



# Hancock Public Health

## Board of Health

### Regular Meeting Agenda

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 7:30 a.m.



#### **MEMBER ATTENDANCE:**

- X Barbara J. Pasztor, MSN, RN (President)
- X William Alge, Esq.
- X Brian Edler (Vice President)
- X Karen Jones, MSN, RN
- X Michael Lindamood, M.D.
- X Nancy Moody-Russo, RN, JD (via cell phone)
- X Robin Spoons

- X Karim Baroudi, MPH, Health Commissioner
- X Nathaniel Ratnasamy, M.D., Medical Director

#### **STAFF:**

- X Shannon Chamberlin, Nursing Director
- X Chad Masters, Health P&P Director
- X Craig Niese, IT/Data Manager
- X Lindsay Summit, Environmental Health Director
- X Alexa Heacock, Help Me Grow Director

## **1.0 CONVENTION**

### **1.1 Call to Order**

Board President Pasztor called the August 2021 regular virtual meeting to order at 7:40 a.m.

### **1.2 Introduction of Public Guests and Employees:**

Public guest, Jennifer Conway, PhD, Integrity Chiropractic and Wellness of Findlay, Ohio, was welcomed by Commissioner Baroudi to make a statement to the Board, per her request, speaking on behalf of a gathering outside Hancock Public Health during the Board meeting on 8/20/21 of concerned parents of school-aged children. Dr. Conway expressed concern about COVID-negative children being quarantined and missing school due to possible exposure. Dr. Conway further voiced concern among the parent group about the definition of positive COVID cases, methods of testing new variants, data collection reliability, and what Dr. Conway described as fearmongering in news media. Dr. Conway stated her purpose for speaking to the Board of Health was to ask for transparency from public leaders. President Pasztor and Commissioner Baroudi thanked Dr. Conway for her statements. President Pasztor offered Board members to present pertinent discussion. Vice President Edler recounted his 28-year-old son's personal experience with Delta-variant COVID, so far hospitalized 40 days, in critical condition on a heart/lung bypass machine. No further comments were offered by Board members or Dr. Conway. Dr. Conway left the virtual meeting at 7:45 a.m.

## **2.0 BOARD ACTIONS/REGULATIONS/VARIANCES/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

### **2.1 Approval of August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Agenda Items**

President Pasztor requested motion to approve the 8/20/21 meeting agenda as presented in the Board information packet.

**Vice President Edler moved to approve the Agenda of the August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Regular Board of Health meeting. Seconded by Ms. Jones. Motion carried 6-0.**

## **2.2 Approval of July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**

President Pasztor requested motion to approve the 7/16/21 meeting minutes as presented.

**Dr. Lindamood moved to approve the minutes of the July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Board of Health meeting as transcribed.** Seconded by Vice President Edler. **Motion carried 6-0.**

## **2.3 Approval of July 2021 Bill Schedule**

President Pasztor requested motion to approve the bill schedule as presented.

**Dr. Lindamood moved to approve the bill schedule for July 2021.** Seconded by Ms. Jones. **Motion carried 6-0.**

## **2.4 Board of Health to RECOGNIZE Revenue for fiscal year ending 12/31/21:**

**2.4.1 General Fund in the amount of \$1,000.00 (CF CPR training grant)**

**2.4.2 CO21 in the amount of \$66,765.00**

**2.4.3 EO21 (COVID Enhanced Operations) in the amount of \$25,000.00**

President Pasztor requested motion to approve Board recognition of revenue, as above.

**Ms. Spoons moved to approve the Board Recognition of Revenue, as presented.** Seconded by Vice President Edler. **Motion carried 6-0.**

## **2.5 Board of Health to Approve Appropriation INCREASE for fiscal year ending 12/31/21:**

**2.5.1 CO21 Grant – Salary, Contract Services, Equipment, and Supplies Line Items in the amount of \$81,765.00**

**2.5.2 PHEP FY'22 Grant – Salary and Fringes Line Items in the amount of \$1,021.08**

President Pasztor requested motion to approve appropriation increase, as above.

