



Hancock Public Health

Board of Health

Regular Meeting Agenda

December 17th, 2021, 7:30 a.m.



BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

- X Barbara J. Pasztor, MSN, RN (President)
- X William Alge, Esq.
- X Brian Edler (Vice President)
- X Karen Jones, MSN, RN (exited 8:50 a.m. to volunteer at Vax Clinic)
- X Michael Lindamood, M.D.
- A Nancy Moody-Russo, RN, JD
- X Robin Spoons

- X Karim Baroudi, MPH, Health Commissioner
- X Nathaniel Ratnasamy, M.D., Medical Director (arrived 8:20 a.m.)

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

President Pasztor called the December 2021 regular meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

1.2 Introduction of Public, Guests and Employees:

Commissioner Baroudi announced one guest, Sara Arthurs, Journalist, The Findlay Courier.

2.0 BOARD ACTIONS/REGULATIONS/VARIANCES/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2.1 Approval of December 17th, 2021, Agenda Items

President Pasztor requested motion to approve the 12/17/21 meeting agenda as presented in the Board information packet.

Ms. Spoons moved to approve the Agenda of the December 17th, 2021, Regular Board of Health meeting. Seconded by Ms. Jones. **Motion carried 6-0.**

2.2 Approval of November 19th, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes

President Pasztor requested motion to approve the 11/19/21 meeting minutes.

Dr. Lindamood moved to approve the minutes of the November 19th, 2021, Board of Health meeting as transcribed. Seconded by Vice President Edler. **Motion carried 6-0.**

2.3 Approval of November 2021 Bill Schedule

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

Ms. Jones moved to approve the bill schedule for November 2021. Seconded by Ms. Spoons. **Motion carried 6-0.**

2.4 Board of Health to approve REVENUE DECREASE for fiscal year ending 12/31/21:

2.4.1 Drug Overdose FY'22 project in the amount of \$11,477.03

President Pasztor requested motion to approve revenue decrease.

Vice President Edler moved to approve Revenue Decrease, as presented. Seconded by Dr. Lindamood. **Motion carried 6-0.**

2.5 Board of Health to approve APPROPRIATION DECREASE for fiscal year ending 12/31/21:

2.5.1 Drug Overdose FY'22 project in the amount of \$32,700.53

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

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

2.6 Third and Final Board of Health Reading of Proposed 2022 Environmental Health Fees

Ms. Summit explained there have been no fee changes since the second Board reading. A complete list of final reading fees was provided in the 12/17/21 Board packet. Ms. Summit stated if Board approves today, 2022 EH Fees will be effective 1/3/22 per Ohio Revised Code.

President Pasztor requested motion to approve the Third Reading of Fees, as presented.

Vice President Edler moved to approve the Third Reading of the Proposed 2022 Environmental Fees, as above. Seconded by Dr. Lindamood. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Commissioner Baroudi read roll call:

Roll Call: Ms. Pasztor (BJ): YES

Ms. Spoor (Robin): YES

Ms. Moody-Russo (Nancy): Absent

Mr. Alge (Bill): YES

Ms. Jones (Karen): YES

Mr. Edler (Brian): YES

Dr. Lindamood: YES

3.0 STAFF REPORTS ON PROGRAMS & SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

3.1 Medical Director – Dr. Ratnasamy

Dr. Ratnasamy stated that, although COVID death rates have not increased recently, COVID cases are increasing rapidly (doubling every couple days in UK with similar trends in other countries and beginning to rapidly increase in US), which is predictive of an increase in death rates in the next two-three weeks. Currently the US is experiencing 1000 deaths/day. Dr. Ratnasamy referred to the ODH COVID Dashboard Site, which provides a good summary of breakthrough COVID cases in vaccinated people. Overall, data demonstrate significantly lower hospitalization rates and deaths in vaccinated people vs. nonvaccinated, despite that there are still breakthrough cases where fully vaccinated people can contract COVID. Thus, the most significant message to continue relaying to public is to get vaccinated and have a booster.

