

**Hamilton County General Health District**  
**REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**September 14, 2015**  
**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

At 6:32 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  
Dr. Kenneth G. Amend - Board Member  
James Brett - Board Member  
Thomas W. Chatham - Board Member

Members Absent: Mark A. Rippe, Vice President

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

Guests: William Knose, Resident Requesting Variance  
Sandie Knose, Resident Requesting Variance  
Dave Yaeger, Yeager Well Drilling  
Carla Yaeger, Yeager Well Drilling

**3. Clean Kitchen Awards**

One Clean Kitchen Award recipient was recognized: Covenant Village in Green Township.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**Dr. Amend** moved to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2015 Board of Health meeting.

**Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**5. Health Commissioner's Report – Staff Reports**

Commissioner Ingram discussed blue-green algae on the Ohio River. It started in the river near Steubenville, Ohio and moved its way down to our area by Labor Day weekend. Conditions were right for it to bloom as temperatures were warm and the river current is slow. Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) posted signs at every access point and coordinated with the city and other counties. The EPA established thresholds and recently the river had a positive test for *Microcystin*. HCPH has advised everyone to stay out of the water. Mr. Kesterman will discuss this item further detail later.

Ms. Puthoff asked about the safety of drinking water. Commissioner Ingram stressed that the cyanobacteria has not been found in drinking water. Dr. Amend asked if the bacteria would go away as it gets colder. Commissioner Ingram stated that it would go away on its own.

Commissioner Ingram and Ms. Lordo met with Colerain Township. He was very impressed with the WeThrive coalition. They are committed to reducing bloodborne infectious diseases among other public health issues. He found them to be passionate and engaged and our WeTHRIVE! Program is excited to be working with them.

Commissioner Ingram introduced the two regulations on the agenda for Board consideration. Board members were sent copies via e-mail as part of the board packet.

Commissioner Ingram also spoke about staff compliments that were included in the Board packet. Mr. Brett stated that he spoke to a small business owner in Whitewater Township, who spoke very highly about Kevin Hawkins from our Water Quality Division; he stated that Mr. Hawkins was a fantastic employee and he wished he worked for him. Mr. Hawkins and other staff were recognized for their continued excellence in customer service.

#### **5a) Department of Community Health Services**

On August 11 and 12, Assistant Commissioner Lordo attended the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Applicant Training in Alexandria Virginia. She will provide an overview about the BOH's role in accreditation. Her presentation will occur later in the evening under Unfinished Business.

#### **5b) Department of Environmental Health**

Assistant Commissioner Kesterman discussed the first item in his report – the harmful algal bloom (HAB). On the September 4, 2015, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notified HCPH that the HAB could be here by Riverfest/Labor Day weekend. No exceedances occurred during the Labor Day weekend. However, toxins had exceeded safe levels by September 11. HCPH placed orange warning signs at entry ways to the river warning people to stay out of the water and keep their pets out of the water. Mr. Kesterman shared photos from North Bend and Eden Park. Levels continue to be monitored by ODH and Ohio EPA.

Mr. Kesterman introduced the two regulations under consideration. The first regulation being considered was School Environmental Safety. There was one public comment from Forest Hills School District that requested training on the changes for the school regulation. Staff will be following up with the district to fill their request. There were a few terminology changes and updates to specific wording. "Qualified individuals" was better defined and the name of Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services was updated.

Mr. Kesterman indicated that the Public Accommodation Regulation also had a public comment period. However, there were no public comments. The regulation was updated to define a bed and breakfast as having three or more bedrooms and to reflect a terminology change regard safety data sheet.

Staff has several recommendations for environmental health food program fees. A comprehensive cost methodology was completed. HCPH issues nearly 3,000 licenses annually and the fees are among the lowest in the state. Mr. Kesterman proposes several fee

adjustments. The highest change proposed is with temporary licenses, from \$25 to \$35. This change reflects actual program costs associated with inspecting temporary food operations. Mr. Kesterman displayed a chart demonstrating comparable fees in other counties. If the Board is agreeable with the suggested fee changes, a public hearing is proposed on November 9, 2015 at 6 p.m. The Board of Health agreed.

## **6. Unfinished Business**

### **6a) Variance Private Water System-WVar 2015001-9521 Hamilton-Cleves Rd.**

This variance was moved up on the agenda, before the accreditation presentation, for the convenience of the guests. Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Nee Fong Chin, said all parties have reached an agreement regarding the variance. She stated that ODH was aware of this property and indicated that the proposal would require a variance. Mr. Kesterman provided a basic overview of the variance request and the agreed upon additional terms.