**Vice President Edler moved to approve the Appropriation Increase, as presented.** Seconded by Mr. Alge. **Motion carried 6-0.**

## **2.6 Board of Health to Approve Appropriation DECREASE for fiscal year ending 12/31/21:**

**2.6.1 DR'21 project in the amount of \$4,120.62 (Drug Overdose Reduction Grant)**

**2.6.2 PHEP FY'22 project in the amount of \$6,822.48**

President Pasztor requested motion to approve appropriation decrease, as above.

**Mr. Alge moved to approve the Appropriation Decrease, as presented.** Seconded by Ms. Spoons. **Motion carried 6-0.**

## **2.7 Board of Health to authorize School Nursing Service Agreement with ESC**

Commissioner Baroudi explained the current re-authorization service agreement for HPH Nursing to provide services to identified Hancock County Schools would be for school calendar years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

President Pasztor requested motion to approve School Nursing Service Agreement, as above.

**Ms. Jones moved to approve the School Nursing Service Agreement with ESC for school calendar years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.** Seconded by Mr. Alge. **Motion carried 6-0.**

## **2.8 Board of Health to authorize BVHS/HPH Shared Services Agreement**

Commissioner Baroudi stated the Board had previously (7/16/21) tabled this proposal for a contract between HPH and Blanchard Valley Health System (BVHS) for the purpose of staffing the Mobile Health Clinic (MHC) with a BVHS Nurse Practitioner, APRN-CNP, due to potential conflict of interest for President Pasztor. Commissioner Baroudi reported he spoke with Cindy Land, Hancock County Prosecutor's Office, who gave verbal advisement that there was no conflict of interest for President Pasztor. Mr. Baroudi stated he is in process of pursuing formal written statement of no conflict of interest from Prosecutor's Office regarding same.

President Pasztor requested motion to approve authorization of BVHS/HPH Shared Service Agreement, pending written confirmation of no conflict of interest from Hancock County Prosecutor's Office. **Ms. Jones moved to approve the authorization of a BVHS/HPH Shared Services Agreement, as presented and pending written confirmation.** Seconded by Vice President Edler. **Motion carried 5-0, with President Pasztor abstaining from vote.**

## **2.9 Board of Health to Approve Septic System Variance Request**

Ms. Summit described a property for sale on 1935 W. Main Cross, Liberty Township, which was identified as not having a secondary sewage treatment system. City of Findlay Engineering verified that same property address is included in plans for a sanitary sewer connection project in the near future. Owner is requesting a one-year variance to allow finance planning for sanitary sewer connection, rather than spend thousands of dollars on a new septic system which will be used for a very short time before city connection. Mr. Alge asked if said property address is a residence; Ms. Summit answered yes. Mr. Edler asked if this is an historical norm; Ms. Summit and Commissioner Baroudi answered yes. Mr. Alge asked how prospective buyers would be notified of such a variance; Ms. Summit answered that the involved realtor would be notified after today's Board decision and formal documentation would be placed in said property address HPH file. Commissioner Baroudi asked if the current septic system at said address is considered a public nuisance; Ms. Summit answered there is no currently identified public nuisance with the septic system at said address.

President Pasztor requested motion to approve septic system variance request, as above. **Vice President Edler moved to approve the One-Year Septic System Variance Request at 1935 W. Main Cross St, Liberty Township.** Seconded by Ms. Jones. **Motion carried 6-0.**

## **3.0 STAFF REPORTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

### **3.1 Medical Director – Dr. Ratnasamy**

Dr. Ratnasamy reported on current upward trend of positive COVID cases and hospitalizations in Hancock County. He stated this trend is increasingly concerning to the medical community, as when hospital capacity is reached the ability to give full medical service to patients is diminished. Vice President Edler asked for clarification regarding how positive cases are tracked from county to county in Ohio, for example when a Hancock Co. resident is transferred to another county's hospital system for treatment. Dr. Ratnasamy and Commissioner Baroudi stated that the hospital system itself does not track positive cases; HPH tracks and reports on positive cases, thus a Hancock Co. resident who is transferred would still be tracked and reported on as a Hancock Co. case. Ms. Jones asked how the Delta variant testing is conducted.

Dr. Ratnasamy answered that variant (Delta) sequence testing is not available at BVHS, thus variant tests are sent to Ohio Department of Health or other labs with testing capacity, and final results take approximately a week for BVHS to receive.

