



Hancock Public Health

Board of Health

Regular Meeting Agenda

May 15th, 2020 at 7:30AM



Member Attendance:

- A Nancy Moody-Russo, RN, JD (President)
- X William Alge, Esq.
- X Karen Jones, MSN, RN
- X Michael Lindamood, M.D.
- X Brian Edler
- X Robin Spoons
- X Barbara J. Pasztor, MSN, RN (President Elect)

- X Karim Baroudi, MPH, Health Commissioner
- X Nathaniel Ratnasamy, M.D., Medical Director (arrived at 8:05 a.m.)

Staff:

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

1.0 CONVENTION

1.1 Call to Order

President Elect Pasztor called the May 2020 video conference meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

1.2 Guests

Commissioner Baroudi announced there would be no planned guests at today's meeting, but did explain that the current video conference Board Of Health Meeting has been opened to public viewing through advertisement of the link to the virtual call number through The Findlay Courier and the Hancock Public Health website.

2.0 BOARD ACTIONS/REGULATIONS/VARIANCES/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2.1 Approval of May 15, 2020 Agenda Items

Commissioner Baroudi stated that Item 2.4 on the May 15, 2020 meeting agenda (Approval of a Third and Final Reading to the Emergency Resolution to establish a \$100 Fee for Temporary Tattoo & Body Art Operation license in our jurisdiction) should be eliminated, as Item 2.4 had its third and final reading in the April 17, 2020 Board of Health meeting. President Elect Pasztor requested motion to approve the 5/15/20 meeting agenda minus Item 2.4 as presented in the Board packet of information distributed earlier in the week.

Ms. Spoons moved to approve the Agenda of the 5/15/20 Regular Board of Health meeting.
Seconded by Ms. Jones. **Motion carried 6-0.**

2.2 Approval of April 17, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

President Elect Pasztor requested motion to approve the 4/27/20 Board of Health meeting minutes as presented in the Board packet of information distributed earlier in the week.

Dr. Lindamood moved to approve the minutes of the 4/17/20 Board of Health meeting as transcribed. Seconded by Ms. Jones. **Motion carried 6-0.**

2.3 Approval of April 2020 Bill Schedule

President Elect Pasztor requested motion to approve the April 2020 bill schedule as presented. Mr. Alge moved to approve the bill schedule for April 2020. Seconded by Mr. Edler. Motion carried 6-0.

2.4 Approval of Third/Final Reading for Temporary Event Body Art License Fee

Commissioner Baroudi stated previously that Item 2.4 on the May 15, 2020 BOH meeting agenda should be eliminated, as Item 2.4 had its third and final reading on 4/17/20.

2.5 Approval to Increase Appropriations for Fiscal Year ending 12/31/20:

- 2.5.1 \$100.00 (Clinical Supplies: United Way donation to procure thermometers for COVID temporary congregate housing)**

President Elect Pasztor requested motion for increasing appropriations, as listed above.

Ms. Spors moved to approve the Increased Appropriations for Clinical Supplies for Fiscal Year ending 12/31/20, as detailed. Seconded by Ms. Jones. Motion carried 6-0.

2.6 Approval of BOH Resolution Recognizing Revenue for Fiscal Year ending 12/31/20:

- 2.6.1 \$100.00 (Clinical Supplies: United Way donation to procure Thermometers)**

President Elect Pasztor requested motion for Board Recognition of Revenue, as listed above.

Dr. Lindamood moved to approve the BOH Resolution Recognizing Revenue for Fiscal Year ending 12/31/20, as detailed. Seconded by Ms. Jones. Motion carried 6-0.

2.7 Approval of Charges Made by Help Me Grow Program to purchase Walmart Client Incentives

Commissioner Baroudi explained that the Help Me Grow Program moved to conducting virtual services due to Coronavirus Pandemic. To encourage continued family participation in Help Me Grow, the state offered incentives in the form of diapers/phone cards/gas cards. And to expedite services, HPH ordered incentive supplies from Walmart and pre-paid with company credit card. The Hancock County Auditor's office would like the Board to acknowledge that the Walmart charges were made in advance of state money received. A letter will be presented to the Hancock Co. Auditor explaining such, if approved by the Board; that letter was read verbatim by Commissioner Baroudi to the Board members during the current 5/15/20 meeting.

