



Hancock Public Health

Board of Health

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 20th, 2022, 7:30 a.m.



BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

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

- X Karim Baroudi, MPH, Health Commissioner
- X Nathaniel Ratnasamy, M.D., Medical Director

STAFF:

- X Shannon Chamberlin, Nursing Director
- X Alexa Heacock, Help Me Grow Director
- X Chad Masters, Health P&P Director (exited 9:20 a.m.)
- X Craig Niese, IT/Data Manager
- X Lindsay Summit, Environmental Health Director

1.0 CONVENTION

1.1 Call to Order

President Edler requested motion to call the 5/20/22 meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

1.2 Introduction of Public, Guests, and Staff

Commissioner Baroudi announced the following guests for the 5/20/22 meeting:

- 1.2.1** Cheryl Miller – PR/Marketing Coordinator, Hancock Public Health (HPH)
- 1.2.2** Sara Arthurs - Journalist/Health Reporter, The Findlay Courier Newspaper
- 1.2.3** Abrielle (Abbie) Davis – New Help Me Grow Program Associate, HPH
- 1.2.4** Craig Krajewski – Registered Sanitarian, Environmental Health, HPH
- 1.2.5** Heidi Phillips – Registered Sanitarian, Environmental Health, HPH
- 1.2.6** Jessica Shrake, MPH – CDC Foundation Epidemiologist assigned to HPH
- 1.2.7** Antonio Hudson – Restaurant Owner, Preteroti's Spaghetti House, Findlay, OH
- 1.2.8** Grant Heaster – Property Owner, 14546 County Rd 54, Rawson; via meeting link
- 1.2.9** Jeffrey Pelphrey – Property Owner, 6194 & 6200 County Rd 23, Alvada;
Mr. Pelphrey was absent from the 5/20/22 BOH meeting; meeting link provided.

2.0 BOARD ACTIONS/REGULATIONS/VARIANCES/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2.1 Approval of 5/20/22 Agenda Items

President Edler requested motion to approve the 5/20/22 meeting agenda as presented in the Board information packet distributed earlier in the week.

Ms. Moody-Russo moved to approve the agenda of the 5/20/22 Regular Board of Health meeting. Seconded by Mr. Alge. **Motion carried 6-0.**

2.2 Approval of 4/15/22 Board Meeting Minutes

President Edler requested motion to approve the 4/15/22 meeting minutes.

Ms. Jones moved to approve the minutes of the 4/15/22 Board of Health meeting. Seconded by Dr. Lindamood. **Motion carried 6-0.**

2.3 Approval of April 2022 Bill Schedule

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

Ms. Spors moved to approve the bill schedule for April 2022. Seconded by Ms. Moody-Russo. **Motion carried 6-0.**

2.4 Board of Health to RECOGNIZE REVENUE for Fiscal Year Ending 12/31/22

2.4.1 Enhanced Operations Project in the amount of **\$100,000.00**

2.4.2 Drug Overdose FY'22 in the amount of **\$12,000.00**

2.4.3 Food Program Reimbursement from ODH in the amount of **\$137,067.42.**

Commissioner Baroudi explained revenue from Item 2.4.3 is based on State reimbursement secondary to the gap in the Food Program budget due to COVID issues in 2021.

President Edler requested motion to approve recognition of revenue, as presented.

Dr. Lindamood moved to approve recognition of revenue, as above. Seconded by Ms. Moody-Russo. **Motion carried 6-0.**

2.5 Board of Health to APPROVE APPROPRIATION INCREASE for Fiscal Year Ending 12/31/22

2.5.1 Enhanced Operations Project in the amount of **\$100,000.00**

2.5.2 Drug Overdose FY'22 contract service line in the amount of **\$12,000.00**

2.5.3 General Fund line items salary, contract repair, and contract services in the amount of **\$137,067.42.**

President Edler requested motion to approve appropriation increase, as presented.