### **3.2 July 2021 Financial Report and Analysis – Karim Baroudi**

Commissioner Baroudi summarized the financial Board report and slide presentation, stating that data reflects July 2021 trends to be consistent with a six-year comparison, with a reassuring trend of revenue sloping slightly upward and expenses sloping slightly downward. No concerns voiced by the Board regarding financial analysis.

### **3.3 Health Planning & Promotion Services – Chad Masters**

Mr. Masters reviewed his prepared Board report and stated there were no additions. Ms. Jones asked for clarification of the role of a Family Resource Center staff person (Lexi) named in Mr. Masters' report on the Mobile Health Clinic (MHC). Commissioner Baroudi answered that Lexi is a Peer Support Specialist and was part of the in-kind mental health personnel contribution from the ADAMHS Board named to help with the MHC. Mr. Baroudi explained Lexi's main function will be conducting mental health wellness assessments and service referrals.

### **3.4 Health Services – Shannon Chamberlin**

Ms. Chamberlin summarized her prepared Board report. Commissioner Baroudi added that the HPH Nursing Staff (and in part all HPH staff) will be especially busy in 2021 compared to 2020 due to a variety of factors. In 2020 regular vaccination clinics were closed to allow more focus on COVID clinics/education/tracking; in 2021 all regular vaccination clinics will be open in addition to regular COVID vaccination clinics and the potential of a third COVID vaccination and/or COVID booster, with the added Nursing responsibility of educating smaller businesses requesting help with motivating their younger professionals about the benefits of COVID vaccination. Mr. Alge asked if immunocompromised individuals have been clearly defined by any governing body. Ms. Chamberlin stated the CDC provided a list of people who qualify as immunocompromised. Commissioner Baroudi reported HPH is considering opening a link to share with physician offices and possible opening a 3<sup>rd</sup> COVID vaccine dose clinic, for people defined as immunocompromised by the CDC and State. Mr. Edler stated many community members had asked what to do if they lost their COVID vaccination card record. Ms. Chamberlin advised that anyone who received their vaccines in Ohio could call HPH, provide name/DOB/photo ID, and a new vaccine card will be issued; however, no out-of-state COVID vaccine records can be accessed, thus individuals who received shots out of state would need to contact the state in which they received vaccine for replacement cards.

### **3.5 Help Me Grow (HMG) Program – Alexa Heacock**

Ms. Heacock summarized her prepared Board report, emphasizing that revenue for the HMG Program is stable. Currently the program is at capacity, serving 100 families, with only one family on the waiting list. HMG staff are following state guidelines during all family visits and group programming for allowance of face-to-face visits with use of masks, social distancing and monitoring for COVID symptoms.

Commissioner Baroudi congratulated Ms. Heacock and the HMG team for their high score on the ODH Virtual Desk Review, meeting 97% of program expectations.

### **3.6 Environmental Health Services – Lindsay Summit**

Ms. Summit stated EH staff are wrapping up their seasonal food/pool/school inspections and continuing with spraying for mosquitos for a few more seasonal events, with Ryan Burks taking over Trae Gulgin's duties in the mosquito program.

Ms. Summit updated the Board on two meetings recently attended by Commissioner Baroudi and herself: 1) Findlay City Council Water & Sewer Committee Group, which provided a good opportunity for dialog concerning water and sewage projects moving forward; and 2) Annual Township Meeting, where Sen. Rob McColley and Rep. Jon Cross discussed Senate Bill 52 regarding solar farms and concerns were voiced from township groups and County Commissioners. Ms. Summit stated HPH has not received many questions from residents regarding the solar project.

Ms. Summit further reported the Bittersweet/Bluebonnet septic project is nearing completion. Commissioner Baroudi added there is a letter being drafted to property owners addressing the variance approved by the BOH on 7/16/21; the final letter will be shared with the Board.

### **3.7 IT & Health Data Management Services – Craig Niece**

Mr. Niece stated he has been working on the backlog of IT projects that had accumulated since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, including a Document Management System for increased efficiency in Environmental Health and Finance records, purchase of a new backup firewall system, and upcoming purchase of an upgraded temperature monitoring system for vaccines. Vice President Edler explained a temperature monitoring system he uses in his restaurant chains which may be helpful for HPH use and invited Mr. Niece to call if interested in more information.