President Elect Pasztor requested motion for Board Approval of the Letter explaining Help Me Grow Program incentives charges, as explained above.

Mr. Alge moved to approve the Letter to Hancock Co. Auditor, as read to the Board by Commissioner Baroudi. Seconded by Mr. Edler. Motion carried 6-0.

2.8 Approval of Letter to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) appointing the Health Commissioner to sign all documents as the authorized agent relative to Public Assistance Grant Program (FEMA-DR-4507-OH)

Commissioner Baroudi reported that HPH had applied for a public assistance grant through FEMA to act as an emergency response organization during the national pandemic. FEMA requested that one person be appointed as the authorized agent to review/sign documents in the event the Board is unable to convene. As of 5/15/20 no claims have been submitted. The drafted letter to FEMA assigning Commissioner Baroudi authorized agent was read verbatim by Commissioner Baroudi to the Board members during the current 5/15/20 meeting.

President Elect Pasztor requested motion for Board Approval of the Letter appointing Commissioner Baroudi as authorized agent of FEMA grant-related documents.

Ms. Jones moved to approve the Letter to FEMA, as read to the Board by Commissioner Baroudi. Seconded by Mr. Edler. Motion carried 6-0.

2.9 Approval of License Holders' Request to Transfer 2020 Food Service Licenses previously issued to new owners at the following business locations:

2.9.1 Jacob Huber (Findlay's Finest Foods, LLC), 122 E. Sandusky Street, Findlay, OH

2.9.2 Anthony Clark/Jarrold Hartman (Main Street Deli), 513 S. Main Street, Findlay, OH

Ms. Summit explained the requests being made above, to transfer food licenses to new owners of food facilities still at same physical locations. Discussion ensued, with Ms. Spoons, Ms. Jones, and Mr. Alge stating they felt these particular requests are different from a previous request to waive the license transfer fee, in that the current two licensed facilities were not changing physical locations and that both of these food facilities were able to stay open and bring in revenue during the pandemic.

2.9.1. President Elect Pasztor requested motion to approve or disapprove food license transfer from previous owner of Findlay's Finest Foods, LLC, to new owner of same facility.

Dr. Lindamood moved to conduct roll call to approve food license transfer, as described above. Seconded by Ms. Spoons.

Commissioner Baroudi Conducted Roll Call:

President Moody-Russo: A

Mr. Alge: NO

Ms. Jones: NO

Dr. Lindamood: NO

Mr. Edler: NO

Ms. Spoons: NO

Ms. Pasztor: NO

Motion to transfer Findlay's Finest Foods, LLC, food license from previous owner to new owner was not approved, 6-0.

2.9.2. President Elect Pasztor requested motion to approve or disapprove food license transfer from previous owner of Main Street Deli to new owner of same facility.

Ms. Jones moved to conduct roll call to approve food license transfer, as described above. Seconded by Mr. Edler.

Commissioner Baroudi Conducted Roll Call:

President Moody-Russo: A

Mr. Alge: NO

Ms. Jones: NO

Dr. Lindamood: NO

Mr. Edler: NO

Ms. Spoons: NO

Ms. Pasztor: NO

Motion to transfer Main Street Deli, Findlay, OH, food license from previous owner to new owner was not approved, 6-0.

3.0 STAFF REPORTS

3.1 Medical Director

Dr. Ratnasamy began in-depth discussion on many factors related to COVID-19 statistics with use of slides and information provided in the BOH packet. Considering all statistical data available, Dr. Ratnasamy stated that it appears the curve of COVID spread is decreasing, with death rates also beginning to decrease. Belgium and Sweden seem to have higher rates of death/million than other countries, and Germany and Iceland seem to have much lower rates due probably to their contact tracing efforts. Locally in Hancock Co., the 21-day trends are slowly coming down. The highest death rates are in the 70-over 80 populations, but there is a trend for increased hospitalizations due to COVID in the 40-59 age groups, which might cause a surge stress on health care systems. Dr. Ratnasamy stated his hope that these trends will continue to decrease upon Ohio reopening.

