



Hancock Public Health

Board of Health

Regular Meeting Agenda

January 15th, 2021 at 7:30AM



MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

- X Barbara J. Pasztor, MSN, RN (President)
- X William Alge, Esq.
- A Brian Edler
- X Karen Jones, MSN, RN
- X Michael Lindamood, M.D. (joined at 8:57 a.m.)
- X Nancy Moody-Russo, RN, JD
- A Robin Spoons

- X Karim Baroudi, MPH, Health Commissioner
- X Nathaniel Ratnasamy, M.D., Medical Director (joined at 8:15 a.m.)

STAFF:

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

1.0 CONVENTION

1.1 Call to Order

Board President Pasztor called the January 2021 regular meeting to order at 7:45 a.m., due to technical difficulties some of the Board members were having in trying to get on the video call.

1.2 Introduction of Public Guests and Employees:

Commissioner Baroudi announced that Hancock Public Health associate Alexa Heacock, Help Me Grow (HMG) Program Director, will from this date forward be a regular participant in all Board of Health Meetings and will deliver regular reports regarding the HMG Program.

2.0 BOARD ACTIONS/REGULATIONS/VARIANCES/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2.1 Approval of Agenda Items

President Pasztor requested motion to approve the 1/15/21 meeting agenda as presented in the Board packet of information distributed earlier in the week.

Ms. Jones moved to approve the Agenda of the January 15th, 2021, Regular Board of Health meeting. Seconded by Mr. Alge. **Motion carried 4-0.**

2.2 Approval of December 18th, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

President Pasztor requested motion to approve the 12/18/20 meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. Alge moved to approve the minutes of the December 18th, 2020, Board of Health meeting as transcribed. Seconded by Ms. Jones. **Motion carried 4-0.**

2.3 Approval of December 2020 Bill Schedule

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

Ms. Nancy Moody-Russo moved to approve the bill schedule for December 2020. Seconded by Ms. Jones. **Motion carried 4-0.**

2.4 Approval for Board to RECOGNIZE Revenue for fiscal year ending 12/31/20:

2.4.1 Coronavirus Response/Enforcement in amount of \$20,000.00

President Pasztor requested motion to approve Board recognition of revenue.

Ms. Jones moved to approve the Board Recognition of Revenue, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Moody-Russo. **Motion carried 4-0.**

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

3.1 Medical Director

Dr. Ratnasamy gave PowerPoint presentation on COVID trends from the Johns Hopkins website. Dr. Ratnasamy stated because we hear so much on media about COVID data, many people have become “numb” to the gravity of the effects of the pandemic. The US and UK are among the highest rates for cumulative deaths per million people. Ohio itself is in the middle ground for death rates, although the virus continues to spread in Ohio. Dr. Ratnasamy discussed BVH hospitalization rate and treatment trends. Monoclonal antibody therapy is still seen as a major contributor to reducing hospitalizations from COVID.

Dr. Ratnasamy reported on Coronavirus mutations/strains, especially most recently cited as occurring in the UK, S. Africa, and Columbus, OH. The US has not been as active as the UK or other countries in collecting data on genetic sequencing of the virus, thus the CDC has begun a program requesting that US States begin reporting on 10 virus cases per week to collect better data on the effects of different Coronavirus strains. So far, there simply is not enough conclusive data to make a statement as to whether new strains are concerning. The strains in the UK and S. Africa have been seen more as increasingly “spreadable” but not necessarily more deadly. More data is needed.

Mr. Alge requested clarification of vaccine sequenced dosages and qualifications for monoclonal antibody therapy. Dr. Ratnasamy stated that the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines both require two shots (Moderna shots one month apart; Pfizer shots three weeks apart). Johnson & Johnson is developing a vaccine that may require only a single shot, but it has not been final approved yet and there have been production difficulties reported with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Dr. Ratnasamy reported that monoclonal antibody treatment is given to people 65 and over and to people under 65 who have specifically identified medical diagnoses. Dr. Ratnasamy has been regularly updating Hancock County medical providers on the qualifications for monoclonal antibody treatment.

