

**Hamilton County General Health District
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
March 12, 2018 – 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
Dr. Steve Feagins, Medical Director

Guests:
Marc Dibbini, Gold Star Chili, owner
Tari Everidge, Cincinnati State, student
Kelly Dunlap, Cincinnati State, student
Cory Dunlap, public

3. Clean Kitchen Awards

Greg Kesterman read the list of 31 Clean Kitchen Award recipients and congratulated them for their efforts to maintain a high level of sanitation and staff education. A representative from Finneytown Gold Star Chili was present to receive their award.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Rippe moved to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2018 Board of Health meeting.

Mr. Brett seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

5. Health Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Ingram reported that the District Advisory Council (DAC) met today. The current chairperson, Gwen McFarland, was unable to attend. They were able to conduct business by making the election of officers first on the agenda.

Dr. Elizabeth Kelly was appointed for a five-year term to the HCPH Board of Health. Dr. Kelly will take her seat at the April 9, 2018 Board of Health meeting.

Commissioner Ingram called attention to his report on the case of tuberculosis (Tb) at Leyla House Learning Center and provided an update on the ongoing investigation. Eight years ago, Ohio policy changed so that daycare workers no longer have to be tested for Tb. A simple \$35 test could have prevented this exposure to other children and co-workers. Commissioner Ingram contacted Representative Seitz about the need to change this law/rule and he agreed.

Standard Tb protocol is to go back three months and find all of the children to test for exposure to the index case; however, the daycare enrollment records were incomplete making identification of all potentially exposed children difficult. When we contacted the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, they stated the information was protected and unable to hand it over for further investigation. Ohio Job and Family Services also denied the Ohio Department of Health Director Himes when he requested the information. The investigation is still on going.

Ms. Puthoff asked why it took them three months to notify HCPH of the Tb case. Commissioner Ingram stated that we learned about it few days prior to her release from the hospital. Unless a physician had seen and diagnosed the patient, there was no way of HCPH knowing. Commissioner Ingram stated that she was symptomatic the first week of December and was diagnosed at Mercy West on February 3, 2018. Dr. Feagins elaborated that in December she went to urgent care and treated for what appeared to be pneumonia. A general practitioner in January diagnosed the same way. She was admitted to Mercy West on February 3 where they gave her a CT Scan and was diagnosed and treated for Tb. HCPH wasn't contacted until February 8. At that time, she was maintained in the hospital under negative airflow isolation.

Dr. Feagins said that Tb is still out there and unfortunately it is being misdiagnosed. Commissioner Ingram reiterated the fact that there are still twenty children who have not been tested. All pediatricians in the area are aware of this through a health alert.

Mr. Chatham asked what the incubation period is for Tb. Dr. Feagins stated that it is a long time and once something triggers it, it moves more quickly. Mr. Chatham asked about the kids that are negative now, when do you test again. Dr. Feagins said no there is no reason for a follow up test. Children's Hospital has been on top of the testing of the children that had been exposed.

Commissioner Ingram reported that the Ohio River flooding occurred at the same time. HCPH sanitarians conducted inspections to ensure that all licensed operators where closing, if flooded. Staff was also available to provide clean up recommendations.

As far as opiates and overdoses, Commissioner Ingram stated that 2017 will go down as the worst year ever for overdose of opiates with approximately 545 deaths processed by the Coroner's office. An update was given on the Harm Reduction program. Commissioner Ingram complimented Mercy Health because they made it clear that they had no problem with the harm reduction being located at Anderson Mercy Hospital.

Dr. Amend asked what is stopping us if state law allows and Mercy Anderson says you can bring the harm reduction program to us. Commissioner Ingram stated that we have to notify the community and if the community doesn't want the program and they find out about it, sometimes it causes more problems. The law does not say that the local governing entity has to approve the harm reduction being there. HCPH does not have authority over zoning.

Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Nee Fong Chin will review the Ohio Revised Code addressing harm reduction to determine whether local governing authorities would have to pass local legislation or not, prior to HCPH determining program location. The Board stated their disappointment and surprised that it didn't pass. Dr. Amend asked for clarification on what the zoning issue is since the hospitals are already zoned. Commissioner Ingram explained that this is more of a political argument; if you are not wanted in the community, its members may try to run you out and we want to be sensitive to the community concerns.