Ms. Jones moved to approve the appropriate increase, as above. Seconded by Mr. Alge. **Motion carried 6-0.**

2.6 Board of Health to AUTHORIZE VEHICLE LEASE AGREEMENTS

Commissioner Baroudi explained there are two (2) lease agreements for HPH staff-use vehicles with Great Lakes Toyota that are expiring. The Board is being asked to authorize replacement of two (2) vehicle leases at the cost of \$277.12/month and \$277.02/month for a 36-month lease term.

President Edler requested motion to authorize the replacement of two (2) vehicle lease agreements, as presented.

Mr. Alge moved to approve the two (2) vehicle lease replacements, as above. Seconded by Ms. Moody-Russo. **Motion carried 6-0.**

2.7 Board of Health to HEAR VARIANCE REQUEST from Household Sewage Treatment Rules

2.7.1 Request by **Jeffrey Pelphrey** to allow two (2) mobile homes to connect to a new NPDES sewage treatment system at 6194 and 6200 County Road 23, Alvada, Ohio, Biglick Township.

Ms. Summit explained that three dwellings owned by Mr. Pelphrey (one conventional home and two mobile homes) are currently served by one sewage system on combined properties. The single sewage system is not large enough to sufficiently serve all three dwellings.

Ms. Summit recommended the following: That the two mobile homes be connected to one NPDES sewage system and the conventional home remain being served by the original sewage system, with each system having its own Operation & Maintenance Septic Permit, whereby each system would be checked every five years by the Health Department (HD), and an additional caveat that the original sewage system have a six-month checkup by the HD Sanitarians to ensure there is no public health nuisance. If a public health nuisance is assessed, replacement of the original system will be recommended. Mr. Alge asked when the new NPDES system would be installed; Ms. Summit stated install timeline would depend on septic contractor schedules.

President Edler requested motion to approve the Variance Request Recommendations stipulated by Ms. Summit above for 6194 and 6200 County Rd. 23, Alvada, Ohio.

Ms. Moody-Russo moved to approve the Variance Request Recommendations, as detailed by Ms. Summit. Seconded by Ms. Jones. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Commissioner Baroudi conducted roll call related to the above motion:

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

2.7.2. Request by **Grant Heaster** to waive requirements for replacing the household sewage treatment system at 14546 County Rd. 54, Rawson, Ohio, Union Township.

Ms. Summit referred to a Board packet timeline of events occurring up to Mr. Heaster's request for the Board to waive replacement of the sewage system on his property. Prior to Mr. Heaster purchasing the property, the sewage system at 14546 CR 54 was evaluated and deemed deficient in function by Tom Hiatt, Private Contractor/Septic Evaluator. Craig Krajeski, HPH Registered Sanitarian, set flags in preparation for recommended soil analysis (which is conducted to determine the most suitable type of replacement sewage system). Soil analysis was not pursued by the previous owner to Mr. Heaster. After Mr. Heaster purchased the property, he requested that HPH re-set flags in preparation for soil analysis. Mr. Krajeski re-set flags. Soil analysis was not pursued by Mr. Heaster. Mr. Heaster submitted a request for the Board of Health to dismiss the need to replace the sewage system at 14546 CR 54, reporting that the existing sewage system has never been and is currently not a public nuisance.

Commissioner Baroudi asked who is responsible for following through with sewage system recommendations during property transfers. Ms. Summit answered that HPH does not dictate who should pay for and/or follow through with septic system issues during property transfers; either the owner or buyer can be responsible for and request services. It is up to all parties and their representatives during property transfer negotiation to determine payee. HPH asks only for best contact for communicating recommendations.

Commissioner Baroudi asked if Mr. Krajeski identified a public health nuisance caused by the sewage system during his previous on-site visits to 14546 CR 54. Mr. Krajeski answered that he could not officially identify a public health nuisance at the property, mainly due to the age of

the sewage system (approximately early 1900s with a replacement tank in approx. 1970s) and related inability to locate an inspection port and outlet tiles, which is common with older systems.

Commissioner Baroudi asked what it would take for HPH to determine whether or not a sewage system is causing a public nuisance. Ms. Summit answered that the outlet tile would need to be located, a dye test conducted, and an effluent (Coliform/E. coli) water sampling would need to be taken (HPH 2022 fee \$98.90).