### **3.8 Health Commissioner Remarks – Karim Baroudi**

Commissioner Baroudi expressed thanks to Vice President Edler for sharing his son's personal COVID experience with the Board and Board guest, Dr. Conway, and asked Mr. Edler if he might share same story with HPH staff.

**COVID Update:** Commissioner Baroudi first reported on HPH current COVID approach with Hancock County schools. Mr. Baroudi stated parents are emotionally charged about current protocol recommendations and sending many messages to HPH, all to which he is attempting to respond. Commissioner Baroudi continues to have weekly meetings with school superintendents to share information/communicate COVID recommendations. Mr. Baroudi stated the School Boards are in a hard position, balancing keeping students in school AND keeping students COVID safe. Mr. Baroudi emphasized the seriousness of the continued COVID pandemic and included most recent statistics that in two weeks Hancock County moved from being classified as having low to no exposure risk to highest exposure risk on Monday 8/16/21. Mr. Baroudi stated the only difference from 2020 is that there will be no COVID mandates given to School Boards, only recommendations.

Commissioner Baroudi stated he asked the guest parents standing outside the building who requested to attend the current BOH meeting (8/20/21) what they were requesting of the Board and stated he felt their answer was ambiguous. The parents had voiced their desire for

“transparency.” Commissioner Baroudi stated the Health Dept. is not attempting to force COVID recommendations on citizens, instead the Health Dept. is offering education and tools for the public to use in making safe, health-conscious decisions. Mr. Baroudi added that the onus is on each individual citizen now, including parents and schools, to keep themselves, their loved ones, and larger community safe, and that includes seeking out scientific information and getting the COVID vaccine. The Commissioner expressed appreciation to Board members for their continued support during this tumultuous time for Hancock Public Health.

**Legislative Update:** Commissioner Baroudi summarized House Bill 244, which is up in committees again and stipulates that no person can be mandated to receive vaccines. Mr. Baroudi expressed his opinion that if the concerned citizens and Public Health do not speak up for what is right at this point, Public Health will lose 100 year of vaccination progress. He urged the Board members to speak with their friend, neighbors, and the larger community about the potential detriment of House Bill 244 and the importance of vaccinations for increasing life expectancy.

Ms. Jones stated there had been concern among some residents about breakthrough COVID cases in individuals who had been fully vaccinated. She asked if this is cause for concern. Commissioner Baroudi stated that approximately one-third of the August 2021 Hancock Co. COVID positive cases were breakthrough cases. Although this seems like a large percentage, it is reassuring that the majority of breakthrough cases are very mild in symptoms, with only 3 requiring hospitalization, and no specific vaccination brand is identified as underperforming. Mr. Baroudi stated the final word on vaccinations are that they decrease the need for hospitalization/ICU stays and help to minimize the effects of COVID. Dr. Ratnasamy added to the discussion on breakthrough COVID cases by stating there have been no ICU or vent cases in people who contract COVID after being fully vaccinated. Further, Dr. Ratnasamy stated no vaccine can provide 100% protection from any illness, all vaccination responses are variable, and vaccine response is dependent on the general wellness of the host (i.e. if a person already has a weak immune system prior to being vaccinated, he/she may have decreased protection than a person with a previously strong immune system). Dr. Ratnasamy also stated new COVID variants (i.e., Delta) have changed the nature of breakthrough cases and symptoms. In summary, although the scientific community is still learning, research continues to demonstrate that getting the COVID vaccine increases the likelihood of protecting oneself, one’s family, neighbors and the larger community from potentially catastrophic effects of contracting COVID.

Mr. Alge asked for clarification of a color-coded Ohio map distributed in the Board packet for 8/20/21. Commissioner Baroudi presented the CDC map on the screen and stated the map designates each county with a risk level of COVID transmission, with red being the highest risk level. Hancock County was one of the last counties in Ohio to be designated as red, however, now almost all of Ohio is red. Being designated as red means that there are over 100 COVID positive cases per 100,000 individuals in that county, which is considered a high level of transmission or high cases per capita.