Dr. Ratnasamy reviewed the three main COVID therapeutics currently being used for COVID:

- 1) Remdesivir – broad-spectrum antiviral, studies shown to shorten length of hospital stay and possibly reduce death, early treatment is crucial;

- 2) Protease inhibitor by Pfizer – coming up for approval process, main action is on enzyme used by virus to build on itself, encouraging data with one study demonstrating 89% reduction in hospitalizations/death if treated within three days of onset.
- 3) Molnupiravir – FDA approved but with small trial and small margin of approval, stops virus from replicating, more unknown results and concerns regarding therapeutic efficacy than any other treatments.

Discussion ensued regarding the COVID Omicron variant, which is spreading quickly (reported in 38 countries) and expected in US. College campuses are beginning to shut down due to widespread positivity with Omicron, even among highly vaccinated populations. Dr. Ratnasamy summarized two main hypotheses explaining reasons for Omicron development: 1) Possible mutation of COVID into Omicron variant in immunocompromised hosts (particularly in S. Africa) due to immunocompromised hosts having COVID for much longer time than nonimmune-compromised hosts, which gives virus more time to mutate, then spread back to the nonimmune-compromised population in the mutated version; 2) Possibility of COVID being contracted by animals, undergoing mutation in animal hosts, then spreading back to human population in mutated version.

Dr. Ratnasamy introduced that the COVID Omicron variant is three times more likely to reinfect both naturally immune people and vaccinated people. Dr. Ratnasamy stated Omicron symptoms appear to be milder than other variants and the data thus far demonstrate that receiving the COVID booster may add a layer of protection against Omicron.

The future of COVID was discussed, with Dr. Ratnasamy explaining that scientists are comparing patterns of other viruses in order to make predictions about the future patterns of COVID. The viruses used in comparison include RSV – worse in children, mild in healthy adults, partial immunity in adulthood, Influenza A – rapid mutation in adults, some protection if already had H1N1 OR H3N3, but still get sick from time to time, and Influenza B – mutates slower, so children are more susceptible, adults with shorter recovery time. Members of the Board and staff asked various questions about Omicron, including which viral pattern Omicron is expected to follow (Commissioner Baroudi), will Omicron create immunity across the board for COVID (President Pasztor), will there be a specialized vaccination for Omicron only (President Pasztor), will there be a general seasonal COVID vaccination (Mr. Masters), and will the Omicron variant cause increased false negativity with use of testing kits; Dr. Ratnasamy replied that it is too soon to know the answers to these questions, more research is required, but possibly the Omicron variant could produce a more robust immune response.

Treatment of COVID using monoclonal antibodies (MA) was discussed, with Dr. Ratnasamy concluding there is a new MA developed by Pfizer coming out which might be better in treating Omicron. In general, MAs are still helping in reducing COVID hospitalizations by 80%.

3.2 November 2021 Financial Report and Analysis – Karim Baroudi

Commissioner Baroudi summarized November 2021 financial trends, concluding HPH will be ending 2021 in the black. Mr. Baroudi reviewed the six-year comparison, noting consistency in revenue and expenditures since 2016. Mr. Alge commended HPH staff on the positive audit report most recently conducted. Commissioner Baroudi noted Board members received an email from the Auditor with the audit report attached for review.

3.3 Health Planning & Promotion Services – Chad Masters

Mr. Masters presented three additional items to his Board report. First, Mr. Masters announced the hiring of a new outreach/communications associate, Cheryl Miller, effective 1/10/22. Ms. Miller offers an extensive history in health care and marketing. Second, Mr. Masters reported on a new ODH grant opportunity for vaccine administration, total of \$118,000.00 starting 1/1/22 through June of 2023. Further report on this grant will be given to the Board when information is available. Third, Mr. Masters stated he wished to acknowledge the benefits of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers, who have been assisting with contact tracing calls and also COVID vaccination clinics. Overall, MRCs donated time has totaled 1900 plus hours of service, estimated to equal \$69,000.00 from 1/2021 through 12/2021.

Mr. Alge noted the jail is having issues with significant staffing shortages. He asked if these jail staffing issues will impact HPH. Commissioner Baroudi answered he believes there may be indirect impacts on the Injury Prevention program, however, predicts there will be limited negative impact overall.

