



Hancock Public Health

Board of Health

Regular Meeting Agenda

February 19th, 2021 at 7:30AM



MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

- X Barbara J. Pasztor, MSN, RN (President)
- X William Alge, Esq.
- X Brian Edler
- X Karen Jones, MSN, RN
- X Michael Lindamood, M.D.
- X Nancy Moody-Russo, RN, JD
- 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 February 2021 virtual meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

1.2 Introduction of Public Guests and Employees:

Commissioner Baroudi introduced distinguished guest, City of Findlay Mayor, Christina Muryn.

2.0 BOARD ACTIONS/REGULATIONS/VARIANCES/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2.1 Approval of Agenda Items

Commissioner Baroudi requested to begin Board reports with Ms. Chamberlin's and Ms. Heacock's reports due to scheduling issues. President Pasztor requested motion to approve the 2/19/21 meeting agenda as presented in the Board information packet.

Ms. Moody-Russo moved to approve the Agenda of the February 19th, 2021, Regular Board of Health meeting. Seconded by Mr. Edler. **Motion carried 7-0.**

2.2 Approval of January 15th, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Alge inquired about date accuracy in Section 3.4 of 1/15/21 Board minutes, where the Phase 1B vaccination rollout was announced to begin the week of 12/21/20. The correct date for Phase 1B rollout was 1/21/21. Change will be noted in official 1/15/21 minutes. President Pasztor asked Commissioner Baroudi to lead the meeting due to technical difficulties. Mr. Baroudi requested motion to approve the 1/15/21 meeting minutes as presented, with change as noted by Mr. Alge.

Mr. Alge moved to approve the minutes of the January 15th, 2021, Board of Health meeting as transcribed. Seconded by Ms. Jones. **Motion carried 7-0.**

2.3 Approval of January 2021 Bill Schedule

Commissioner Baroudi requested motion to approve the bill schedule as presented.

Dr. Lindamood moved to approve the bill schedule for January 2021. Seconded by Ms. Spoons.
Motion carried 7-0.

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

2.4.1 Coronavirus Response/CT21 in amount of **\$48,363.00**

President Pasztor requested motion to approve Board recognition of revenue.

Ms. Spoons moved to approve the Board Recognition of Revenue, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Jones. **Motion carried 7-0.**

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

2.5.1 Coronavirus Response/Need Assessment in the amount of **\$20,000.00**

2.5.2 Coronavirus Response/CT21 in the amount of **\$48,363.00**

President Pasztor requested motion to approve Appropriation Increase.

Ms. Spoons moved to approve the Appropriation Increase, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Edler. **Motion carried 7-0.**

2.6 Board to Approve adding Job Classification of Help Me Grow Home Visitor I to Pay Scale.

Commissioner Baroudi explained the Help Me Grow Home Visitor I job classification addition will increase flexibility with home visiting staff recruitment. The proposed new position would not require RN or LSW qualifications, with lower salary and reimbursement for home visits.

President Pasztor requested motion to approve Board recognition of revenue.

Ms. Spoons moved to approve the Board Recognition of Revenue, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Jones. **Motion carried 7-0.**

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

3.1 Medical Director

Dr. Ratnasamy reported a decline in COVID cases and hospitalizations in Hancock Co, with hospitalizations in the single digits compared to previous double-digit trends (40-50 COVID hospitalizations at one time). Dr. Ratnasamy stated he was impressed with cooperative efforts between BVH, HPH, and community volunteers for recent COVID vaccination clinics. Despite encouraging trends, Dr. Ratnasamy described that new COVID variants (S. Africa and UK) are causing worry. These variants are being identified as potentially more contagious and more lethal than the original COVID strain, and the S. African strain has been reported in many states. Dr. Ratnasamy stated that, due to newer COVID strains, vaccinations may eventually require updating. Mr. Edler asked about the percentage of people tested for COVID variants during routine testing. Dr. Ratnasamy answered that currently there is no capacity in Hancock County to test for specific COVID strains; however, Ohio Department of Health and CDC are beginning to collect data on these variants.

Based on news reports of resistance to receiving the COVID vaccine, Ms. Jones asked for clarification regarding vaccine contraindications. Dr. Ratnasamy stated there are no contraindications for vaccine administration for people with conditions of Bell's palsy, asthma, or even heart disease, despite earlier studies stating there may be a contraindication with Bell's palsy. Dr. Ratnasamy explained the most serious reaction to the COVID vaccine is anaphylaxis, and this has occurred with Pfizer vaccine in 5 out of 1 million cases, and with Moderna vaccine in 3 out of 1 million cases. There is a current caution that younger people may have more extreme reactions to COVID vaccines such as high fever/body aches, and it is recommended that people with tenuous medical conditions who are worried about vaccine reaction contact their primary physician for advisement.

