



Hancock Public Health

Board of Health

Regular Meeting Agenda

June 18th, 2021, at 7:30AM



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
- X Robin Spors

- X Karim Baroudi, MPH, Health Commissioner
- X Nathaniel Ratnasamy, M.D., Medical Director (joined meeting at 8:02 a.m.)

STAFF:

- X Shannon Chamberlin, Nursing Director
- X Chad Masters, Health P&P Director
- A 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 June 2021 regular meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

1.2 Introduction of Public Guests and Employees:

No public guests or employees were scheduled to attend the 6/18/21 meeting.

2.0 BOARD ACTIONS/REGULATIONS/VARIANCES/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2.1 Approval of June 18th, 2021, Agenda Items

Commissioner Baroudi announced a last-minute addition to 6/18/21 agenda, New Business Section, proposing for the Board to discuss how to observe the newly created Federal Holiday, Juneteenth, for HPH associates.

President Pasztor requested motion to approve the 6/18/21 meeting agenda as presented in the Board information packet.

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

2.2 Approval of May 21st, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes

President Pasztor requested motion to approve the 5/21/21 meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. Alge moved to approve the minutes of the May 21st, 2021; Board of Health meeting as transcribed. Seconded by Ms. Jones. **Motion carried 7-0.**

2.3 Approval of May 2021 Bill Schedule

Commissioner Baroudi stated there was no mortgage payment for the HPH office building in May 2021, as the mortgage schedule regularly accounts for two payments in April and no payments in May.

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

Dr. Lindamood moved to approve the bill schedule for May 2021. Seconded by Vice President Edler. **Motion carried 7-0.**

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

- 2.4.1** Mobile Health Clinic in the amount of **\$105,000.00** (100,000 CC + \$5,000--Brian Edler)
- 2.4.2** NACCHO Grant in the amount of **\$5,000.00**
- 2.4.3** Public Entity Pool (PEP) Grant in the amount of **\$1,000.00**

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

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

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

- 2.5.1** NACCHO: Supplies and contract service line items in the amount of **\$5,000.00**
- 2.5.2** 2020 EPA Mosquito Grant: Medicare and Workers Comp line items in the amount of **\$49.50**
- 2.5.3** 2020 EPA Mosquito Grant: Supply line item in the amount of **\$165.60**
- 2.5.4** General Fund: Supplies and office maintenance in the amount of **\$1,000.00**

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

Dr. Lindamood moved to approve the Appropriations Increase, as presented. Seconded by Vice President Edler. **Motion carried 7-0.**

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

3.1 Medical Director—Dr. Ratnasamy

Dr. Ratnasamy reported on a new COVID strain causing international concern; this “Delta variant seems to be more easily transmissible and with more severe symptoms. Ten percent of current U.S. COVID cases originate from the new Delta variant, but it is thought that fully vaccinated people are still protected. Commissioner Baroudi stated six percent of Ohio COVID cases are Delta variant, but no Hancock Co. cases have been reported to be Delta variant. Dr. Ratnasamy stated we may see increased COVID cases in clusters due to the new variant, and trends continue to be closely monitored.

Dr. Ratnasamy discussed the significantly increased use of oxygen in hospital systems during COVID, with Blanchard Valley Hospital’s oxygen demand increasing by 50%. Fortunately the U.S. has the infrastructure to handle this increased demand currently, however, this may become a significant issues for lesser developed countries.

Other COVID trends were inquired about by Board members. In summary, there is no COVID antiviral tablet yet available and limited information thus far. Novavax has not yet been officially approved. Although it would be convenient to combine COVID booster and flu vaccine into a single-dose shot, more research is needed, as combining these vaccinations may not be feasible due to differences in vaccination types. COVID cases have decreased in India but are still high in Brazil currently. There appears to be no direct link between COVID virus and secondary myocarditis. Everyone is still recommended to receive a full vaccination series, even if they have already had COVID. A COVID booster is in process, stats are being monitored for determination of when to administer, a booster is being prepared, with 200 million doses of Moderna being purchased. So far, it appears that a COVID vaccination booster may not be necessary in the fall of 2021; depending on trends we may be able to wait to administer a booster until 2022.

Commissioner Baroudi reported there are currently no Hancock Co. residents hospitalized due to COVID. Vice President Edler asked if there would be changes in the process of reporting COVID in the workplace; Mr. Baroudi answered that COVID is still reportable. Mr. Edler suggested it may be beneficial to utilize an automated texting system to notify residents of their COVID-positive status. Mr. Baroudi stated HPH is required to directly contact residents with COVID verbally by phone or delivered letter but acknowledged there are many potential improvements in communication technology to be discussed for the future of Public Health.