President Edler asked if there are statutes requiring sewage system replacement. Commissioner Baroudi answered that if the system is determined to be failing, replacement is required. President Edler asked if Tom Hiatt, Septic Evaluator, deemed the sewage system at 14546 CR 54 as failing; Ms. Summit answered no, that Mr. Hiatt deemed the system "deficient." Ms. Summit explained many people believe a sewage system to be operating properly if toilets are flushing, sinks are draining, and there is no water collecting on the property; however, this is not necessarily correct. Ms. Summit further explained when there is an old septic system with no inspection port or identified outlet tiles, further investigation is required to determine whether the system has failed or is creating a public nuisance.

Commissioner Baroudi asked for Ms. Summit's recommendations in determining the functional status of Mr. Heaster's current sewage system. Ms. Summit stated there are two choices: 1) Mr. Heaster could contact a second registered septic evaluator/private contractor and pay for a second-opinion septic evaluation (separate from Tom Hiatt's initial evaluation); and/or, 2) Mr. Heaster could dig up the tile, try to locate tile outlet, then obtain and pay for a dye test with subsequent effluent water sampling. If the system is determined to be failing after these methods, Mr. Heaster would be required to replace the sewage system.

Ms. Jones asked if HPH answered Mr. Heaster's question in his Board request letter regarding mound systems. Mr. Krajewski stated the mound system option was brought up for educational purposes and was not considered a final plan. Mr. Krajewski stated formal soil sampling and analysis would be needed by a soil scientist to determine the most ideal sewage system for Mr. Heaster's property. Mr. Alge asked if soil tests are conducted by different contractors than septic system evaluators; Mr. Krajewski answered yes that soil scientists and septic system evaluators are two different professional categories. Septic system evaluators assess whether septic systems are operational and soil scientists collect soil samples and create a soil analysis report to help determine the most suitable type of sewage system for any particular property. Mr. Krajewski stated, in this case, soil sampling/analysis would be postponed until after Board recommendations about further evaluation of Mr. Heaster's existing sewage system.

Ms. Jones asked if there is grant assistance available for people who may not be able to afford repair or replacement of sewage systems; Ms. Summit answered yes, that grant assistance is available based on income. Mr. Krajewski stated he had informed Mr. Heaster about the grant assistance program through the Hancock Regional Planning Commission. Commissioner Baroudi stated Mr. Heaster has opined there is no public nuisance being created by his existing sewage system located at 14546 CR 54; however, HPH and the Board have no proof Mr. Heaster's existing sewage system is or is not creating a public nuisance. Hence,

Commissioner Baroudi recommended to the Board denying Mr. Heaster's request to waive sewage system replacement until it can be proven that the existing system is not a public nuisance. Mr. Baroudi recommended to place the burden back on the owner, Mr. Heaster, to provide the Board with evidence that the existing septic system at 14546 CR 54 is not a public nuisance, at the owner (Mr. Heaster's) expense.

Mr. Alge asked what would happen if a second-opinion septic evaluator deemed Mr. Heaster's existing sewage system functional and not a public nuisance. Commissioner Baroudi stated if there are two conflicting reports on Mr. Heaster's existing sewage system, the recommendation would be for Mr. Heaster to obtain an Operation & Maintenance Septic Permit with HPH monitoring of the existing system on a regular basis. Commissioner Baroudi recommended that Mr. Heaster work with HPH staff to determine whether or not his existing sewage system is a public nuisance. After that determination, Mr. Heaster is welcome to come back to the Board for further discussion.

Ms. Jones asked if she needed to abstain from vote due to her personal property being 3 miles from Mr. Heaster's property and due to her having prior awareness/potential opinion regarding Mr. Heaster's request. Commissioner Baroudi answered yes, Ms. Jones will abstain from vote.

President Edler requested motion to deny Mr. Heaster's request for waiving sewage system replacement at his property located at 14546 CR 54, Rawson, Ohio.