3.2 Financial Report

Commissioner Baroudi reviewed the 2020 budget, using slide presentation and information included in the Board packet. Mr. Baroudi stated there was more revenue brought in than in the last five years for HPH and he expects these trends to continue through 2021 due to State grants and vaccination campaign efforts. No questions or concerns were voiced by the Board regarding 2020 budget presentation.

3.3 Health Planning & Promotion Services

Mr. Masters announced the new accreditation deadline date as 5/19/21. He explained that he will have more time to focus on accreditation documents due to contract tracing efforts slowing down, in part due to more focus on vaccine operations and in part due to University of Findlay Telehealth contract for contact tracers during weekend hours.

Report was given on grant allocation, including the addition of two new COVID-related State grants: Enhanced Operations and Vaccine Operations. Despite that the Safe Communities Grant did not bring in as much as expected due to COVID issues interfering with off-site program efforts, there is new focus by Jessica Halsey in increasing that funding in the coming year.

Regarding the Injury Prevention Program, Mr. Masters stated there has been regularly increased participation in the BIDPP syringe service program each week. Mr. Masters stated Jamie Decker, Peer Support Specialist, has been a good addition to the program, as he has helped expand services through word of mouth and active community outreach and social medial efforts. The addition of Mr. Decker has allowed Gary Bright more time to focus on administrative, grant, and COVID activities.

3.4 Personal Health Services

Ms. Chamberlin presented summary of vaccination clinics for Phase IA and IB. So far in Phase 1A the following groups have been offered vaccinations: 1) Frontline healthcare workers, EMS, and firefighters; 2) Primrose Assisted Living staff and residents; 3) Hancock County primary care provider offices; 4) Blanchard Valley Health Center staff and residents, and now Phase 1B is expected to roll out week of 1/18/2021, with second dose vaccines scheduled for same week. Ms. Chamberlin stated the logistics are difficult, given that the State stipulates once a vaccine shipment is received by HPH, it must begin being administered within 24 hours and must be completely used within 7 days.

President Pasztor asked about timeline of second dose of Moderna® vaccine. Ms. Chamberlin and Commissioner Baroudi stated second dose Moderna® is recommended to be given 28-31 days after first dose.

President Pasztor asked for clarification about vaccinating individuals with oncology issues. Commissioner Baroudi and Ms. Chamberlin explained that people over 80 with underlying oncologic issues will be prioritized during Phase IB; however, currently those individuals 65-80 years old in Phase IB will not be considered priority for vaccine ahead of 80+ year old.

Ms. Jones asked for clarification of how dental offices were being vaccinated. Ms. Chamberlin stated there was unclear information communicated from State about whether dental groups were considered Phase IA or Phase IB. Some dental offices were given information by the Governor that dental groups were in IA, however, HPH was given information that dental offices were in IB. Commissioner Baroudi stated that the Governor had changed his mind about prioritization of groups, and that has created some confusion on a case-by-case basis. HPH is attempting to provide vaccine for dental offices as soon as possible. Ms. Jones asked how the

Board or HPH could help offices or individuals understand the prioritization of vaccinations; Mr. Baroudi stated HPH is attempting to provide more clear communication despite the mixed messages from State, however, despite communication/media efforts there will be community members and businesses who prefer calling directly to ask questions, which has been common.

Mr. Niese added that there has not been detailed delineation regarding which congenital issues or other medical diagnoses qualify for inclusion in COVID vaccine Phase IB, other than severe asthma and type I diabetes mellitus. Due to this lack of guidance, HPH has been unable to communicate to the public clearer statements of vaccine prioritization. Mr. Niese stated that initially it was thought individual physician offices would be administering COVID vaccines to their patients; however, this has not been the case thus far. HPH is hoping for more clear guidance from State.

Ms. Jones commented many residents may not be aware of the limited vaccine supply. Ms. Chamberlin reported that HPH staff are doing the best they can to educate callers and the public regarding limited vaccine supply and also changing nature of vaccine prioritization.

Mr. Alge stated he has heard about many residents who report feeling confused about how they will be notified when it is time to schedule vaccine (after they have pre-registered). Commissioner Baroudi stated pre-registered individuals would receive a phone call for scheduling if they left a call-back number and will receive an email if they left an email address. For those folks over 80, Mr. Baroudi stated phone calls seem to work best for clarity in that age group.

