



# Hancock Public Health

## Board of Health

### Regular Meeting Agenda

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 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.
- X Nancy Moody-Russo, RN, JD
- X Robin Spors

- X Karim Baroudi, MPH, Health Commissioner
- X Nathaniel Ratnasamy, M.D., Medical Director (arrived 8:27 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**

Board President Pasztor called the March 2021 regular virtual meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

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

Commissioner Baroudi introduced one guest to the meeting, new HPH associate Allison Pickens, RN – Clinics/Communicable Disease.

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

### **2.1 Approval of March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Agenda Items**

President Pasztor requested motion to approve the 3/19/21 meeting agenda as presented in the Board information packet.

**Mr. Alge moved to approve the Agenda of the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Regular Board of Health meeting. Seconded by Ms. Spors. Motion carried 6-0.**

### **2.2 Approval of February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**

President Pasztor requested motion to approve the 2/19/21 meeting minutes as presented.

**Ms. Jones moved to approve the minutes of the February 19th, 2021, Board of Health meeting as transcribed. Seconded by Ms. Moody-Russo. Motion carried 6-0.**

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

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

**Dr. Lindamood moved to approve the bill schedule for February 2021. Seconded by Mr. Alge. Motion carried 6-0.**

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

**2.4.1 COVID-19 Enhanced Operations' Grant in the amount of \$198,470.00**

President Pasztor requested motion to approve Board recognition of revenue.

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

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

**2.5.1 COVID-19 Enhanced Operations' Project in the amount of \$198,470.00**

**2.5.2 Coronavirus Response/CT21 in the amount of \$22,200.00**

**2.5.3 General Fund – Contract Services Line Item in the amount of \$12,000.00**

President Pasztor requested motion to approve appropriations increase.

**Ms. Jones moved to approve the Appropriations Increase, as presented.** Seconded by Dr. Lindamood. **Motion carried 6-0.**

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

**2.6.1. Contact Tracing project in the amount of \$22,200.00**

President Pasztor requested motion to approve appropriation decrease.

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

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

**3.1 Medical Director – Dr. Ratnasamy**

Dr. Ratnasamy concurred with COVID update statistics in Hancock Co. as presented by Commissioner Baroudi, and stated worldwide statistics are similar – with the most encouraging statistics and largest decline of positive cases occurring in countries with aggressive vaccination efforts (currently Israel and the UK). Dr. Ratnasamy stated that it is important to continue encouraging becoming COVID vaccinated and utilizing precautions of social distancing, masking, etc., however, it is equally important to keep an element of hope for a brighter future related to the pandemic. Dr. Ratnasamy cited President Biden's recent declaration of setting the target date of 7/4/21 as the day marking "independence from COVID-19" if people continue to be vaccinated. Dr. Lindamood asked for clarification about why citizens are still resistant to receiving the vaccine. Dr. Ratnasamy answered that there are groups of people who fear long-term effects of the vaccine and other groups who simply feel they do not need vaccinations at all. Dr. Ratnasamy stated he believes the statistics on percent of citizens vaccinated in Hancock Co. are encouraging, especially in the 70+ age group, and all we can do from a public health perspective is continue encouraging the public to be vaccinated. Commissioner Baroudi stated he believes as residents begin to observe and realize the vaccine poses little health risks, more and more people will agree to be vaccinated.

**3.2 February 2021 Financial Report and Analysis – Karim Baroudi**

Presenting Board packet information, Commissioner Baroudi reported revenue trends are currently lower than normal for the second month of the year due to HPH operations primarily

being centered around COVID needs. More specific reasons for decreased revenue were described by Mr. Baroudi as food service licensing fees extended by ODH to the end of June 2021 rather than end of March 2021 and also the strategic decision made by HPH to waive administration fees for COVID vaccines thus far. Fees to public for the COVID vaccine were waived in in order to streamline the vaccine process and incentivize residents to receive the vaccine. Commissioner reported there is consideration to begin billing for COVID vaccine administration at the end of March. Other than COVID-related issues, there have been no major changes and no red flags in the February budget when compared to the past six years since the merge.

