is a paradigm shift for providers.

Dr. Feagins also spoke to the vaccination rates for children entering kindergarten in Ohio, Hamilton County, and surrounding counties in southwest Ohio. Hamilton County has a lower rate of medical, religious and philosophical exemptions and a lower rate of percent that have completed all required vaccinations. The Board discussed areas of focus and the need for additional analysis and mapping by ZIP codes, school district, and by individual schools. Mr. Brett specifically asked if an assessment of the population served by HCPH that resides



within the Cincinnati Public School district could be provided. Mr. Davidson affirmed this will be provided in his report next month.

Dr. Amend asked for a status update on the Harm Reduction Plan. Mr. Davidson discussed the supporting testimony for the indigent care levy funding review and current efforts to develop contract language for the transition of the Cincinnati Exchange Project to a partnership with HCPH and Cincinnati Health Department. Mr. Kesterman also thanked John Sherrard for coordinating the work to have the command vehicle re-decaled and readying it for use on this program

**6. Unfinished Business: None**

**7. Finances**

The May 2017 Disbursement Report was reviewed. Mark Rippe ask who the 259 Holdings Ltd., LLC vendor was. Greg Kesterman will look into it and report back to the Board via email with his findings.

**Mr. Rippe** moved to approve the monthly disbursements.

**Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye; - Mr. Brett abstained on Whitewater Township expenditure.**

**8. New Business: None**


**9. Adjournment**

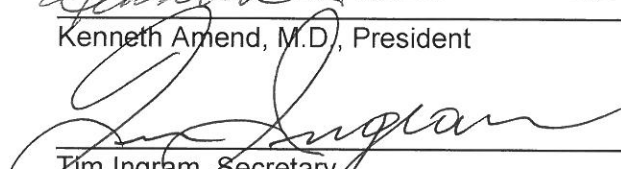
**Mr. Brett** moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

**Mr. Rippe** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

Next Board of Health meeting: July 10, 2017.

  
Kenneth Amend, M.D., President

  
Tim Ingram, Secretary  
Health Commissioner