Dr. Lindamood asked for clarification of a question voiced by Board guest, Dr. Conway: “What is considered a (COVID) case?” Commissioner Baroudi referenced Senate Bill 22, which defines a medical diagnosis (or case) as any positive result from an authorized FDA-approved test which

was conducted under the supervision of a qualified professional. Dr. Ratnasamy pointed out to the Board to take into consideration that every test method has limitations with potential false positive/negative results, and that the spectrum of COVID infections can range from asymptomatic to catastrophic; thus, even in the complete absence of symptoms, with a positive test a person is able to shed the virus and spread to others.

Ms. Jones stated some citizens are stating they are protected from contracting the Delta variant because they previously had contracted and survived COVID. She asked for clarification. Dr. Ratnasamy stated the scientific literature demonstrates that having COVID previously may increase immunity or decrease severity of symptoms if contracted a second time, however, the people having the strongest immune response with the least catastrophic symptoms are people who have been fully vaccinated, regardless of whether or not those people had COVID previously.

Dr. Lindamood asked if there are contraindications to getting the COVID vaccination, i.e., interfering with a person's immune system. Dr. Ratnasamy explained most symptoms from having the vaccine last only one-two days and are mild flu-like responses with no catastrophic events. Dr. Ratnasamy stated there may be individual cases who report a hyperimmune response from the vaccine, but when looking at larger groups in research studies there have been no lasting side effects documented as a direct result of receiving the COVID vaccine.

Finally, Mr. Alge asked for confirmation of the idea that the bottom line on COVID vaccinations is that even if a person has contracted COVID previously, that person is still recommended to receive a COVID vaccine for increased protection from catastrophic symptoms in the event he/she contracts COVID a second time. Dr. Ratnasamy agreed/confirmed.

#### **4.0 OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Personnel**

Commissioner Baroudi announced no new hiring or separation in the month of July.

##### **4.2 Ohio Association of Boards of Health (OABH) 2021 Annual Meeting: 9/18/21, 10 a.m.--2 p.m.**

Commissioner Baroudi urged Board members to attend the OABH meeting on 9/18/21, where legislative issues affecting Public Health will be addressed, including Senate Bill 22, House Bill 244, and House Bill 248. All details of the meeting were provided in the Board packet. Mr. Baroudi stated the location may change based on COVID risk level. Updates on meeting location will be provided to the Board, and if virtual a link will be provided.

Mr. Alge made comment that he saw the Mobile Health Clinic (MHC) at the Arlington Village Parade and was glad to know that the MHC would be having a presence in rural communities. Commissioner Baroudi reported Craig Niese, Elisa Dyer, and Lisa Jolliff took the MHC to the McComb parade, as well, and the MHC would be stationed at the fairgrounds during the entire week of the upcoming Hancock Co. Fair in a prime location beside the Sheriff's building.

President Pasztor described a large campaign being initiated at Blanchard Valley Hospital for the intent of motivating/educating/incentivizing hospital staff about the COVID vaccine. Ms. Pasztor asked Commissioner Baroudi if HPH should be involved in such a campaign. Mr. Baroudi

stated he would like to team up with BVH, as he feels it is the duty of Public Health and community leaders to keep vaccine information accessible to all citizens. He added that HPH is currently offering various incentives for people receiving the COVID vaccine. In the long term, Mr. Baroudi reported HPH may need to evaluate how much staff is being used in COVID public relations efforts, as this may take away from other HPH services, however, for now he opined every vaccination received is considered progress.

## 5.0 CONTINUING EDUCATION

5.1 No CEUs were offered at the current meeting; links will be provided for individual completion.

## 6.0 NEXT MEETING

6.1 Friday, 9/17/21, 7:30 a.m., Hancock Public Health, 2225 Keith Parkway, Findlay, Ohio.

## 7.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Pasztor requested motion for adjournment of the 8/20/21 Board of Health meeting.

**Ms. Spoons motioned the Board of Health to adjourn the regular meeting of 8/20/21 at 9:02 a.m.**  
Seconded by Vice President Edler. **Motion carried 6-0.**



Barbara J. Pasztor, RN, MSN Board President



Karim Baroudi, MPH, Board Secretary