3.2 May 2021 Financial Report and Analysis—Karim Baroudi

Using information included in the Board packet, Commissioner Baroudi reviewed the budget for May and reported a leftover surplus of COVID State grant funding in the amount of \$250,000, mainly allocated for staff salaries. The Board discussed ideas on how to allocate this surplus funding, including allocating for Mobile Health Clinic salaries.

3.3 Health Planning & Promotion Services—Chad Masters

Mr. Masters announced the MRC (Medical Reserve Core) Recognition Luncheon for pandemic volunteers scheduled for Wednesday, 6/23/21 from 11:30 a.m.--1 p.m. and funded by the MRC. Mr. Masters and Commissioner Baroudi encouraged Board members to attend the luncheon and sign up online. Mr. Baroudi further reported the City of Findlay Mayor, Hancock County Commissioners, and all HPH associates were invited to the luncheon.

Ms. Jones asked for clarification of Mr. Master's report regarding Sheriff Heldman's response to a statement made in the Opiate Task Force meeting minutes stating people who are released from jail without Narcan are more likely to overdose, which was also stated in the Findlay Courier newspaper. Mr. Master's explained that Sheriff Heldman perceived this statement as suggesting the Sheriff's office may not be doing their job or may be in part responsible for increased overdose deaths. Precia Stuby, ADAMHS Board, communicated with Sheriff Heldman by sending an email, attempting to explain there was no intention to suggest the Sheriff's Dept. was not doing their job or were responsible for overdose deaths; instead, the statement was intended to increase awareness that more people die from overdose when they do not have access to Narcan upon jail release. Ms. Jones stated it may be helpful to emphasize to Sheriff Heldman that this could be an opportunity for HPH, ADAMHS, and the Sheriff's Dept. to work together to prevent overdose deaths. Mr. Masters stated Sheriff Heldman has suggested he

believes HPH is promoting drug use by distributing Narcan, despite that all Sheriff Deputies carry Narcan in their vehicles. Ms. Jones stated she was concerned because Sheriff Heldman had not responded to Precia Stuby's email. Commissioner Baroudi reported that an offering was made to Sheriff Heldman for that portion of the Opiate Task Force minutes to be rephrased for clarity, and Mr. Baroudi verbalized his opinion that Sheriff Heldman's lack of response may be interpreted as his resolution of the situation. Mr. Masters stated that, despite the goal to work as a team with other organizations, HPH wants to remain transparent about the facts surrounding opiate overdose in Hancock County. Commissioner Baroudi stated the goal for increased collaborative efforts to raise awareness of the opiate issue in Hancock County is a continuous process, and HPH will continue to communicate with all organizations involved to reach the final aspiration of overdose prevention at all levels.

Mr. Alge asked if the Hidden in Plain Sight educational program could be somehow combined with the Mobile Health Clinic efforts. Mr. Masters stated the previous Health Educator, Kayla DeMuth, had been in charge of the Hidden in Plain Sight program, and, since Ms. DeMuth's absence and the decision to assess re-filling her position, HPH has been focusing more on programs which are tied to funding. However, Mr. Masters reported there will be a National Night Out event in August 2021 at Riverside Park which may be a good time to combine educational services related to both the MHC and Hidden in Plain Sight, if possible.

3.4 Personal Health Services—Shannon Chamberlin

Ms. Chamberlin summarized her Board report, announcing that Van Buren Schools have made the decision to contract with HPH School Nursing on a separate basis, and HPH will help the newly hired full-time Van Buren School Nurse with her incoming duties. From the HPH Nursing Clinic perspective, a new RN, Lisa Jolliff, has been hired and will start 7/12/21 at HPH. The clinic staff are considering expanding clinic hours from their traditionally held hours in order to accommodate community members and their working schedules. Discussions are currently being held among clinic staff and Ms. Chamberlin will update the Board as more information is available.

3.5 Help Me Grow (HMG) Program—Alexa Heacock

Ms. Heacock announced increased revenue in the form of an additional state COVID payment of \$10.00 for each virtual HMG visit, totaling a \$27,000.00 program revenue increase. Per the new HMG contract cycle starting 7/1/21, RN home visitor reimbursement rates will be increased this year. ODH will be paying for Parents as Teachers renewal fees. An added incentive was offered by ODH in the form of \$2500 annually for HMG Program to serve outside counties (i.e., Hardin Co., as they may be giving up their HMG contract). Another program change reviewed by Ms. Heacock is the continued family incentive payments, which will now be distributed quarterly at \$125.00 per family, totaling \$12,500 per quarter; these monies will go toward diapers, formula, phone cards, and potentially added grocery cards. Mr. Alge asked if the same restrictions would be applied to grocery cards as in welfare programs. Ms. Spoor asked how the State has responded to questions about grocery card restrictions. Ms. Heacock answered she does not have that information from the State yet, and the State responded saying they would get back with program leaders on card restriction issues. Commissioner Baroudi added that grocery cards could make financial audits very difficult, considering that expenditure cannot be easily tracked. Lastly, Ms. Heacock announced that the HMG Program

did receive the Ohio Children's Trust Fund Grant, which is \$50,000.00 over two years; families will be eligible for \$400.00 of safety supports.