Mr. Edler asked when Hancock Co. might realize the results of increased COVID immunity. Dr. Ratnasamy reported 11% of the Hancock Co. population has been vaccinated as of current date, and Hancock Co. is already seeing a decrease in hospitalizations. Dr. Ratnasamy stated he hopes for more substantial slowing of COVID cases, hospitalizations, and deaths by summer/fall 2021.

Ms. Chamberlin asked for clarification regarding vaccine efficacy. Dr. Ratnasamy stated vaccine efficacy is still in the data collection stage, we should know more in approximately a year, but for now Dr. Ratnasamy stated efficacy could be anywhere from six months to one year.

3.2 January Financial Report and Analysis

Using information included in the Board packet, Commissioner Baroudi stated there have been no major changes in January budget when compared with the past six years since the merge. Mr. Baroudi explained there may be upcoming fluctuations in 2021 revenue trends based on food licenses being extended by ODH until 6/30/21, so food license fees may come in later than normal.

Mayor Muryn asked for clarification on potential funds being received by Hancock Public Health through the American Rescue Plan. Based on his readings of various drafts of the American Rescue Plan, Commissioner Baroudi reported public health expects to receive funds for COVID vaccination efforts, however, exact amount is currently unknown.

3.3 Health Planning & Promotion Services

Mr. Masters gave brief update on the Enhanced Operations Grant expected to arrive at the end of February 2021 (total grant \$198,000; using \$166,000 for staff time spent in COVID tracing scheduling, and vaccine clinic duties). Mr. Masters stated said grant would also be helpful in offsetting temporarily decreased revenue due to extended food licenses in 2021. Mr. Masters reported success with use of the Medical Reserve Core of volunteers at all recent COVID clinics.

3.4 Personal Health Services

Ms. Chamberlin referred to her report as presented in the Board packet. She stated the interviewing process for the vacant immunization nurse has begun; she hopes to make a decision and fill that position within one week. Ms. Chamberlin discussed the challenging nature of all Nursing Department scheduling due to staff being pulled for COVID vaccine clinics, but she hopes to fill the vacant position within one week.

3.5 Help Me Grow (HMG) Program

Ms. Heacock updated the Board on the new HMG position due to program expansion discussed earlier in the meeting by Commissioner Baroudi. The current candidate for that position has 20+ years of home visiting experience and an early childhood degree.

Ms. Heacock stated that, like the Nursing Department, the HMG scheduling has been challenging due to most HMG staff consistently helping with the COVID vaccine clinics, however, the monthly family/client HMG play groups are still occurring via either drive through at Hancock Public Health or virtually through the HPH Facebook page.

3.6 Environmental Health Services

Ms. Summit reported all EH staff continue to help with COVID scheduling, COVID vaccination clinics, and management of the COVID office informational hotline. Like the Nursing and HMG Departments, scheduling time for regular staffing duties has been challenging – especially EH food inspections, which need to be completed by end of February 2021. An added challenge is the temporary medical leave (12 weeks) of the Sanitarian Technician, whose duties have been dispersed among EH staff already performing multiple roles. Nonetheless, Ms. Summit stated EH staff are putting forth extra effort and only have #60 food inspections left to complete by 2/2021.

3.7 IT/Data Systems Services

Regarding COVID efforts, Mr. Niese stated HPH is waiting on guidelines from the State regarding the next phase of vaccinations. Until State guidelines are stipulated, the Communication Team has been active in maintaining the HPH website and keeping all information as up to date as possible, especially regarding any and all vaccination providers in Hancock Co. Meanwhile, Mr. Niese has been busy catching up with IT project timelines, including new equipment installation.

Mr. Niese briefly described the Vaccine Management System, a documentation system which is being recommended by the State of Ohio to be used by vaccine providers (currently HPH uses Signup Genius). Mr. Niese stated the Vaccine Management System is still in early stages of development and not organized enough to meet needs of HPH scheduling efforts. Commissioner Baroudi added that only 4 Ohio vaccine providers are using the Vaccine Management System, and HPH is afraid of losing scheduling flexibility with the new system.