3.4 Health Services – Shannon Chamberlin

Ms. Chamberlin reiterated Mr. Masters' statement of appreciation for the MRC volunteers and added HPH Nursing staff could not continue to provide clinic services in areas outside COVID without the volunteers. Ms. Chamberlin summarized participation in a recent Marion Township meeting, announcing a special recognition bestowed upon Commissioner Baroudi during that meeting. Ms. Chamberlin expressed her hope that in the future HPH can form successful working relationships with other townships, as has been established with Marion Twp. No other information was changed from the Health Services report in the BOH packet.

President Pasztor asked Ms. Chamberlin if she feels Hancock Co. residents have easy access to COVID boosters. Ms. Chamberlin stated the pharmacies have been providing 80% of the COVID boosters, and there is hope that medical providers/physicians might begin providing boosters to their own patients, however, that has not occurred yet. Unfortunately, pharmacies have fallen behind and have not been able to schedule booster appointments immediately, thus there has been a delay for residents wanting the booster shots. Commissioner Baroudi explained BVH had discussed mass booster clinics in cooperation with HPH, but Mr. Baroudi expressed these mass clinics took away most HPH staff from regular duties and were not utilized by Hancock Co. residents as massively as expected. Thus, mass clinics are not being considered, and instead HPH is going to begin offering walk-in COVID booster clinics along with private appointments.

President Pasztor asked what percentage of qualified Hancock Co. residents have received COVID boosters. Commissioner Baroudi stated that percentage of eligible population who got their booster shot is about 46% and actual percentage in the population as a whole is only about 20%, which is a low rate of boosted Hancock County residents.

President Pasztor asked if HPH feels Hancock Co. residents are aware of waning immunity and the need to receive a COVID booster. Ms. Chamberlin reported more messaging to the community was going to begin regarding need for boosters and eligibility during winter break,

which will reach more local and college students and their families. Commissioner Baroudi stated there seems to be reluctance to receive the booster in Hancock Co. currently. President Pasztor suggested when data regarding boosters is clearer, it would be helpful to publicize this information on HPH website and other media sources to provide a more widespread message regarding the importance of receiving boosters. Mr. Alge asked if there are opportunities to utilize the Mobile Health Clinic (MHC) for COVID booster outreach services. Ms. Chamberlin explained due to the tight space in the MHC, it is difficult to observe safe COVID distancing recommendations while monitoring each patient after the shot is received. In warmer months, patients are monitored while standing outside. Mr. Alge suggested it would be beneficial to publicize to Hancock Co. residents the message that using the MHC limits safe distancing compliance in colder months. Ms. Jones suggested mass booster clinics could possibly occur in larger industrial buildings or township facilities. President Pasztor suggested drive-through boosters where patients are observed in their vehicles. Mr. Alge stated residents have expressed to him they believe it is difficult to get the booster or they believe it is not yet available. Commissioner Baroudi stated within HPH, he has not observed any single person who wanted the booster but could not receive it.

President Pasztor mentioned the significance of monoclonal antibody treatment in preventing hospital admissions and death due to COVID and asked if HPH is involved in communicating this message of monoclonal antibody treatment. Commissioner Baroudi cautioned against advertising monoclonal antibodies due to a current significant shortage of this treatment resource. State allocations of monoclonal antibodies are not clear, and Mr. Baroudi is awaiting more information about exact data regarding regional allocation.

Discussion ensued regarding Blanchard Valley Hospital policy/procedure/qualifications surrounding monoclonal antibody treatment. Vice President Edler asked if HPH could participate in publicizing monoclonal antibody guidelines. Ms. Jones expressed she feels it is crucial to communicate qualifications for receiving monoclonal antibody therapy to the public for clarification that people are receiving appropriate medical care. Board meeting guest, Sara Arthurs, Journalist, stated she has an upcoming interview with a BVH critical care pulmonologist and will be publicizing a story in the Courier regarding monoclonal antibody treatment.