Mr. Alge moved to deny Mr. Heaster's request for waiving sewage system replacement, as presented above. Seconded by Ms. Moody-Russo. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Baroudi conducted roll call related to the above motion:

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

- 2.8 Board of Health to Approve Waiving Habitat for Humanity Homes Plumbing Permit Fees:**
2.8.1 Permit Fee for Address 1319 Olney Ave, Findlay, Ohio in the amount of \$150.00
2.6.2 Permit Fee for Address 1325 Olney Ave, Findlay, Ohio in the amount of \$150.00

President Edler requested motion to approve waiving the above permit fees, based on Commissioner Baroudi's explanation of the Board's history of waiving Habitat for Humanity plumbing permit fees.

Mr. Alge moved to approve Waiving Habitat for Humanity Plumbing Permit Fees, as above. Seconded by Ms. Moody-Russo. **Motion carried 6-0.**

- 2.9 Board of Health to CONSIDER ACTION Against Food Service License #SBRT-BSLHWL** for repeated violations and failure to maintain standards set forth in **OAC 3717:1 Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code** (License related to Preteroti's Restaurant at 1331 N. Main St, Findlay, Ohio, 45840; Licensee: Antonio Hudson).

Commissioner Baroudi requested the physical presence of Antonio Hudson and Heidi Phillips, HPH Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) who works closely with Preteroti's, in the Board meeting room. Ms. Summit referred to the Preteroti's Timeline of Inspections and Events and a letter detailing the most recent Preteroti's inspection findings on 5/18/22, all included in the Board packet. Ms. Summit explained that Preteroti's has had difficulty maintaining compliance with many food safety requirements from 10/2021 to presently 05/2022, with a progressively increasing frequency of on-site inspections required (eight inspections in the last two months alone for Preteroti's, with typically only two inspections conducted annually for most food licensed facilities). Ms. Summit stated Mr. Hudson has made progress with some of the compliance issues at Preteroti's, however, the main reason Mr. Hudson was brought before the Board on 5/20/22 was due to food temperature compliance and understanding the importance of food temperature monitoring related to public health.

Mr. Alge asked for clarification of the current deficiencies at Preteroti's Restaurant. Ms. Summit stated that as of the most recent HPH 5/18/22 inspection, critical violations were found in the cold food holding temperatures. Commissioner Baroudi asked if the hot holding temperatures were in compliance on 5/18/22. Heidi Phillips, HPH Sanitarian, stated there was no opportunity to observe hot holdings on 5/18/22, but emphasized that every time there is an HPH inspection at Preteroti's Restaurant, there is a critical violation temperature issue (hot and/or cold), which could potentially cause foodborne illness.

Mr. Hudson was given opportunity to speak. He reported he and his restaurant staff were not aware of the need to take temperatures of actual food products, that they only believed temperature measurements were required for food holding containers. Mr. Hudson explained there also may have been a communication issue with informing less experienced restaurant staff about temperature taking. Mr. Hudson stated he recently had the Preteroti's refrigeration units repaired, and he began taking actual food product temperatures as of 5/18/22, after the most recent HPH inspection by Ms. Summit and Ms. Phillips. Mr. Hudson requested of the Board to allow one final HPH inspection at Preteroti's to prove refrigeration units have been repaired and food temperatures are in compliance.

Mr. Alge asked for input from President Edler, considering Mr. Edler's business experience in the food industry. President Edler presented various options for measuring food holding temperatures (automatic/digital versus written temperature logs). At President Edler's businesses, food temperatures are monitored digitally on timers, with immediate problems being auto notified to management. Mr. Edler stated that all food temperature logging methods are acceptable, as long as all responsible staff monitors consistently. Mr. Edler stated it appears Mr. Hudson has made efforts to improve compliance but follow through with food safety code is crucial after trainings are completed. Ms. Moody-Russo asked if the food temperature violations at Preteroti's are purely mechanical due to refrigeration units. President Edler answered that temperature violations are not necessarily solely due to mechanical issues, that a cooler/warmer may be operating properly but the food inside may be kept too close to the top of the container (overflow of food holding containers), which creates potential for food to be exposed to lower or higher temperatures when the holding container cover is continuously opened. Mr. Edler stated there is generally a marker inside food holding

containers for the acceptable depth at which food can be stored inside the container to maintain safe temperatures.