Commissioner Baroudi brought up to the Board that, due to the significant recent growth of the HMG Program, the HPH Leadership Team has been brainstorming about office space saving. Some ideas include use of storage space in the mall, beginning electronic filing/scanning project to cut down on needs for paper storage. Ms. Moody-Russo asked how much space is currently needed for paper files; Mr. Baroudi answered approximately two full rooms in the HPH building. Mr. Masters stated HPH purchased software with COVID funding for starting a paperless filing system. Ms. Moody-Russo reported from her experience that paperless filing is a time-consuming project and stated it would be advisable to start sooner than later.

3.5 Environmental Health (EH) Services—Lindsay Summit

Ms. Summit stated EH is trending back to normal in many service areas. In the last couple weeks, the community and EH have been busy with mosquito/tick management. Spraying will begin the week of 6/21/21, with Ryan Burks being trained in all areas of the Mosquito Grant Program. Trae Gulgin has taken a position with Henry Co. HD and will be leaving HPH in August 2021.

Ms. reported on an issue with pool inspections, that there have been an increased number of pools without enough chlorine due to a national chlorine shortage. Two pools were shut down by Kurt Schroeder temporarily on 6/17/21 due to decreased chlorine, to be reinspected soon. Mr. Alge asked about a nuisance complaint in connection to a Findlay public pool. Ms. Summit summarized that a photo had been circulating of a man at a public pool with concern of nudity in the photo. With EH investigation, it was determined that the photo was tampered with, that the man had on enough swimwear to pass policy, and now the public pool in question has displayed new swimwear policy signs for patrons to avoid confusion. Commissioner Baroudi commented that it was disappointing someone would tamper with a photo simply to downgrade the Findlay community.

3.7 IT/Data Systems Services—Craig Niese

Commissioner Baroudi gave brief report in Mr. Niese's absence. The most significant report is an ongoing issue with malfunctioning routers. Initially there would be loss of internet connection randomly in the HPH office during work hours, which led to investigation discovering the existing router's hardware was dysfunctional. HPH was sent a new router, but there were same problems; thus, HPH was sent a third router, installed by Mr. Niese, which seems so far to be functioning normally. Otherwise, Mr. Niese, with the help of all Leadership Team members, is working to bring IT up to speed in HPH, needing to spend allocated COVID funding as quickly as possible. Vice President Edler suggested it might be helpful to have a double or triple wireless backup system, with use of multiple internet providers standing as backups. Commissioner Baroudi stated HPH does have wireless backup, but as an organization needing to meet HIPAA compliance, we must be careful not to downgrade the firewall so much to compromise privacy. However, Mr. Baroudi agreed that other options for internet backup should be investigated.

3.8 Health Commissioner/Legislative Updates—Karim Baroudi

Budget Bill: Commissioner Baroudi updated the Board on the Budget Bill, which must pass by end of June 2021, for budget to be effective in the next two years. This is the bill which mandates that smaller health departments merge. Mr. Baroudi reported currently they are attempting to determine the best way to handle this mandate without disrupting local politics and Ohio communities.

House Bill 248/Antivax Bill: Because legislatives are currently attempting to go into summer recess, Commissioner Baroudi expressed his hope that this summer recess will give more time for advocacy and lobbying at the State level.

HPH Accreditation: Mr. Baroudi referred to the Board packet attached letter from the CDC Director, Dr. Walensky, congratulating HPH on accreditation.

Mobile Health Clinic (MHC): Commissioner Baroudi stated the MHC has had much success so far from a public relations perspective in the community. The bus has been displayed at various public events, including Chamber of Commerce meeting, Farmer's Market (where COVID vaccinations were given from the MHC), District Rotary Banquet on 6/17/21 (where many Rotarians toured the bus and the District Governor recognized HPH and the MHC throughout the evening). There is potential of taking the bus through the 4th of July parade. Commissioner Baroudi stated he would like to see this kind of PR continue in preparing the community for daily functional use of the MHC. Regarding staffing of the MHC, there is a contract currently being developed which proposes to share the services of Alicia Saltzman (Certified Nurse Practitioner in Dr. Ratnasamy's office) between Dr. Ratnasamy's office and the MHC, initially mainly focusing on COVID vaccinations, wellness checks, and monitoring of blood sugar. According to Commissioner Baroudi, this will give HPH a chance to structure the MHC staffing with greater organization by the end of 2021.