Mr. Alge asked for clarification about COVID testing. Dr. Ratnasamy reviewed COVID tests:

- 1) PCR testing detects the virus when it is actively present in the body. Some are 15-minute turnaround tests, some are 1-2-day turnaround tests. Although no PCR test is perfect, the more accurate tests are tending to be the 1-2-day turnarounds.
- 2) Antibody testing detects the presence of the virus even after it has left the body, with the main two different antibody tests being IgM and IgG. The antibody test currently being used is from Mayo Clinic and has an added feature of distinguishing COVID from other types of corona viruses.
- 3) Antigen testing can detect the virus actively present in the body within a few minutes; however, Dr. Ratnasamy stated these types of tests may have increased false negative results.

3.2 Financial Report

Commissioner Baroudi presented overview of HPH finances for April 2020. Comparing to trends from the past five years, he stated April finances are consistent and stable. President Elect Pasztor asked if the State will be allocating money to local health departments in light of pandemic. Mr. Baroudi explained that a \$62,000 state award to HPH was reported during the April 2020 BOH meeting, and HPH was notified on 5/14/20 of an additional \$76,399 state award to be used specifically for contact tracing. Because a portion of HPH staff have been reassigned to conduct contact tracing, HPH will be able to recoup the salaries of reassigned staff using the state-specific contact tracing funding.

President Elect Pasztor asked if HPH plans to use students for contact tracing. Commissioner Baroudi stated so far only reassigned nursing staff have been used for contact tracing during this time when clinical services are slower than normal, but leadership is discussing a training program for volunteer contact tracers if there is a future COVID surge. Ms. Chamberlin suggested that it may not be as efficient using nursing students who can only conduct contact tracing one day a week during their volunteer period. Ms. Pasztor reported that many nursing students who are unable to complete their traditional clinicals due to COVID issues have been assigned to contact tracing full time for clinical hour completion. Mr. Alge and Ms. Pasztor stated it might help the University of Findlay greatly to have RN/PA students participate in contact tracing programs. Commissioner Baroudi stated that HPH may not have as much of a need locally, thus it may be beneficial to distribute a list of RN/PA student names to other health department localities in the region.

3.3 Health Planning & Promotion Services

Mr. Masters gave overview of focus areas for Emergency Response/COVID Planning.

Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs)/Congregate Housing: Commissioner Baroudi and Mr. Masters have been in weekly virtual contact with many LTCFs in Hancock Co., working closely with them on PPE needs, advisement for COVID regulations, and participation in a walk-through of three LTCFs by ODH/CDC officials to identify areas of improvement with COVID planning. LTCF administrators have expressed appreciation for HPH advisement and Mr. Masters stated LTCFs appear to have more of a collaborative/ally relationship with HPH rather than an authoritative/penal relationship. So far in Hancock Co, the LTCFs have kept a zero count of COVID, which is a testament to the collaborative efforts between LTCF administrators and HPH. Additionally, Gary Bright has been successful in coordinating isolation quarantine centers and maintaining consistent contact with associated staff in these centers.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Because HPH has received PPE/supplies from the Emergency Protective Agency (EPA) and the State, Mr. Masters has been able to reach out to dental offices to coordinate donation of PPE supply kits as a bridging effort for offices whose PEE vendors are backed up currently due to COVID. This effort is ongoing.

Funding: Mr. Masters reported a total of \$91,000 state funding granted to HPH, which can be put toward staff time and/or other pandemic-related purchases. As discussed previously, leadership is working on a budget and potential training materials for contact tracing participants.

Mr. Alge commended the efforts of Commissioner Baroudi and Mr. Masters working closely with LTCFs for a successful HPH/LTCF collaboration. Mr. Alge further commended the article in the Findlay Courier detailing the efforts of Gary Bright, Injury Prevention Coordinator, in Hancock Co. community.

Mr. Alge inquired about the "DR" grant. Mr. Masters summarized all the grants associated with Gary Bright's Injury Prevention Coordinator position currently, among them the Drug Overdose (DR) Grant and the Integrated Naloxone (IN) grant. Mr. Masters discussed attempting to of grant resources; the Board will be updated as Mr. Masters receives clear information on grant money transfer/continuance.

