

**Hamilton County General Health District
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
November 12, 2024 – 4 p.m.
Minutes**

1. Call to Order

At 4:08 p.m., Dan Meloy, 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: Dan Meloy, President
Tracey A. Puthoff, Esq.
Eric Knapp

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
Chuck DeJonckheere, Director of Waste Management Division
Allison Babka, Public Information Officer

Guests Present: Dr. Aliyah Ali, Internal Medicine Resident

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Clean Kitchen Awards

Assistant Health Commissioner Craig Davidson read the list of three Clean Kitchen Award recipients and congratulated them for their efforts to maintain a high level of sanitation and staff education.

5. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Knapp moved to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2024, Board of Health meeting.

Mr. Meloy seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Mr. Knapp moved to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2024, Public Hearing meeting.

Mr. Meloy seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

6. Public Comment: None.

7. Presentations:

Dr. Aliyah Ali, Internal Medicine Resident

Dr. Feagins introduced Dr. Aliyah Ali, Internal Medicine Resident, who was assigned to the clinic and is concentrating on addiction medication. Dr. Feagins explained the resident program and welcomed Dr. Ali.

Dr. Ali thanked Dr. Feagins and HCPH for the opportunity and remarked on the importance of the clinic for the general population in the region. She also praised the follow-up process of HCPH for treatment of syphilis patients. She thanked HCPH for the opportunity to work with the clinic and the exposure to different patients that she normally would not be able to interact with. Dr. Ali also praised the HCPH Mobile Unit and their involvement with harm reduction of the public. Dr. Ali noted that she is continuing to go into addiction medicine along with other residents in their rotation. She thanked the Board of Health and Dr. Feagins for the opportunity to present.

Dr. Feagins also praised the clinic and the opportunity for other residents.

Chuck DeJonckheere, Director of Waste Management Division

Commissioner Kesterman introduced Chuck DeJonckheere, Director of the Waste Management Division. Mr. DeJonckheere began his presentation by thanking the Board of Health for the opportunity to share. He outlined the Waste Management Division and the staff that help lead the division.

Mr. DeJonckheere also noted the different waste management programs, including landfills, transfer stations, composting facilities, and infectious waste treatment facilities. He explained the different landfills including construction and demolition debris (C&DD) and sanitary landfills. He provided a picture of the New Baltimore landfill as an example of a C&DD landfill. Mr. DeJonckheere noted a newer business model in which C&DD is processed, turning the materials into useable commodities like mulch.

Mr. DeJonckheere described the importance and impressive size of the Rumpke sanitary landfill in Colerain Township. He provided pictures of the sanitary landfill including the drainage and liner materials that encompass the landfill. He explained the different deodorizers that are used at the landfills that help to combat odors.

Mr. DeJonckheere noted the different gases that are refined which contain CO₂ and methane. He outlined the full circle of refined gas that can be eventually resold as natural gas. He provided pictures of transfer stations explaining the process.

There are four different classes of compost facilities and Mr. DeJonckheere illustrated their differences.

The infectious waste treatment inspection program includes three treatment facilities in Hamilton County. Facilities must maintain daily and quality assurance logs for infectious waste treatment.

The Waste Management Division conducts scrap tire inspections. The division also helps with enforcement concerning open dumping and nuisance complaints. They also conduct surface water and gas sampling for current and closed landfills. He noted that there are 22

sampling events occurring per year. He illustrated the process of sampling and demonstrated use of a portable sample meter for compounds such as CO₂ and methane.

Mr. DeJonckheere added the Waste Management Division also conducts lead poisoning investigations. Children are most impacted by lead poisoning from dust exposure in the home - mostly from pre-1978 homes with deteriorated lead paint. He also noted that there was a new Lead Hazard Reduction HUD Grant awarded to HCPH which will help the lead program continue its work over the next four years. The amount of the grant is \$3.5 million. This will help residents with abatement of lead in their homes by provide funding to perform the remediation work.

The Waste Management Division also conducts tattoo and body piercing facility inspections. Inspections for these facilities include checking for sanitary standards, infection prevention, checking for expired inks, and noting if the facility is maintaining client records.

Mr. DeJonckheere provided a demonstration of the different devices Waste Management Division uses for inspections and thanked the Board of Health for their time.

This presentation shall be counted as 20 minutes of continuing education.

8. Health Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Greg Kesterman highlighted several items from HCPH's quarterly strategic plan third-quarter report. He noted that the average year's employment length is increasing. The number of total grant funding received annually has increased each year. He thanked Mr. Varner and the whole grant team, Ms. Stowe and Ms. Boshane at HCPH for the continued increase.

