

**Hamilton County General Health District
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
November 13, 2023 – 4 p.m.
Minutes**

1. Call to Order

At 4 p.m., Elizabeth A. Kelly, 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: Elizabeth A. Kelly, M.D., President
Dan Meloy, Vice President
James Brett
Tracey A. Puthoff, Esq

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Clean Kitchen Awards

Craig Davidson read the list of 10 Clean Kitchen Award recipients and congratulated them for their efforts to maintain a high level of sanitation and staff education. Cake and Pastries by George, Creative Connection Learning Center, Everyday Is Special Childcare, and Arden Courts Kenwood awards were added after the Board packets were prepared.

5. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Brett moved to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2023, Board of Health meeting.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Mr. Brett moved to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2023, Public Hearing Minutes.

Mr. Meloy seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote- All Aye

6. Public Comment: None.

7. Health Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Kesterman began his report with an update on Clear Impact Performance Management Software. HCPH will continue to develop this new dashboard for reporting performance metrics. It has become widely adopted across the state and the Public Health

Accreditation Board has very positive feedback regarding its use. Commissioner Kesterman noted in the quarterly reporting a new updated legend key that is color coded. Many different metrics are reviewed by the team, and he highlighted a few in his report. Trends are monitored to identify areas for quality improvement. Dr. Kelly asked a question about the metrics produced from the Clear Impact and asked if there are goals for these metrics. Yes, but as the system is still new, many are not yet fully developed. As a general guideline, any metrics that are trending downward or upward for four or more consecutive quarters will be brought to the team's attention.

Commissioner Kesterman then provided a construction update for 5050 Section Avenue. As of now, the project is one month away from closing the current clinic and opening the other in the first week of January. He recommended that once complete, the Board consider holding a meeting at the new location. Commissioner Kesterman displayed different construction progress photos to the Board and relayed the team's excitement for their move next month. Commissioner Kesterman concluded his report with an invitation for an Open House event at the new clinic tentatively scheduled for February 8, 2024, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Staff Reports

(a) Medical Director's Report

Dr. Steve Feagins, Medical Director, gave an update on the number of COVID deaths in Southwest Ohio. His team is excited to be moving into the new clinic. Dr. Feagins outlined the updated syphilis testing and treatment protocols. The CDC outlined new guidelines for syphilis treatment, and he explained the national shortage for the primary drug used for syphilis treatment. Dr. Feagins explained the plan for protecting the supply. Pfizer reports that the shortage will last until May 2024.

Dr. Feagins shared that multiple medical providers are excited to share medical records in the Epic Electronic Health Record system. Dr. Feagins also noted that it has been difficult to keep certain providers staffed at the clinic. Commissioner Kesterman added that the current wage to retain certain positions has been a challenge.

Dr. Feagins reported there is a rise in respiratory virus infections across Hamilton County and hospital occupancies are increasing. Various health systems are now requiring masks for staff and other health systems remain under universal precautions.

Dr. Feagins outlined RSV pediatric hospitalizations throughout different years and what the current trend is in pediatric medicine countywide.

Dr. Feagins detailed the medical considerations with marijuana given the recent approved legislation. He explained the medical conversations that providers need to have with patients regarding marijuana use. Dr. Feagins detailed what the different medical ramifications are of those who withdraw from marijuana and stated his team is reviewing data regarding this. Dr. Feagins answered all questions from the Board regarding the side effects of marijuana and the continuing effect for users.

The monthly Communicable Diseases Epi report was provided in the Board packet.

(b) Department of Community Health Services

Assistant Health Commissioner Ms. Lindner invited the Board to the WeTHRIVE! Annual Recognition Event on December 7 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Mayerson Jewish Community Center. Communities and schools will be recognized and celebrated for their efforts to create a culture of health, safety, and vitality in 2023.