3.4 Personal Health Services

Contact Tracing: Ms. Chamberlin explained further the reason for filling contact tracing positions at HPH currently with existing nursing staff, given that the school nurses were not able to be paid for their full contracted hours during COVID issues, and they are not interested in making up for some of their income loss.

Help Me Grow: The State has continued the incentives program for Help Me Grow participants through the end of June, with biweekly updates. Ms. Chamberlin expressed hope that these incentive awards will continue. Updates for the Board as more information is available. Mr. Alge asked if there has been a decline in Help Me Grow Program during the pandemic; Ms. Chamberlin answered that, although the visits are shorter due to virtual nature, there has been no decrease in family participation in Help Me Grow. If anything, there has been an increase in family's treated through Help Me Grow due to the ability to take on more customers with virtual visits. Mr. Edler asked about the type of virtual platforms for the Help Me Grow visits; Ms. Chamberlin announced that State has approved of phone calls, Zoom visits, even text communication education. Ms. Chamberlin stated she hopes the State might consider more of these alternative virtual visitations/communication in the future for increased program efficiency and number of families treated.

Clinic/Immunizations: HPH clinics have been reopened with adaptations in scheduling. What used to take a half day in clinic time for vaccines now takes a full day due to COVID regulations, thus some weekend clinics are being offered to make up for lost time with vaccines. The youngest patients are being scheduled first, and HPH has received pediatric mask donations as these have been very difficult to acquire since the pandemic began.

Vaccine Education Campaign: Discussion held among nursing staff about whether or not vaccination education could be done virtually and potentially reach more customers. Will update the Board as decisions are made.

LTCF Staff COVID Testing: Ms. Chamberlin explained the need for HPH to communicate with out-of-Hancock-County LTCFs that employ Hancock Co. residents who are being tested for COVID through their out-of-Hancock-County employers. Nursing Dept. has been reaching out to neighboring LTCFs with Hancock Co. residents as staff and explaining the importance of communicating results of their Hancock Co. employees' COVID tests with HPH. There has been one Hancock Co. resident (LTCF employee) who tested positive but was completely asymptomatic.

3.5 Environmental Health Services

Ms. Summit reported she has been busy working with Commissioner Baroudi and the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) to complete 213 forms needed when giving PPE to LTCFs and dentist offices and also for COVID test kits. Ms. Summit has also been working closely with the Fiscal Administrator, Chelsi Frankforther, on tracking overtime hours and staff time spent related to grants.

Environmental Health/COVID Activities: Environmental Health (EH) staff have all spent increasing amounts of time responding to calls from concerned citizens, concerned workers, and business owners with complaints, observations, and requests for advisement related to COVID issues. Mr. Schroeder and Mr. Burks have conducted field visits with manufacturing companies to increase COVID regulation compliance. These visits have improved communication between HPH and Hancock Co. businesses as evidenced by managers calling in to confide to HPH about COVID cases/testing of staff. In addition to regular EH calls, there have been 277 additional calls since 4/17/20 related specifically to COVID issues, especially from the business community asking for business restart advice. The sanitarians have been busy compiling individualized restart informational packets for business operators. Ms. Summit stated the main challenges have been related to not receiving up-to-date Governor's orders in a timely fashion, thus increasing the time it might take to interpret these orders and communicate them to the community.

Mr. Edler asked when routine environmental visits would be starting again. Ms. Summit stated routine visits such as pool/restaurant inspections have been ongoing throughout the pandemic, however, due to the significantly increased pandemic workload of EH staff described above, the timeliness of routine visits has been especially challenging. Ms. Summit announced Trae Gulgin, EH regular student intern, would be coming back three days a week to hopefully make more time for sanitarians to get back to their regular schedules. Mr. Edler inquired about statistics related to businesses reopening. Ms. Summit answered that there have been a small number of pools and restaurants announcing their closings due to the pandemic, but most are in the process of restarting currently.

Ms. Jones inquired about mask wearing requirements in public facilities and the workplace. Ms. Summit stated there are various exemptions for mask wearing, among them if staff work in a very hot kitchen and other medical exemptions for which staff can apply (such as having a breathing disorder that would make mask wearing a hazard for the individual). EH staff have been following daily with workers and business owners in the community in an attempt to enforce mask wearing and also explain the exemption regulations.