3.8 Health Commissioner/Legislative Updates

Commissioner Baroudi updated the Board on COVID trends in Hancock Co. As Dr. Ratnasamy stated in Section 3.1, 11% of the Hancock Co. population has been COVID vaccinated. HPH is moving swiftly to schedule vaccinations, outperforming the State on percentage of people vaccinated in the most vulnerable age groups (with 65% of 80+ year-olds and 48% of 70–79-year-olds in Hancock Co. being COVID vaccinated as of 2/18/21). Despite reporting flukes due to state audits and death miscounts, COVID cases, hospitalizations, and deaths have decreased, with Hancock Co. having only 1 resident currently hospitalized. HPH is slightly below the State statistics for total percent vaccinated, probably due to many other counties already having vaccinated their adult school population (Hancock Co. scheduled for 2/27/21). Current age group being scheduled for vaccination appointments in Hancock County today is 70+.

Mr. Alge asked if the percent of residents vaccinated includes residents vaccinated at pharmacies. Commissioner Baroudi stated the vaccination effort in pharmacies is not going well so far, with many citizen complaints (i.e., no live associates in pharmacies available to help with scheduling, accepting many out of county and even out of State customers). Although pharmacy vaccinations cannot be denied to public, there may be issues communicating accurate vaccination information to the State. Local pharmacies have been cooperative with HPH communication; however, corporate level has been noncommunicative thus far when invited to meetings regarding these issues.

Ms. Jones asked if the current vaccination reporting system accounts for Hancock Co. residents who receive vaccines in a different county. Commissioner Baroudi answered yes, the county/address written on the registration form will be counted as a vaccination given for each respective county.

Mr. Alge asked if messages are left when HPH staff call to schedule COVID vaccine appointments. Ms. Summit answered that sometimes voicemails or emails are left, however, due to the outstanding call volume for scheduling most residents are receiving four calls total and then remaining on the list if no answer.

Mr. Alge asked if priority for vaccination is being given to cancer survivors. Commissioner Baroudi stated priority vaccination filters on the registration sheet currently include: 1) Age; 2) Accepted Existing Conditions.

Legislative Report: Commissioner Baroudi described the recently passed Senate bill, limiting Governor's powers in declaring public health emergencies. Local public health authorities were not addressed in said bill. Mr. Baroudi expressed the new bill could possibly limit a local health department's ability to respond to emergencies effectively. Mr. Alge clarified that under the new bill there is a six-person committee who could block the Governor's orders during public health emergencies. Mr. Baroudi voiced concern, stating he believes residents need one commander during emergencies, and without clear command structure there may be long-term negative repercussions affecting expeditious emergency responses.

4.0 OLD/NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Personnel

Commissioner Baroudi announced no hiring or separations during the month of January 2021. Updates will be provided in the March 2021 Board meeting regarding recruiting efforts with the newly created Help Me Grow Home Visitor I position and the vacant Nursing Department position.

4.2 Follow-Up on Noncompliance, Amy May's Downtown, 331 S. Main Street, Findlay

Commissioner Baroudi described the history of Amy May's Downtown restaurant participating in public noncompliance of Governor's pandemic orders (masking, congregating), including attempt by HPH in coordination with Liquor Control and a Governor's special task force to enforce safety compliance measures. Mr. Baroudi and Mayor Muryn stated Ms. May is continuing to demonstrate noncompliance, with increased public complaints to HPH and the

Mayor's office and Ms. May's blatant posting on social media of continual noncompliance. Mayor Muryn stated Ms. May's noncompliant behaviors are frustrating for city businesses who put forth much effort to remain compliant and is a health risk to the community. Commissioner Baroudi, Kurt Schroeder, and Lindsay Summit have consulted and determined there are no current food or liquor codes to enforce Amy May's Downtown safety compliance. Despite that Ms. May has been operating liquor licensure under a different person's name for one year, Liquor Control cannot intervene due to the extension of liquor license transfers during the pandemic.