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

**Accreditation Update:** There are 13 working days before final accreditation document submission deadline. Mr. Masters has been speaking regularly with the PHAB consultant regarding Access to Care items and has a meeting with the consultant on 3/23/21 before final submission. Commissioner Baroudi stated he hopes to be able to update the Board regarding accreditation paperwork submission status by May 2021. Mr. Masters announced the next date for the PHAB Committee Review Meeting as 5/14/21.

**Mass COVID Vaccination Clinic:** Occurred without difficulties Saturday, 3/13/21. Mr. Masters expressed appreciation to Board members, Ms. Spoons and Ms. Jones, for their presence at the 3/13/21 clinic. The next scheduled mass COVID vaccination clinic is 4/10/21, with many staff and community members volunteering their time.

**Bloodborne Infectious Disease Prevention Program (BIDPP):** Mr. Masters stated the Injury Prevention Program has had much success with consistently increasing new referrals and participants. Mr. Bright and Mr. Decker have been discussing the potential for an agreement between HPH and Rite Aid Pharmacy, which would allow Rite Aid to become an additional Narcan distribution site. Mr. Alge commented on the informative nature of the Courier article regarding the BIDPP Program on 3/13/21. Although most HPH staff members have been primarily consumed with COVID-related duties (vaccine scheduling, vaccine clinics), Mr. Masters updated the Board on the Health Education Department's role in returning to the schools during week of 3/22/21 to re-initiate the "Balance My Day" Program for students. Mr. Masters stated that Ms. Plumley, HPH Epidemiologist, has been continuing her work with the school systems and long-term care facilities regarding State COVID guidelines.

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

**COVID Clinic Update:** Ms. Chamberlin updated the Board on potential revenue from COVID vaccine administration in the future, after she received information from Dan Klein, HPH Billing Clerk. Reimbursement for each COVID shot administered may be up to \$40.00. Ms. Chamberlin reported there have been very positive feedback from community members that the COVID clinics have gone smoothly, with good coordination among HPH staff and clinic volunteers.

**Non-COVID Nursing Clinic Update:** In addition to focus on COVID clinics, Ms. Chamberlin reported that Nursing Staff have been busy working on creative plans for school kindergarten screening publicity, with an idea to hand out school screening flyers at COVID clinics to reach a larger number of residents.

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

Ms. Heacock gave verbal update, including report on the HMG Program currently at full capacity with family participants (78 enrolled families, 13 on waiting list), with a total of 288 home visits in February 2021 (consistent with past home visit statistics). Ms. Heacock stated HMG held the March Parent Connection drive-through event, which will continue as drive-through style while Hancock Co. is in “red” COVID status. Ms. Heacock stated the HMG Program was approved for the Hancock County Community Partnership Council Grant for \$500.00, which will be utilized to fund parent connections centered around mental health and well-being through December 2021.

Ms. Heacock announced a new HMG associate to begin on 3/29/21, Julie Robinson, who has vast home visiting experience from her work in Allen Co. and is currently certified in Health Families America. Ms. Robinson is enrolled in the virtual Parents as Teachers Training course during the first week of April; once trained, Ms. Robinson will hopefully carry a full caseload, which will help greatly considering ongoing serious medical issues of another HMG associate.

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

Ms. Summit reiterated Ms. Chamberlin’s observations of positive community response/feedback regarding COVID vaccine clinics, with comments focused on the professionalism of staff/volunteers and efficiency of specifically the clinic on 3/13/21.

Despite most of EH staff still spending most their time on COVID vaccine scheduling calls, Ms. Summit announced there were only 24 establishments that did not receive inspections. These establishments have been identified and EH staff has a plan to conduct inspections as soon as possible, however, currently COVID vaccine scheduling efforts are priority for EH staff. Ms. Summit stated there are 75 food facility owners choosing to use the grace period stipulated in House Bill 404 for later license application submission; this has resulted in decreased EH revenue comparable to previous years. However, Ms. Summit reported EH revenue will be helped by the increase in temporary food/camp events in Hancock Co., with weekend events scheduled now through every weekend until the end of April. Another source of increased revenue are two major city sewer extension projects, one in Findlay (Bluebonnet/Bittersweet are), and the second on Township Rd. 212, Marion Twp. The challenge with the increased temporary events and sewer projects will be dividing the time of the EH staff between COVID duties and increased EH inspections/paperwork.