3.6 IT/Data Systems Services

Mr. Niese gave report on the new focus of the Communications Team since Ohio has taken steps to reopen from the quarantine. Members of the Communications Team have been working closely with the Environmental Health (EH) staff in responding to public calls about concerns/complaints about mask wearing and other reopen regulations. The Communications Team was instrumental in creating a mask wearing information video publicized on Facebook, which has been viewed 5000 times, again reinforcing that HPH messages are being received by the Hancock Co. community.

3.7 Health Commissioner/Legislative Updates

COVID Patterns in Hancock County: Commissioner Baroudi summarized patterns of COVID illness in Hancock Co. through 5/15/20: 34 confirmed COVID cases, 9 probable; 7 hospitalized citizens – all now discharged/recovered; 1 death; 508 tests performed – 460 negative, 14 pending results; 28 females affected/15 males; median age 46. No reported COVID cases in LTCFs or congregate shelters.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Update: Mr. Baroudi stated the procurement of PPE and COVID test kits has become easier since the beginning of the pandemic. HPH has been able to maintain a stockpile of PPE for kit donations to various facilities in need. Total COVID test kits procured is 450, with 300 of those kits given to BVH, 75 to LTCFs, 20 to NW Ohio Clinics, and 5 kits saved for LTCFs/congregate shelters.

Blanchard Valley Hospital Involvement: Commissioner Baroudi explained what a large role BVH has had as a partner with HPH Incident Command in response to the pandemic, including daily calls with Roxanne Williams and constant collaboration with Drs. Ratnasamy and Kose. Mr. Baroudi stated that he has received multiple calls from public health departments around the state asking for advisement on how HPH has been able to form such positive relationships with LTCFs, and part of this has been hospital involvement.

Reopening Ohio: Commissioner Baroudi reported that 90% of the US economy will be open by mid-week of 5/18/20. The challenge now is how to balance reopening the economy and keeping citizens healthy yet continuously aware of engaging in prevention measures. It will be a larger challenge now that more businesses are opening, with warmer weather, and citizens wanting to be out more.

Mr. Alge asked how HPH is handling the COVID complaint/report calls. Commissioner Baroudi answered HPH is happy to take on this role, as the Governor has advised Ohioans to rely on their local health departments for specific questions on Governor orders/regulations. HPH is responding to every call and concern individually. However, with this responsibility comes

increased workload, seen especially for the Environmental Health (EH) staff. EH staff have seen a 10-, 20-, sometimes 30-fold increase in call volumes compared to non-pandemic years. Most the State money related to the pandemic has been awarded to epidemiology and nursing programs, but none to EH. Commissioner Baroudi is hoping to work with the State to earmark some of the money awards for EH to recoup that significant time and involvement.

4.0 OLD/NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Personnel

Hannah Plumley, MPH, offered and accepted the Epidemiologist/Emergency Response Planner position, start date Monday 5/18/20.

4.2 Mobile Health Clinic

Commissioner Baroudi stated there have been meetings with Ohio Northern University; it is being discussed to share a mobile health clinic with ONU to save cost, etc. More information as those discussions continue.

5.0 CONTINUING EDUCATION

5.1 No CEU's will be offered at this Board Meeting; links will be provided to complete individually.

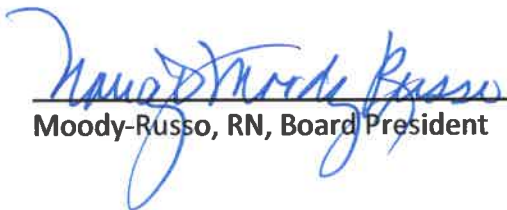
6.0 NEXT MEETING


6.1 **Friday, June 19, 7:30 a.m.** Tentative location in Conference Room at Hancock Public Health, 2225 Keith Parkway, Findlay, OH.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Elect Pasztor asked if there was business to address before Board adjournment; no further business was voiced by Board members. President Elect Pasztor asked for motion to adjourn the 5/15/20 Board of Health meeting.

Dr. Lindamood motioned the Board of Health to adjourn its regular meeting of 5/15/20 at 8:55 am. seconded by Mr. Edler. Motion carried 6-0


Moody-Russo, RN, Board President


Karim Baroudi, MPH, Board Secretary