Commissioner Baroudi reported there is anticipation for approval of an oral (pill) treatment for COVID, which will initially be allocated from the State to hospitals and pharmacies for patients who have a prescription. Mr. Alge expressed he believes there is a public misconception that having the COVID vaccine eliminates the chance of contracting COVID. Discussion ensued regarding decreased mask compliance in Hancock Co. and its implicated dangers.

3.5 Help Me Grow (HMG) Program – Alexa Heacock

Ms. Heacock reported there are 115 participating families in the HMG Program, with seven families on a wait list currently. Due to an increase in COVID illness among HMG participants and increased household spread, HMG Program has been screening all participants for illness. Ms. Heacock announced the HMG Program is currently waiting to hear from ODH (01/2022)

regarding program rule changes, with a potential for expanding services to include up to 5-year-olds (current limit is up to 3-year-olds). Vice President Edler asked if an expansion will put more families on waiting lists and asked about potential for broad HMG Program expansion considering the possible rule change. Ms. Heacock answered she is constantly reassessing for program expansion possibilities. Commissioner Baroudi stated he would not want to expand too quickly, for fear that currently participating families might drop out of program if incentives were significantly decreased. See Board report for additional details.

3.6 Environmental Health (EH) Services – Lindsay Summit

Ms. Summit summarized her Board report, including announcing that EH continues to struggle with inspection completions due to constant staff shortages (mainly EH staff covering in COVID response roles). The EPA Solid Waste Survey was completed during week of 12/6/21 and HPH will be recommended to be placed on the Solid Waste Approval List, with no major issues during survey. Ms. Summit expressed her appreciation for Craig Krajeski, Registered Sanitarian, considering his increased responsibility during the survey. Ms. Summit further announced the ODH Food Survey upcoming in 01/2022 and that the Bittersweet/Bluebonnet sewage project is moving faster than anticipated, with connection availability immediately; City Council waived initial connection fees, relieving some financial burden for involved families.

3.7 IT & Health Data Management Services – Craig Niese

Mr. Niese updated the Board on the three major IT projects he has been focusing on recently: 1) Security system upgrades, including purchasing more and better-upgraded cameras. 2) Applying patches (program modifications) to major software systems for increased cyber security/performance; 3) Working with network company to eliminate issues with extra firewall system before permanent install. Vice President Edler asked about back-up IT staff in the event of Mr. Niese's absence, considering the high-level nature of these projects. Mr. Niese stated HPH Registrar Dan Klein acts as daily back-up, but for higher level operations HPH has a contract with a networking provider and can receive assistance from the County IT Dept. if needed. Commissioner Baroudi commended Mr. Niese for his efforts and regularly added hours with behind-the-scenes ongoing IT projects.

3.8 Health Commissioner Remarks – Karim Baroudi

COVID Update: Commissioner Baroudi summarized Hancock Co. COVID trends, as presented in the Board packet. There is a new recent COVID surge in positive cases, increases in hospitalizations and deaths, with lower age ranges being affected. Mr. Baroudi stated the data are compelling for the protective effects of being fully vaccinated and having a booster and reviewed those statistics with the Board. Vaccination trends were discussed, with Hancock County finally reaching above 50% of its population at least starting the vaccination process; 47.6% of Hancock Co. residents are fully vaccinated.

Commissioner Baroudi announced Hancock County is approaching the one-year anniversary of COVID vaccine availability, 12/23/21, and he brought the vial of the very first vaccination administered on that historic date. To date, 88,000 doses have been administered in Hancock Co., including first doses, second doses, and boosters.

The issue of waning immunity even after receiving first and second shots was raised, with Commissioner Baroudi concluding that breakthrough cases in vaccinated individuals is justification for the importance of vaccinated individuals getting a COVID booster.

Vice President Edler asked if detailed COVID data in Hancock Co. will be provided going forward. Commissioner Baroudi answered the State does not organize or provide local data; thus it is HPH staff who are doing most the legwork of data collection/analysis. The best message thus far from any data collected continues to be to get a booster shot. Vice President Edler asks if there have been any COVID deaths in fully immunized and boosted individuals. Mr. Baroudi answered there has been one death (out of nine breakthrough death cases) in Hancock Co. of a person who was fully vaccinated and boosted. Commissioner stated data will of course continue to be organized/analyzed, but he emphasized the compelling data showing booster effectiveness in decreasing severe illness from COVID, hospitalizations, and death.

