

**Hamilton County General Health District  
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH  
June 9, 2025 – 4 p.m.  
Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

At 4 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  
Elizabeth A. Kelly, M.D., Vice-President  
Eric Knapp  
Max Miller

District Staff Present: Greg Kesterman, Health Commissioner  
Craig Davidson, Assistant Health Commissioner  
Steve Feagins, M.D., Medical Director  
Nee Fong Chin, Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney  
Greg Varner, Finance Officer  
Alison Babka, Public Information Officer

Guests Present: Staff from Princeton City Schools District (Sharonville Elementary, Woodlawn Elementary, Evendale Elementary) and Advanced Health Care of Cincinnati

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Clean Kitchen Awards**

Assistant Health Commissioner, Craig Davidson, read the list of 24 Clean Kitchen Award recipients and congratulated them for their efforts to maintain a high level of sanitation and staff education. Staff from Princeton City Schools District (Sharonville Elementary, Woodlawn Elementary, Evendale Elementary) as well as Advanced Health Care of Cincinnati were present to receive their awards.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

**Mr. Miller** moved to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2025, Board of Health meeting.

**Mr. Knapp** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

**6. Public Comment: None.**

**7. Health Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Kesterman highlighted from his report the media push that HCPH developed with Cincinnati Health Department and Cradle Cincinnati to raise awareness about the

ongoing danger of sleep-related infant deaths in the community. Commissioner Kesterman provided statistics regarding Infant Safe Sleep and the 40 percent increase that is attributed to improper use of nursing pillows.

Commissioner Kesterman introduced Alison Babka, Public Information Officer, who presented to the Board the ways HCPH provides information for media releases. Ms. Babka shared that HCPH desires to be more proactive rather than reactive regarding media pushes and public messaging. HCPH desires to author web stories and produce data sheets and graphics that can be used as a whole media package for news outlets. Ms. Babka answered a question from Mr. Knapp regarding which news organizations are open to HCPH stories. Commissioner Kesterman thanked Ms. Babka and her team. Ms. Babka thanked Dr. Kelly for her assistance with the recent infant mortality materials.

Commissioner Kesterman provided the Board updates on the proposed federal and state Budgets. He noted that the highest concern currently for federal funding is from the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant along with cuts to the Hospital Preparedness Program and Medical Reserve Corp funding. The proposed funding reduction for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant will have tough ramifications, he said. Commissioner Kesterman noted that staff transitions have assisted HCPH in being able to weather the potential budget reductions.

Commissioner Kesterman raised issue with the proposed changes to Ohio's budget and has advocated for public health by providing testimony during legislative hearings and personally reaching out to legislators that represent Hamilton County. The current Ohio budget bill is in the Ohio Senate, and it could have impacts to HCPH. There are several items currently being tracked, including funding for the ODH Public Health Laboratory. Should cuts occur, they would have consequences for the services provided. Commissioner Kesterman answered Mr. Miller's question regarding the Public Health Laboratory's value. Dr. Feagins added that the laboratory's speed on testing and capacity for testing is valuable and that health systems would be extremely impacted.

Commissioner Kesterman concluded his report by stating that there are three new employees and noted that HCPH is seeing confidence in different areas of funding leading to new hires.

## **Staff Reports**

### **(a) Medical Director's Report**

Medical Director Dr. Steve Feagins began his report by presenting data on Ohio emergency department visits by respiratory illness, indicating that the infection most frequently associated with ED visits last year was Influenza.

Dr. Feagins stated that the CDC has issued a level one travel alert for measles. Most of the measles cases imported into the U.S. are among unvaccinated U.S. residents who were infected during international travel. International travelers are at increased risk and should ensure they are fully vaccinated with the MMR vaccine at least two weeks before departure. He noted incoming players of the FIFA World Cup need the measles vaccine.

Dr. Feagins reported Region Eight HIV first quarter 2025 cases increased. The data shows a 12 percent increase from 2023 to 2024.

Dr. Feagins provided information regarding the Kettering Health cyberattack on May 20. The cyberattack affected all patient data and clinicians chart access. Kettering Health has now ended EMS diversion.

Dr. Feagins noted the heavy pollen season in Southwest Ohio. The abrupt change in temperatures resulted in flowering trees peaking at the same time. Urban planning that prioritizes flowering trees over fruit bearing trees also contributes to higher pollen levels.