Community Health Assessment: Commissioner Baroudi announced that all monies are in place for preparation of the CHA. The next step is to put create the questionnaire, with the survey being formally administered in fall of 2021.

Type II Diabetes Prevention Program: Prior to COVID there was grant funding for Hancock Co. residents to go through a diabetic prevention program, with HPH and Dr. Grace, Diabetic Clinic at BVH, working in coordination on this project. The project fell flat during throughout COVID, and Dr. Grace's current proposal is to implement a passive monitoring device for blood sugar for patients to visualize their blood sugar fluctuations in real time, with the hope of eventually having participants make lifestyle changes to impact their disease process. Commissioner Baroudi has contacted the Community Foundation about Dr. Grace's new proposal, and the hope is to collect enough information to be able to show value to insurance companies of such a device for future potential insurance coverage.

COVID Vaccination Administration Update: Although the number of residents receiving the vaccine is declining, vaccinations were given at a Farmer's Market from the MHC (40 total), and Nursing is traveling to the Hancock Co. Jail to administer vaccinations on 6/18/21.

4.0 OLD/NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Personnel

Commissioner Baroudi announced no hiring or separations in May 2021.

4.2 Public Health Champion Award—Proposed for Board Approval

Based on feedback from President Pasztor to come up with a way to continue public health awareness and collaborations throughout the entire Hancock Co. community, Commissioner Baroudi presented an idea for recognizing a person or people who advanced in the area of supporting the public health mission in the community each year. This would be presented as a recognition award by the Board of Health, with probable press release. Commissioner Baroudi suggested possible candidates for 2021 as Bill Ruse and Mayor Mury. Mr. Alge and Ms. Moody-Russo expressed they would not want to leave volunteers/others out from proper recognition by creating such a singular-oriented award. Mr. Baroudi and Ms. Pasztor stated the award could be given to multiple people in small groups, if desired. The Board was asked to think about how to structure such as award and encouraged to send ideas to Mr. Baroudi.

4.3 Federal Holiday Recognition - Juneteenth

Commissioner Baroudi proposed making a decision on how to recognize the newly declared Federal Holiday of June 19 (Juneteenth) at HPH after waiting to observe how other local agencies handle this situation. Ms. Moody-Russo asked if there is staff coverage during Federal holidays at HPH. Mr. Baroudi stated he was the emergency on-call responder during all Federal holidays. Discussion will continue at next Board meeting in July 2021.

5.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

5.1 Personnel: Health Commissioner's Performance Review and Evaluation

AS NEEDED/REQUESTED BY BOH/REASON: PERSONNEL PR & EVALUATION

Ms. Jones, Personnel Committee Chair, requested to go into executive session for a personnel/merit compensation matter, regarding performance evaluation of the Health Commissioner. President Pasztor requested motion for the Board of Health to move into executive session.

Vice President Edler moved for the Board to recess into executive session at 9:19 a.m. for reason to discuss the Health Commissioner's Performance Review and Evaluation. Seconded by Ms. Nancy Moody-Russo. Ms. Summit read roll call.

Roll Call: Ms. Pasztor (BJ): YES

Ms. Spoor (Robin): YES

Ms. Moody-Russo (Nancy): YES

Mr. Alge (Bill): YES

Ms. Jones (Karen): YES

Mr. Edler (Brian): YES

Dr. Lindamood: YES

All HPH leadership associates and Commissioner Baroudi were dismissed prior to executive session beginning.

At 9:44 am, Ms. Jones motioned to move the meeting out of executive session.

Seconded by Vice President Edler. **Motion carried 7-0.**

5.2 Board Action

Upon dismissal of Executive Session of the Board of Health, Ms. Jones announced the Board decision to increase Commissioner Baroudi's salary by 20% with the addition of a one-time \$10,000.00 bonus due to his efforts during the COVID pandemic.

President Pasztor announced the Board decision to request that Commissioner Baroudi assess for a potential one-time bonus for HPH staff and leadership related to COVID efforts by the end of 2021. Mr. Baroudi will update the Board at the July 2021 meeting regarding same.

Vice President Edler suggested that pay scales at HPH seem to be behind averages and advised reevaluation.

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, 7/16/21, 7:30 a.m., Hancock Public Health, 2225 Keith Parkway, Findlay, Ohio.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Pasztor requested motion for adjournment of the 6/18/21 Board of Health meeting.

Ms. Spoons motioned the Board of Health to adjourn its regular meeting of 6/18/21 at 9:56 am.

Seconded by Ms. Jones. **Motion carried 7-0.**



Barbara J. Pasztor, RN, MSN Board President



Karim Baroudi, MPH, Board Secretary