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

Regarding COVID efforts, Mr. Niese reported he has busy making changes to phone system to accommodate updated COVID vaccine scheduling procedure. During week of 3/22/21, Mr. Niese will be testing use of the State’s Vaccine Management System, and hopefully in the coming weeks the State’s system will be made available for Hancock Co. residents, which should decrease burden of COVID vaccine scheduling on HPH staff. Mr. Alge asked for clarification regarding COVID vaccine scheduling, whether scheduling continues online. Mr. Niese answered that COVID vaccine scheduling in Hancock Co. is not online anymore, and instead a specially designated call number has been established at HPH for residents to schedule their COVID vaccines. Although the newer scheduling call system still requires staff time, it will decrease the intensity of staff resources needed.

Mr. Niese and the Communications Team have been focusing on transmitting messages to the public regarding changes in vaccine scheduling procedures and also continual changes with vaccine eligibility requirements. Personally, Mr. Niese continues to work on major IT projects, including setting up the new network server and VPN system and planning for a future document management solution project.

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

**Legislative Update:** Commissioner Baroudi initiated a discussion regarding Senate Bill 22, co-sponsored by Senator McColley, which has passed in House and Senate, and has added language stipulating the restriction of authority of local boards of health. Mr. Baroudi expressed his concern with these local BOH restrictions and the long-term implications the bill could have on the ability of local health departments to prevent harm to the public during emergencies. Senate Bill 22 is expected to be vetoed by Governor DeWine, but Commissioner Baroudi stated he wishes to encourage HPH staff, Board members, and Hancock Co. residents to vocalize their concern about this issue with letters to the editor and/or reaching out to State representatives to ask them to allow the veto of Senate Bill 22, as elected officials may not be fully aware of the gravity of the bill's negative implications. Ms. Jones suggested attempting to speak with Rep. Jon Cross; Commissioner Baroudi stated Mr. Cross voted to pass the bill already, and it may be more impactful for pressure to come from citizens. Dr. Lindamood reported he had heard information that Senate Bill 22 only allows restriction of the Governor abusing power during emergencies; Mr. Baroudi stated the new language targeting local level authority was added to the bill much later and referred to the entire 50-page Senate Bill 22 document included in the Board packet. Mr. Alge asked how Senate Bill 22 might affect contact tracing efforts. Commissioner Baroudi stated contact tracing would be restricted only to written consent and no over-the-phone verbal consent, which could greatly impair efforts to decrease spread of disease. Dr. Lindamood suggested possibly using an op-ed in the local paper to increase likelihood that message would be received by public. Mr. Alge suggested a potential collaborative op-ed with Findlay Mayor Muryn. Commissioner Baroudi stated his purpose for discussion today was to confirm Board of Health support. Dr. Lindamood and Mr. Alge verbally expressed support of Commissioner Baroudi's proposed efforts to educate the public about the negative implications of Senate Bill 22 on the ability of local health departments to protect the public during emergencies. The remainder of the Board did not voice opposition.

**COVID Update:** Commissioner Baroudi discussed the concerning uptick in positive COVID cases and hospitalizations recently in Hancock County. He stated Hancock Co. remains in "red" COVID risk status due to continuing to have over 100 COVID cases per 100,000 residents. Commissioner reported on the success of the 3/13/21 mass COVID clinic. He stated HPH staff took the lead in planning the 3/13 clinic, Governor DeWine made an appearance which increased positive publicity, and he expressed gratitude to Board members Ms. Jones, Ms. Spoons, and President Pasztor for their presence at same clinic. Currently as of the 3/19/21 Board meeting, 21.5% of the Hancock Co. population had been COVID vaccinated, with Hancock Co. surpassing the state average for percentage of 70+ year-olds fully vaccinated. Commissioner Baroudi announced the most recent future vaccination plan for collaboration with Marathon and Whirlpool Corporations to mass vaccinate their employees.

## **4.0 OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Personnel**

Allison Pickens, RN, began HPH employment on 3/15/21; hired to fill clinic nurse vacancy.

### **4.2 Mobile Health Clinic (MHC) Workgroup Update**

Commissioner Baroudi presented the Board with a complete strategic plan for purchase of an MCH bus and operational budget through year 2022. He stated the plan for the first few months of the bus operations, the services would be restricted to COVID vaccine administration and more varied HPH services will be added in the future. Commissioner Baroudi reviewed donations received and pending receipt for the MCH project, citing a complete donation amount for the first year of operations of \$570,000 (\$200,000 being used for purchase of the bus and the remainder used for all other operational costs).