Dr. Feagins shared data showing that hospital “at capacity” levels are at the lowest in three years.

Dr. Feagins shared with the Board preparations that are underway for the FIFA Club World Cup. There is different training that clinicians will practice with academy clubs. Various agencies will partner with this FIFA World Cup. He noted that health concerns surveyed by team physicians include public health issues, weather/climate, and level and cost of healthcare services in the U.S. Dr. Feagins explained legal considerations for health trainers for different international clubs.

Epidemiology’s monthly communicable diseases report was provided in the Board packet.

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

Commissioner Kesterman presented for Jackie Lindner who was absent. He noted the maternal-child health media package highlighting sleep-related deaths in 2024.

Commissioner Kesterman provided an update on the syringe services program at Lincoln Heights. July 8 will be the first time they open a partnership with the Lincoln Heights Healthcare Connection Program. The Lincoln Heights Council unanimously approved the proposal, and Commissioner Kesterman stated that HCPH staff are working with the Healthcare Connection staff to plan implementation.

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

Assistant Health Commissioner Craig Davidson recapped the Emergency Preparedness Chem PREP Community Preparedness seminar organized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This seminar was designed to help local jurisdictions enhance their preparedness, prevention, and response strategies for chemical threats, especially in the context of upcoming large-scale events such as the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup and 2026 FIFA World Cup. HCPH’s Director of Emergency Preparedness Christa Hyson was invited to the panel as a local subject matter expert. For her participation, Ms. Hyson received a very nice thank you letter from Branch Chief Adam Leary of the DHS CWMD Chemical Support Branch.

Mr. Davidson highlighted from his report the sewage discharge into Winton Woods lake due to a blocked sewer line blockage. He noted that MSD immediately started repairs to an impacted manhole, clearing the blockage, and flushing the lines. MSD also developed a sampling plan with Great Parks and HCPH to collect lake water samples. HCPH recommended to Great Parks a temporary restriction of all recreational activities on the lake until remediation. HCPH issued a press release and updated the HCPH website to provide information about this event along with a link to an E. coli fact sheet. An ongoing water

sampling plan was conducted by MSD to monitor the lake water while they worked on sewer line repairs. After four days, sampling results showed E. coli counts below the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency criteria. HCPH then recommended lifting the restrictions for recreational lake activity.

Mr. Davidson noted public swimming pool/spa licensing and opening inspections are nearly complete for the 2025 season. This year, HCPH was responsible for licensing 395 public swimming pools, approximately the same as 2024.

Environmental Health enforcement updates are included in the Board packet.

Mr. Miller asked a question about the Addyston chemical plant closure. Mr. Davidson noted that HCPH does not have direct involvement with it but has been receiving information about the process to close the plant.

## **8. Finances**

The May 2025 Disbursement Reports are included in the Board packet.

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

**Dr. Kelly** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

## **9. New Business**

### **Resolution B: 2025-Budget Revisions for the Tuberculosis Program**

Commissioner Kesterman provided details for these budget revisions which do not add monies but only shifts monies laid out in the revisions.

**Dr. Kelly** moved to approve Resolution B: 2025 Budget Revisions for the Tuberculosis Program.

**Mr. Knapp** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

### **Regulation 2: Adopting Revised Local Fees for Plumbing and Medical Gas Installations**

**Mr. Knapp** moved to approve Regulation 2: Adopting Revised Local Fees for Plumbing and Medical Gas Installations.

**Mr. Miller** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

### **Regulation 3: Adopting Regulations for Maintenance, Installation, and Inspection of Plumbing and Medical Gas Systems**

**Mr. Miller** moved to approve Regulation 3: Adopting Regulations for Maintenance, Installation, and Inspection of Plumbing and Medical Gas Systems with the revision on Section 2, Subsection C, to include the addition of the requirement for surety to be A minus listed as well as listed on the Treasury Circular 570.

**Dr. Kelly** seconded the motion as revised.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**


**10. Adjournment**

**Mr. Miller** moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

**Mr. Knapp** seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote – All Aye**

Next Board of Health meeting: July 14, at 4 p.m.

  
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Dan Meloy, President  
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Greg Kesterman, Secretary  
Health Commissioner