Ms. Heacock was asked by Ms. Chamberlin to give report regarding the Help Me Grow (HMG) Program. Ms. Heacock stated that most the HMG staff have also been acting in dual roles at HPH due to the pandemic. The three HMG RNs (which includes Ms. Heacock) have been administering COVID vaccine and helping with clinics. Further, there are plans for the two licensed HMG social workers to begin helping with COVID clinics in intake-related roles. Due to the focused holiday activity programs for HMG clients and the dual role of HMG staff in COVID vaccine efforts, Ms. Heacock stated that the next HMG parent connection activity is planned as a virtual meeting to encourage parent/child involvement in snow activities.

Ms. Heacock announced that Kendra Vermillion, new HMG social worker, has completed credentials to be certified through Parents as Teachers and Ohio Department of Health. Ms. Heacock has been working with Ms. Vermillion one-on-one in attempt to help Ms. Vermillion establish a larger family caseload.

Ms. Heacock summarized grant activity in the HMG Program, including the Hancock County Community Partnership Grant aimed at providing funding for improved parental supports/connection through 2021. Ms. Heacock is currently gathering data to determine potential HMG participation in a study through National Parents as Teachers partnering with Washington University regarding environmental effect on infant weight/development.

Ms. Heacock reported on her participation in the multidisciplinary Moms Project Subcommittee (involving BVH, Renewed Mind, Child Protective Services, and ADAMHS). Moms Project purpose is to increase engagement of mothers receiving services and will also hopefully develop more family referrals to the HMG Program.

Mr. Alge asked for clarification about timelines of receiving vaccine shipment for Phase 1B and when vaccinations would begin for Phase IB groups. Commissioner Baroudi explained that the shipment comes before scheduling can occur, and the Phase IB COVID vaccination rollout is tentatively scheduled as follows (based on vaccine availability): 1) Week of 1/18/21, vaccines to 80+ age group; 2) Week of 1/25/21, 75+ age group; 3) Week of 2/1/21, 70+ age group and adult staff of K-12 schools; 4) Week of 2/8/21, 65+ age group.

Mr. Alge requested information about the location/s of COVID vaccine administration. Ms. Chamberlin answered that, although it is easier to conduct vaccine administration on HPH site, staff are not opposed to moving vaccine clinics off site to accommodate more vaccine recipients. Commissioner Baroudi summarized the planned vaccine clinic sites so far:

- 1) Phase IB 80+ age group clinic on 1/19/21 at Hancock Public Health;
- 2) Phase IB 80+ age group clinic on 1/21/21 at Blanchard Valley Hospital, in partnership with HPH. BVH staff will administer vaccine and HPH staff will have support roles.
- 3) Phase IB 80+ age group clinic on 1/26/21 at 50 North Building on E. Melrose Ave in Findlay.

3.5 Environmental Health Services

Ms. Summit reported all EH staff (including Director, Supervisor, Sanitarians, and clerical) have been assisting during all COVID vaccine clinics in support roles (calls, paperwork, scheduling, directing), and EH staff continue to assist with COVID compliance/environmental complaints/calls. Ms. Summit expressed her appreciation of all staff involvement, but noted this has created difficulty for staff in balancing time for other duties. Food sanitarians are behind in their food facility inspections, deadline is end of February 2021; Sanitarians have stated they believe inspections will be completed in time. Mr. Burks, Sanitarian Technician, has begun tobacco compliance investigations and needs to complete by end of 2/2021, as well. Ms. Summit reported she received notice that the County Commissioner, Regional Planning, and HPH partnership was awarded \$150,000.00 to be used for repairs/replacements of home septic treatments systems through 2021, which will specifically benefit Hancock County lower income residents who own septic systems.

Other projects Ms. Summit has been working on include writing the EPA Mosquito Grant (due end of 1/2021) and organizing all COVID vaccine pre-registration forms so that scheduling can begin (so far 6000 citizens have pre-registered, with 5000 of those being in 65+ age group).