Ms. Chamberlin asked for clarification regarding the two proposed MCH nursing positions. Commissioner Baroudi explained there are two positions being proposed, to start full time at beginning of the project and reevaluate later for potential part time status, one position being a Nurse Practitioner, the other a Registered Nurse. Ms. Chamberlin expressed concern that the MHC RN beginning salary was higher than a regular HPH RN salary. Mr. Baroudi stated he intentionally overbudgeted for the MHC, and that the MCH RN would make the same as any beginning HPH RN. Ms. Chamberlin stated she believes it would be more beneficial to hire the NP full time, as an NP may be less motivated for an intense part-time start-up role.

Commissioner Baroudi stated the proposed MHC bus company stated they could have a bus ready mid April 2021, with a possible operational start time as the end of April/beginning of May 2021. With verbal support from the Board to purchase the bus, Commissioner will purchase and begin staff recruitment.

Mr. Alge asked for clarification regarding the size of the MHC vehicle. Commissioner Baroudi stated the bus would be smaller than the one owned by Ohio Northern University, but presented the proposed floor plan and discussed that there would be various options for interior clinic organization.

Ms. Chamberlin asked questions related to driving the bus and sewage tank emptying. Commissioner Baroudi stated a CDL is not needed to drive the MHC, only a regular driver's license. Regarding the sewage tank, Commissioner stated the sewage tank is 24 gallons, thus may need to be emptied once a day. Ms. Summit stated she is not aware of a free service for sewage tank dumping.

President Pasztor suggested that Commissioner Baroudi hold a separate forum for HPH staff questions related to the MHC at a separate time from the Board meeting of 3/19/21.

Mr. Alge asked if University of Findlay students would be involved with the HPH MHC. Commissioner Baroudi stated the U of F Pharmacy students have expressed interest in participating, and HPH would use Pharmacy students as well as students from other Departments as needed.

President Pasztor inquired about progress with HPH establishment of 501(c)(3) status. Commissioner Baroudi explained the 501(c)(3) project has been intentionally delayed due to Rotary prioritizing their efforts towards pursuing the MHC project. Commissioner Baroudi stated he would like to see examples of other public health departments which have established 501(c)(3) status successfully before pursuing for HPH.

Ms. Jones asked how donations could be made toward the MHC or any project at HPH currently. Commissioner Baroudi stated any person or group can make a donation independently. HPH is not permitted to solicit donations or hold fundraisers, but is permitted to accept independently motivated donations. Further, independent donations are not required to be made through Rotary.

Mr. Alge asked if the ADAMHS Board was in support of and/or would become involved with the HPH MHC project. Commissioner Baroudi stated the ADAMHS Board is putting forth \$100,000 worth of staff time for a counselor to be on the bus unit, however, during the focused COVID vaccination phase of the MHC, ADAMHS would not need to be involved.

President Pasztor asked what is needed from the Board in terms of support of the MHC. Commissioner Baroudi stated he is seeking support from the Board of Health in the form of verbal consent at this meeting of 3/19/21 for moving forward with his proposed strategic plan as presented. Commissioner Baroudi stated that a Board vote is unnecessary, as the MHC is considered part of HPH regular operations, much like adding any new service. Commissioner Baroudi will regularly bring to the Board revenue to be recognized related to the MHC. No opposition was verbalized by the Board regarding support of Commissioner Baroudi's Mobile Health Clinic strategic plan, as discussed in the 3/19/21 Hancock Co. BOH meeting.

## 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, 4/16/21, 7:30 a.m.**, Hancock Public Health, 2225 Keith Parkway, Findlay, Ohio.

## 7.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Pasztor requested motion for adjournment of the 3/19/21 Board of Health meeting.

**Ms. Spors motioned the Board of Health to adjourn the regular (virtual) meeting of 3/19/21 at 9:09 a.m.** Seconded by Mr. Alge. **Motion carried 6-0.**



Barbara J. Pasztor, RN, MSN Board President



Karim Baroudi, MPH, Board Secretary