Ms. Lindner discussed HCPH and Passport Health hosted Sharonville Flu Clinic that serviced the residents of Sharonville. This clinic was contracted out to Passport Health and they managed all the billing, staffing, and immunizations. A total of 85 low dose flu vaccines were provided and 75 percent were given to those 65 or older, although those in this age group are generally eligible to receive the high dose vaccine. Ms. Lindner shared the cost to conduct the clinic in conjunction with Commissioner Kesterman's explanation of HCPH's contractual agreement to provide vaccination to Sharonville. Commissioner Kesterman discussed with the Board how the Sharonville Flu Clinic may not be something that HCPH pursues in the future due to volume and vaccine type offered. If the Board approves, Commissioner Kesterman will discuss future flu clinic options with the Sharonville city manager and amend the contract accordingly. The Board agreed that the clinic aligns with HCPH's mission to serve an underserved population and the need for HCPH to balance that delivery in a clinically and financially effective manner.

(c) Department of Environmental Health Services

Assistant Health Commissioner, Mr. Davidson, thanked the team who assisted in the process for the sewage treatment system cost methodology, development of proposed fees, and the associated public hearing and Board of Health regulation for new fees.

Mr. Davidson highlighted from his report the recent Ohio Department of Agriculture Retail Food Establishment Program survey result which was conducted in September. The survey report concluded that HCPH is performing satisfactorily and noted some minor recommended changes. HCPH will relay back to the Department of Agriculture a plan of action for the recommended changes.

Mr. Davidson noted in his report that HCPH participated with local, state, and federal partners in a statewide medical counter measures full-scale exercise. He outlined the overall scenario and processes/plans exercised and the full details are in his report. He noted that in this scenario they concluded that communication could have been clearer but overall, it was a great practice simulation to help prepare for an actual emergency.

Mr. Davidson highlighted the lead program outreach event with Hamilton County Job and Family Services (JFS). This was an opportunity to promote HCPH's lead abatement and control work along with interacting with JFS employees.

Mr. Davidson concluded his report with the environmental health enforcement updates included in the Board packet.

8. Finances

The October 2023 Disbursement Reports are included in the Board packet.

Ms. Puthoff moved to approve the monthly disbursements.

Mr. Meloy seconded the motion.
Roll Call Vote – All Aye; - Mr. Brett abstained on Whitewater expenditures.

9. New Business:

Ms. Puthoff moved to approve Regulation 5-2023: Sewage Treatment Systems, Grey Water Recycling Systems, Small Flow Onsite Treatment Systems, and Semi-Public Sewage Treatment Systems.

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

Mr. Brett moved to approve Resolution E-2023 - Correction: Budget Increase in Funding and Expenditures in the Construction and Demolition and Debris Restricted Fund.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.
Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Ms. Puthoff moved to approve Resolution F-2023: Transfer Funds Between Categories in TB Restricted Fund.

Mr. Meloy seconded the motion.
Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Mr. Brett moved to authorize use of the Board's Digital Signature for the WeTHRIVE! Proclamation.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.
Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Dr. Kelly moved to close Hamilton County Public Health offices for two hours on December 12, 2023, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. for the end of year event.

Mr. Meloy seconded the motion.
Roll Call Vote – All Aye

10. Executive Session

Mr. Brett moved to go to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 5:03 p.m.

Mr. Meloy seconded the motion.
Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Ms. Puthoff moved to end the Executive Session at 5:29 p.m.

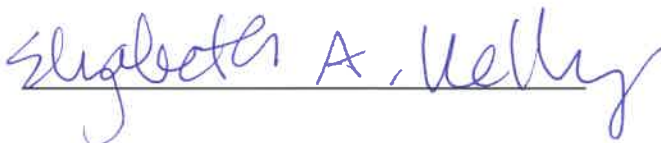
Mr. Brett seconded the motion.
Roll Call Vote – All Aye

11. Adjournment

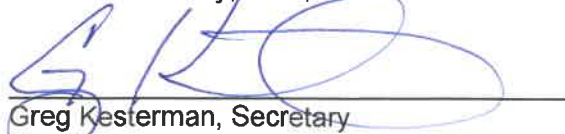
Ms. Puthoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Meloy seconded the motion.
Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Next Board of Health meeting: December 11, 2023, at 4 p.m.



Elizabeth A. Kelly, M.D., President



Greg Kesterman, Secretary
Health Commissioner