Commissioner Baroudi expressed concern that the food holding temperature issues at Preteroti's are critical violations that have been a recurring theme for almost two years. He suggested this type of critical violation cycle cannot be sustained, considering potential for public health issues and the significant HPH resources being required. Ms. Summit expressed concern that one final inspection will not be enough to prove compliance due to the extended timeline of inconsistencies and violations. Ms. Phillips reported thus far all Preteroti's HPH inspections have been announced/scheduled visits; Ms. Phillips opined that compliance may be an even more significant issue if visits were unannounced.

Mr. Alge asked when the State Department of Health might become involved with noncompliance food license issues. Ms. Summit and Commissioner Baroudi stated that the administration of **OAC 3717:1 Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code** is up to the local Board of Health. Mr. Baroudi added that Hancock Public Health has a responsibility to work with food facility owners on food code education and assistance in understanding codes, restaurant owners have a responsibility to comply with HPH recommendations and codes, and all involved parties including the Board of Health have the responsibility to prevent foodborne illness/outbreaks.

Discussion ensued regarding how to define compliance with food holding temperatures and how to initiate a plan to ensure consistent food holding temperature compliance by Preteroti's. Commissioner Baroudi suggested HPH Sanitarians conduct unannounced inspections and upon the first food holding temperature violation Preteroti's food license would be immediately suspended for a period of time. Discussion ensued by President Edler, Commissioner Baroudi, Mr. Masters, and Mr. Alge regarding clarification of conditional/temporary license suspension timelines.

Commissioner Baroudi verbalized a final proposed action plan for Preteroti's Restaurant food safety compliance to the Board, suggesting that the Board consider imposing the time period from 5/20/22 to 6/17/22 (the next BOH meeting) when HPH Registered Environmental Health Specialists conduct unannounced inspection site visits to Preteroti's Restaurant. If during HPH inspections from 5/20/22 to 6/17/22 any hot or cold food holding temperature violations are documented, Preteroti's 2022 food license will be immediately suspended until 6/17/22, at which time the Preteroti's food license suspension will be reviewed by the Board. Mr. Baroudi added that continued compliance with the terms of the current issued Food Service license will be taken into consideration by the Board of health at renewal in February of 2023.

President Edler requested motion to approve the final proposed action plan for Preteroti's Restaurant food safety compliance, as detailed above.

Mr. Alge moved to approve the Final Proposed Action Plan for Preteroti's Food Safety Compliance. Seconded by Dr. Lindamood. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Commissioner Baroudi conducted roll call related to the above motion:

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

3.0 STAFF REPORTS ON PROGRAMS & SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

3.1 Medical Director – Dr. Ratnasamy

Dr. Ratnasamy reviewed recent COVID trends, reporting an increase in positive number of COVID cases, percent positivity, and hospitalizations in Hancock Co. and across the U.S. However, hospitalizations are not increasing to the degree as during the last COVID surge, thus monitoring is ongoing but no public health emergent mode recognized at this time.

Dr. Ratnasamy reported there are low levels of influenza (nothing worrisome at present), and discussed the most recent health issue in the media - monkeypox virus. Per Dr. Ratnasamy, the monkeypox virus has only one reported U.S. case and very few cases nationally, but is being closely monitored due to one particular monkeypox strain having a 10% mortality rate. The smallpox vaccine and other antivirals are approved for treatment of monkeypox. President Edler asked how monkeypox virus is transferred; Dr. Ratnasamy answered by close contact/respiratory droplets. Monkeypox is not classified as a sexually transmitted infection, but this variable is currently being studied.

Mr. Alge asked for clarification of PAXLOVID medication side effects recently discussed in the media. Dr. Ratnasamy stated there have been some cases where patients taking a 5-day course have had rebound symptoms; however, PAXLOVID is still being used with high-risk populations to prevent severe COVID illness/hospitalizations and currently there is no recommended change in the typically prescribed 5-day course. Ms. Jones asked for update regarding accessibility of PAXLOVID; Dr. Ratnasamy answered that many pharmacy chains are now carrying PAXLOVID, thus general public should have adequate access to this medication.