Commissioner Ingram thanked Dr. Feagins for his support at all three community forums. Dr. Feagins added that in Clermont County, when it was determined to put the harm reduction program on campus, it was never a question. The trustees of Batavia voted to not change the zoning. Ms. Puthoff said it seemed that two thirds of the people that spoke were against the program so it is not a surprise that the trustees did not have the political will to approve it.

Staff Reports

(a) Department of Community Health Services

Assistant Health Commissioner Craig Davidson indicated his report has the HIV and Syphilis follow up from our last meeting. Mr. Rippe asked if HCPH gets assistance from the police - is this an avenue to get contact information? Mr. Davidson said this is a means that is currently being used; however, there is a rise in anonymous sex partners and it is making it harder to track down individuals.

Mr. Davidson also called attention to his report on Harm Reduction and the Exchange Project. Mr. Rippe asked if we are only out one day a week. Mr. Davidson stated that we are operating four days a week - Monday through Thursday. Upon reviewing the charts provided, Dr. Amend stated that there is a dramatic increase in needle exchange from one month to the other and that this is very impressive.

Mr. Rippe stated the Exchange Project appears to average 52 needles per person being exchanged. Mr. Davidson clarified that people bring needles in quantities and the staff counts them. The program operates on a one for one basis, but often one client will collect for multiple clients and bring these quantities in for exchange for them. We are currently looking at options for using a scale, so that needles can be weighed; this will be a safer option as well.

Mr. Rippe asked if the pregnancy tests are being tracked on how many positives. Mr. Davidson informed that those numbers are that of home pregnancy tests being distributed. If a client returns and reports a positive test they will be prioritized for referral to treatment services.

Mr. Davidson reported on the Narcan Distribution Collaborative. The project remains on pace to distribute all doses several months in advance of the October 2019 target.

The monthly Communicable Diseases Epi report was provided the Board packets.

(b) Department of Environmental Health Services

Assistant Health Commissioner Greg Kesterman reported on the recent Hamilton County flooding, the staff's preparation and review of our Emergency Preparedness plans, and assessments made in impacted areas. Dr. Amend asked if the US 50 flooded in the recent floods. No part of US 50 flooded in Hamilton County, The Ohio River Flood was the worst that we have had since 1997. Ms. Puthoff asked if we were going in to the portions of the city regardless of whether or not they were within our jurisdiction. Mr. Kesterman explained that HCPH is going in to our jurisdictions and Coney Island falls in our jurisdiction.

Mr. Kesterman reported on the Rabies Program. He elaborated on the 822 bites reported in 2017: 60% reported by doctors, 16% by SPCA, 16% by police, and 8% by citizens. Most bites reported are canines and cats. Rabies has not been observed in domestic animals in Hamilton County. However, rabies is still found annually in the bat population. Between three and five bats are found positive with rabies annually.

In the Board packet are additional details regarding Lockland's Backflow Program. Their Village Council has adopted an ordinance allowing HCPH to provide backflow services on behalf of the Village

6. Unfinished Business: None

7. Finances

The February 2018 Disbursement Reports are included in the Board packet.

Mr. Rippe moved to approve the monthly disbursements.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye; - Mr. Brett abstained on White Water expenditure.

8. New Business:

Resolution B-2018 recognizing Board Member Thomas W. Chatham for outstanding and dedicated public service. Mr. Chatham said that 25 years is a long time but it was easy to do because of the quality of the staff. Commissioner Ingram does a great job and Mr. Chatham is always proud of what the HCPH does.

Mr. Brett moved to approve Resolution B-2018.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Resolution C-2018 recognizing Director of Disease Prevention, Pat Allingham RN, BSN, MS for outstanding dedicated service.

Mr. Rippe moved to approve Resolution C-2018.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Commissioner Ingram requested approval to travel to Orlando, Florida on April 16-21 to attend the Mercy Health Governance Conference.

Commissioner Ingram requested approval to travel to Orlando, Florida on April 16-21 to attend the Mercy Health Governance Conference.

Ms. Puthoff moved to approve the April 16-21 travel request.

Mr. Brett seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye


9. Adjournment

Mr. Brett moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Next Board of Health meeting: April 9, 2018.


Kenneth G. Amend, M.D., President


Tim Ingram, Secretary
Health Commissioner