Marion Township Dinner: Commissioner Baroudi reported on the Marion Twp. Dinner, to which HPH leadership were invited, with Ms. Heacock, Ms. Chamberlin, Ms. Summit, and Commissioner in attendance. Mr. Baroudi expressed that Marion Twp. gave great recognition of HPH efforts county wide toward the COVID pandemic and vaccination response. Many elected officials were also present at the meeting, and HPH leadership in attendance were able to give presentations on the services involved in their respective departments. Commissioner Baroudi emphasized the importance of maintaining the positive relationship between Marion Township and Hancock Public Health.

4.0 OLD/NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Personnel

Jannie Derstine, HMG Home Visitor I, hired effective 12/1/21.

Jessica Shrake, Junior Epidemiologist, effective 12/13/21. Commissioner Baroudi announced Ms. Shrake as an unofficial hire who was granted to HPH by the CDC Foundation, full time, salary paid by the CDC. Due to the current CDC travel advisory, Ms. Shrake has been working remotely, but Mr. Baroudi expects she will be able to help with data collection/analysis and possibly with other projects such as accreditation. Mr. Alge asked if there would be a press release regarding Ms. Shrake; Mr. Baroudi answered that a press announcement will be made in the next couple weeks and Ms. Shrake will attend the next Board meeting virtually. Mr. Baroudi reported there is talk of extending Ms. Shrake's six-month assignment to the full year of 2022.

4.2 Strategic Planning 2022-2024 Session with the Board completed, 12/2/21

Commissioner Baroudi expressed thanks to all who attended the strategic planning meeting. The presentation of the plan report will hopefully be ready for January 2022. Commissioner Baroudi summarized the four main strategic initiatives: 1) Deploy the Mobile Health Clinic and increase use/community publicity; 2) Improve communication both internally throughout HPH and with the public; 3) Begin using paperless documentation system; and 4) Upgrade safety of HPH staff and customers.

4.3 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Update

Commissioner Baroudi stated approximately 600 surveys were completed/returned, a good outcome considering pandemic effect and potential negative reaction to the Health Department. Hospital council is currently preparing a report and will be presented to the Board when available.

4.4 2020 State Financial Audit – Completed/Report Issued and Shared with Governance

Commissioner Baroudi stated there were no significant issues as a result of the financial audit.

5.0 CONTINUING EDUCATION

5.1 No CEUs were offered at the current meeting.

5.2 4.0 Continuing BOH Education hours completed on 12/2/21

6.0 NEXT MEETING

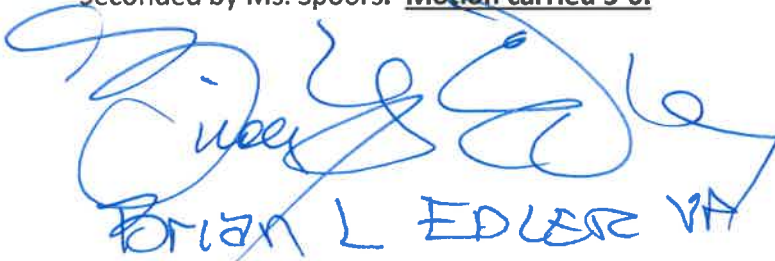
6.1 Friday, 1/21/22, 7:30 a.m., Hancock Public Health, 2225 Keith Parkway, Findlay, Ohio.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Pasztor requested motion for adjournment of the 12/17/21 Board of Health meeting.

Mr Alge motioned the Board of Health to adjourn the regular meeting of 12/17/21 at 9:17 a.m.

Seconded by Ms. Spoons. **Motion carried 5-0.**



Barbara J. Pasztor

Barbara J. Pasztor, RN, MSN Board President



Karim Baroudi

Karim Baroudi, MPH, Board Secretary