Commissioner Baroudi and Mr. Masters described Ohio Revised Codes (ORC) which could be applied to Amy May's case to enforce compliance:

- 1) ORC 3701.352 – No person shall violate any rule the director of health or department of health adopts or any order the director or department of health issues under this chapter to prevent a threat to the public caused by a pandemic, epidemic, or bioterrorism event.
- 2) ORC 3701.56 – Boards of health of a general or city health district, health authorities and officials, officers of state institutions, police officers, sheriffs, constables, and other officers and employees of the state or any county, city, or township, shall enforce quarantine and isolation orders, and the rules the department of health adopts.
- 3) ORC 3707.48 – No person shall violate sections 3707.01 to 3707.50 or section 3707.53 of the Revised Code, or any order or regulation of the board of health of a city or general health district made in pursuance thereof, obstruct or interfere with the execution of such order, or willfully or illegally omit to obey such order.
- 4) ORC 3707.99 – a) Whoever violates section 3707.03 of the Revised Code, unless good and sufficient reason therefore is shown, is guilty of a minor misdemeanor; b) Whoever violates division (B) of section 3707.06 or section 3707.48 of the Revised Code is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on each subsequent offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

Commissioner Baroudi wanted the Board to be aware of his proposal to use the above codes and issue a Public Health Order to Amy May's Downtown, to be hand delivered by Commissioner Baroudi to 331 S. Main St, Findlay, OH, in letter format on Monday, 2/22/21, with verbal explanation by Commissioner Baroudi upon delivery. The Order would state that Amy May's Downtown will be in immediate compliance with all safety measures specified in the Governor's safety order. If found in defined noncompliance upon potential Police Department undercover visits or other specified violations, Amy May's Downtown food license will be subject to suspension and Amy May subject to Board of Health and/or legal court hearings. No opposition was voiced by the Board during the 2/19/21 meeting.

Ms. Jones asked if Commissioner Baroudi feels a need to prepare press response in the event this information creates negative publicity toward the Board of Health. Commissioner Baroudi and Mayor Muryn both answered that the Board and HPH are not attempting to single out businesses unfairly for safety compliance. Further, Mayor Muryn added that HPH has been consistent in efforts to encourage Amy May's Downtown compliance and in documentation of those efforts. Commissioner Baroudi stated HPH welcomes the press.

4.3 Mobile Health Clinic (MHC)

Commissioner Baroudi described activities surrounding the MHC progression since the last Board update. Mayor Muryn presented the MHC proposal to City Council, Mr. Baroudi presented the MHC proposal to a Township Trustees Meeting and separately to the Community Foundation, all with good reception from meeting participants. Commissioner Baroudi put a proposal together to the Community Foundation for a \$150,000 grant (\$75,000 year 1 for focus on COVID vaccine clinics; \$50,000 year 2 for focus on expansion of MHC services offered; \$25,000 year 3 for further expansion/maintenance). Further updates will be provided to the Board as the Community Foundation approves an award to the project.

4.4 District Advisory Council

Commissioner Baroudi announced the next DAC meeting on Monday 3/1/21, with proposal to the DAC at that time for President Pasztor and Dr. Lindamood to be nominated for second terms.

5.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Baroudi requested to go into executive session regarding personnel/merit compensation issue. President Pasztor requested motion for the Board of Health to move into executive session.

Dr. Lindamood moved for the Board to recess into executive session at 8:52 a.m. for reason to discuss personnel/merit compensation issue. Seconded by Mr. Edler. Ms. Summit read roll call.

Roll Call: Ms. Pasztor (BJ): YES Ms. Spoons (Robin): YES
Ms. Moody-Russo (Nancy): YES Mr. Alge (Bill): YES
Ms. Jones (Karen): YES Mr. Edler (Brian): YES
Dr. Lindamood: YES

All HPH staff were dismissed prior to executive session beginning.

At 9:12 am, Ms. Moody-Russo motioned to move the meeting out of executive session.
Seconded by Mr. Alge. **Motion carried 7-0**

Per Commissioner Baroudi's recommendation, President Pasztor asked the Board for a motion to approve a \$500.00 one-time bonus to all staff in appreciation of their hard work during the Pandemic response.

Mr. Edler motioned the Board of Health to approve a \$500.00 one-time non-PERS-able bonus to all employees as an appreciation for their hard work and outstanding dedication to Public Health Service during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that this compensation be processed separate from the employees regular bi-weekly pay. Seconded by Ms. Jones. **Motion carried 7-0**

6.0 CONTINUING EDUCATION

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

7.0 NEXT MEETING

7.1 Friday, 3/19/21, 7:30 a.m., Hancock Public Health, 2225 Keith Parkway, Findlay, Ohio.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Pasztor requested motion for adjournment of the 2/19/21 Board of Health meeting.

Ms. Spoons motioned the Board of Health to adjourn its regular meeting of 2/19/21 at 9:19 am.

Seconded by Dr. Lindamood. **Motion carried 7-0.**



Barbara J. Pasztor, RN, MSN Board President



Karim Baroudi, MPH, Board Secretary