The number of appointments kept at the HCPH clinic for infectious disease testing has increased. This was a goal included in the quarterly strategic plan and Ms. Lindner and the team continue to monitor these statistics.

The confirmed blood lead level testing has decreased but Commissioner Kesterman noted that these metrics are dependent on testing. The number of new backflow devices installed has increased. The number of new active tuberculosis cases in the county is on an overall upward trend. Full report details are in the Board packet.

Commissioner Kesterman recognized Allison Babka, Public Information Officer, who helps lead HCPH's involvement in the Adopt A Class program. This is a once-a-month program working with students in the region. In this program, health professionals provide health education information and career awareness for third grade students in underserved communities.

Commissioner Kesterman also recognized Becca Stowe who led HCPH's annual accreditation reporting. HCPH has received reaccreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) approval for its first annual report under our newly attained reaccredited status, highlighting HCPH's dedication to quality improvement and data modernization.

Commissioner Kesterman noted that HCPH staff attended a cooperative event and were able to present on HCPH's work on lead reduction and prevention.

Staff Reports

(a) Medical Director's Report

Dr. Steve Feagins, Medical Director, began his report by explaining graduate and undergraduate medical education at the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University. HCPH is participating in their education which is a strategic initiative.

Dr. Feagins described the follow-up process with children who are diagnosed with lead poisoning connected with the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center program.

Dr. Feagins provided an update on the current respiratory infection season. He noted the low rates of COVID-19, seasonal influenza, and RSV and noted that viral pneumonia is still most common.

Elevated levels of pertussis continue, and Dr. Feagins highlighted the different vaccine responses due to the pertussis outbreak at University of Cincinnati. The outbreak at University of Cincinnati is caused by several factors including congregate living and the possibility of an unvaccinated community. He noted that once a patient is given a positive test for pertussis, masks are required for outside activities. Dr. Feagins also noted that the University of Cincinnati's Health Services are offering Tdap vaccinations for students to prevent future exposure.

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

(b) Department of Community Health Services

Assistant Health Commissioner Jackie Lindner expanded on the pertussis outbreak in Hamilton County and the University of Cincinnati. Three different schools are currently experiencing a pertussis outbreak. HCPH staff are contacting these school nurses and providing necessary resources and protocols.

Ms. Lindner continued her report by noting that there are currently 62 partners for the Recovery Friendly Hamilton County program at this time. They are encouraged and hope that it will continue to expand.

Ms. Lindner invited the Board of Health to the WeTHRIVE! Recognition Event on December 5 and noted it is a great event every year. This event is a terrific opportunity to recognize those communities who have created a culture of health, safety, and vitality over the past year.

(c) Department of Environmental Health Services

Assistant Health Commissioner Mr. Craig Davidson highlighted the lead hazard reduction program, stating they are on target to fully abate 69 homes as projected. He also noted 98-100 units are projected for abatement in the next round with the new HUD Lead Grant.

The Ohio EPA evaluated the Solid and Infectious Waste and Construction and Demolition Debris program from last July to this July. Mr. Davidson noted that no findings or

deficiencies were noted, and both the OEPA Director's cover letter and the surveyor's summary comments were complimentary of the program and Waste Management staff.

Mr. Davidson noted that Christa Hyson, Director of Emergency Preparedness, is participating in the the Project Public Health Ready program through the National Association of City and County Health Officials. The program fosters collaboration among public health professionals, encouraging sharing of best practices and lessons learned from past emergencies.

Recently, there was a BioWatch program virtual exercise. The monitors for potential biological attacks. An after-action report / improvement plan is in progress.

Mr. Davidson answered Ms. Puthoff's questions regarding the HUD grant funding.

Environmental Health enforcement updates are included in the Board packet.

9. Finances

The October 2024 Disbursement Reports are included in the Board packet.

Mr. Knapp moved to approve the monthly disbursements.

Mr. Meloy seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

10. New Business

Mr. Knapp moved to approve Resolution C-2024: Revisions for Stormwater Budget.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Mr. Knapp moved to adopt the WeTHRIVE! Proclamations – seeking Board authorization through motion to use digital signatures on proclamations.

Mr. Meloy seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

11. Executive Session pursuant to RC Section 121.22 (G)(1) to discuss personnel matters

Ms. Puthoff moved to go to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 5:02 p.m.

Mr. Meloy seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Mr. Meloy moved to end the Executive Session at 5:15 p.m. *with no decisions made.*

Mr. Knapp seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

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12. Adjournment

Mr. Meloy moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:16 p.m.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Next Board of Health meeting: December 9, at 4 p.m.



Dan Meloy, President



Greg Kesterman, Secretary
Health Commissioner