The first item for consideration related to the structure that holds the well. The structure is a building with a basement. The private water rules require that if a well is located within a "pit" that the well be brought above grade. However, the rules allow a water well to be located in the basement. Staff recommends allowing the well to remain in the lower level of the structure, which is considered a basement. This area does not have water intrusion and will allow for easier access to the well for future repairs.

The second portion of the variance request was related to the galvanized pipe that is existing in the ground. The Ohio Plumbing Code allows galvanized pipe to be used in new and old construction. In addition, should the applicant connect to the municipal water supply that is available at the street, they would not be required to remove the galvanized pipe. To ensure that public safety and the intent of the private water rules are met, a water sample would be required. Commissioner Ingram indicated that HCPH staff should take the water sample. The applicant signed the agreement with the additional terms.

Mrs. Yaeger requested that she would like to be present or have her staff be present when the water sample is taken. Commissioner Ingram stated that would be appropriate. Ms. Yaeger stated that HCPH presented the more cost efficient option.

**Mr. Brett** moved to approve the variance with stipulations stated by Mr. Kesterman.

**Dr. Amend** seconded the motion

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

### **6b) Board of Health CEU—Accreditation Members of the Board viewed**

The Essential Services and PHAB Standards and Measures Webinar, which is a part of the PIHOA Accreditation Webinar Series. This webinar provided an orientation to the 10 Essential Public Health Services and explained how they provide a basis for the PHAB Standards and Measures. Ms. Lordo handed out a document that was discussed in the video for reference. Staff will meet to review the information collected and identify gaps.

Ms. Lordo shared that during her accreditation training she learned that about 30 percent of health departments that apply for accreditation do not received accredited status. Those not accredited have an opportunity to submit an Action Plan. If the Action Plan is approved by the Accreditation Committee, is implemented by the health department, and site visitors positively assess the documentation of implementation, then the health department could be accredited at that time.

Mr. Chatham asked about the difference between the PHAB Board and the accreditation board. Ms. Lordo stated that the accreditation board is a division of the PHAB Board. She agreed to provide more detailed information at the next meeting. Mr. Chatham also asked about the additional workload for employees. Ms. Lordo indicated that thus far staff seemed to be able to gather the information without too much disruption to schedules. She indicated that in the future accreditation cycles the process should be easier..

Commissioner Ingram stated that accreditation will become the new gold standard. Ohio has taken a very proactive role with this. All LHDs must be accredited by 2020. Some smaller health districts may have trouble. Commissioner Ingram believes it will lead to better effectiveness in the future.

Accreditation will be a standing item under agenda item Unfinished Business for the foreseeable future.

Twenty-five minutes will be applied to the BOH CEU requirement for 2015 based on this training and discussion.

## **7. Finances**

Ms. Puthoff directed the Board to the monthly disbursements in the Board packet.

### **7a) Monthly Disbursements**

**Dr. Amend** moved to approve the monthly disbursements.

**Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

## **8. New Business**

### **8a) Regulation 1-2015, Amending Hamilton County General Health District (HCGHD) School Environmental Safety Regulation 1-2010**

Ms. Puthoff stated that Mr. Kesterman already discussed the regulation. There were no questions.

**Mr. Brett** moved to approve Regulation 1-2015.

**Dr. Amend** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

### **8b) Regulation 2-2015, Amending HCGHD Regulation 1-2009, Governing the Sanitation and Safety of Public Accommodation Facilities**

Ms. Puthoff stated that Mr. Kesterman already discussed this regulation as well. Again there were no questions.

**Mr. Chatham** moved to adopt Regulation 2-2015.

**Mr. Brett** seconded the motion

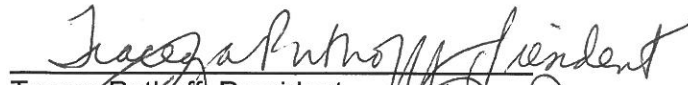
**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

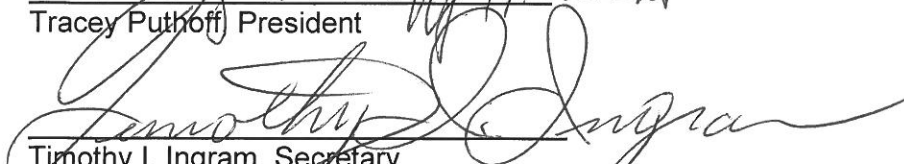
## **9. Adjournment**

**Mr. Chatham** moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

**Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.  
**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**Next Board of Health meeting: October 12, 2015, 6:30 p.m.**

  
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Tracey Puthoff, President

  
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Timothy I. Ingram, Secretary  
Health Commissioner