3.6 IT/Data Systems Services

Mr. Niese summarized his recent activities with IT, especially focused on partnering with BVH in planning use of a computerized central scheduling system for COVID vaccines. Currently with the older population of Phase IB, it has been more beneficial for vaccine recipients to schedule by phone with direct support due to decreased use of technology in elderly populations. However, Mr. Niese foresees the partnership with BVH on a computerized scheduling system to become increasingly time saving in the future when younger populations begin to receive the

vaccine. In the meantime, the phones at HPH have been overwhelmed with vaccine recipients calling to ask questions about when they can receive the vaccine. Due to limited information from the State currently and irregularly scheduled vaccine shipments, HPH is unable to give an exact timeline to callers – telling them to wait for a call back from the Health Dept. and that their vaccine date is contingent solely on how much vaccine has been shipped to HPH. There have been press releases to notify the public about the Phase 1B rollout, however, still the exact vaccine appointments are still contingent upon vaccine availability. Mr. Niese has been helping Ms. Plumley, HPH Epidemiologist, and University of Findlay with onboarding the new contact tracing team from U of F Telehealth. The new tracing helpers will begin the weekend of 1/16/21 and may be utilized more during regular business hours in the future to relieve HPH staff (including Mr. Niese himself) who have been and continue spending much of their work time on COVID efforts since the beginning of the pandemic.

3.7 Health Commissioner/Legislative Updates

Commissioner Baroudi apologized to Board members about inconsistent communication from HPH to the Board regarding updated pandemic/vaccine information. Mr. Baroudi explained the bottom line is that HPH does not have enough vaccination supply to meet the needs of the community currently. He reiterated that there has been insufficient guidance from the State to the local levels regarding vaccine supply, shipment, and roll-out phase prioritization instructions; this makes it difficult for HPH to provide clear, consistent information to the Board and curious community members. Mr. Baroudi emphasized that HPH staff are working to full capacity and overtime in the vaccination/pandemic efforts, however, it is still extremely challenging given the multidimensional and changing nature of the pandemic from day to day. Mr. Baroudi announced that Pharmacy Dept. from U of F recently relayed to HPH there should be 100-120 students fully trained by the end of January 2021 to help HPH with vaccination clinics. Commissioner Baroudi stated to the Board that moving forward he will attempt to provide weekly updates from the COVID leadership team meeting for clarity.

Commissioner Baroudi reported plans to meet with the new CEO of BVH, Mr. Myron Lewis, in order to establish a collaborative relationship between HPH and the hospital system. Commissioner Baroudi announced there are two Board members whose terms will be expiring, President Pasztor and Dr. Lindamood. In preparation for the upcoming District Advisory Council meeting, Mr. Baroudi will be reaching out to Ms. Pasztor and Dr. Lindamood to inquire whether they wish to seek another Board term.

4.0 OLD/NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Personnel

Tatum Weber, LPN, resigned effective 1/8/21.

4.2 Mobile Health Clinic

Commissioner Baroudi reported that there is still renewed interest in establishing a mobile health clinic (MHC) which could serve as a base of operations for any vaccine clinic site and reduce overhead of moving all vaccine staff/equipment, etc. Mr. Baroudi opined that a MHC would increase the efficiency of vaccine distribution. No major updates announced regarding strategic plan of MHC.

5.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Mr. Alge moved for the Board to recess into executive session at 8:55 a.m. for reason to discuss personnel discipline issue. Seconded by Ms. Moody-Russo.

Roll Call: Ms. Pasztor (BJ): YES Ms. Spoor (Robin): ---
Ms. Moody-Russo (Nancy): YES Mr. Alge (Bill): YES
Ms. Jones (Karen): YES Mr. Edler (Brian): ---
Dr. Lindamood: Joined at 8:57 a.m.)

Leadership team members were invited to stay for executive session.

At 9:12 am, Ms. Moody-Russo motioned to move the meeting out of executive session.
Seconded by Mr. Alge. **Motion carried 5-0**

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, 2/19/21, 7:30 a.m., Hancock Public Health, 2225 Keith Parkway, Findlay, Ohio.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Pasztor requested motion for adjournment of the 1/15/21 Board of Health meeting.

Ms. Jones motioned the Board of Health to adjourn its regular meeting of 1/15/21 at 9:15 am.
Seconded by Ms. Moody-Russo. **Motion carried 5-0.**



Barbara J. Pasztor, RN, MSN Board President



Karim Baroudi, MPH, Board Secretary