3.2 April 2022 First Quarter Financial Report and Analysis – Karim Baroudi

Commissioner Baroudi gave summary of the 2022 First Quarter financial revenue trends using slides and Board packet information. No alarming financial trends noted, with outperformance in some programs from originally set budget markers in December 2021. No questions or concerns voiced by the Board regarding 2022 First Quarter Financial Report.

3.3 Health Planning & Promotion – Chad Masters

Mr. Masters summarized his written Board report. He announced the SAMHSA Grant (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration) was not awarded to HPH, however, a useful collection of information was acquired during the application process which can be utilized for future grants. The Ohio Fatality Review position will now be funded by State grant monies in partnership with the ADAMHS Board. Mr. Masters gave update on submission of HPH annual report to PHAB and will provide more details when PHAB Committee offers feedback regarding two-part report submission.

Referencing Mr. Masters' Harm Reduction written Board report of 5/20/22, Mr. Alge asked for clarification of fentanyl strip use. Mr. Masters explained that fentanyl strips are primarily used for testing drug batches for presence of fentanyl, which is a method of overdose prevention and part of the Syringe Service Program at HPH. The intent of fentanyl strip distribution is to encourage people experiencing drug use to make healthier choices and prevent overdose.

Mr. Alge asked for clarification regarding who qualifies as first responders in the distribution of DAWN kits. Mr. Masters defined DAWN kit first responder distributors as including fire departments, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical service responders. Mr. Alge asked Mr. Masters to discuss the level of cooperation from law enforcement with DAWN kit distribution. Mr. Masters stated the only first responders who are not currently distributing DAWN kits/naloxone are the Findlay Police Department staff and also mentioned that kits are not being distributed upon jail release in Hancock County. Ms. Moody-Russo asked why jail-release naloxone distribution has not progressed, considering there are findings related to increased chance of overdose upon jail release. Commissioner Baroudi answered that jail staff are providing referrals and HPH contact information for acquiring naloxone, but that prisoners are not following up consistently with those referrals. HPH staff have had multiple meetings with the Sheriff's Dept., but there are third-party logistical barriers to jail-release naloxone distribution. Mr. Alge asked if HPH needs to have connection with the third party. Commissioner Baroudi stated HPH staff have made attempts to communicate with nationally involved corporate third party, with no consistent response.

Mr. Alge asked for the definition of "multiple secondary Narcan distribution sites." Mr. Masters stated these are businesses located in smaller communities in Hancock Co. impacted by potential overdose situations (gas stations, carry-outs, etc.). The HPH Peer Support Specialists (Jamie Decker and Sharona Bishop) are actively conducting outreach with these small businesses to help them understand the importance of carrying Narcan and having it available for potential high-risk situations on their business sites. Ms. Jones asked if county fire departments have been approached for participating in Narcan distribution, as they are often first on emergency scenes; Mr. Masters answered he will confirm that information with Gary Bright, HPH Harm Reduction Coordinator.

President Edler shared with the Board a personal experience involving one of his close family members and multiple other people living in the same area as his close family member, who overdosed after using drugs from a "bad" batch (a batch of drug product containing fentanyl and morphine). Mr. Edler emphasized the importance of educating people experiencing addiction and their families about drug batches potentially containing substances that could cause mass/multiple overdoses from one "bad" batch of drugs distributed in the same physical location.

Mr. Alge asked Mr. Masters to define "QRT." Mr. Masters defined QRT as the Quick Response Team, which is a partnership of responders made up ideally of staff from the Family Resource Center (mental health), HPH (Harm Reduction), and law enforcement who will go together to respond to potential overdose situations for the purpose of increasing the opportunity to educate/demonstrate to family members and law enforcement how to handle drug-related emergency responses in a nonconfrontational manner.

Mr. Masters stated lines of communication are improving between HPH staff and local law enforcement regarding the importance of harm reduction, but continued education and outreach are necessary to optimize harm reduction efforts in Hancock County.

3.4 Health Services – Shannon Chamberlin

Ms. Chamberlin referred to her printed Board report, noting special considerations in the following Nursing Program areas: 1) Children with Medical Handicaps – CMH nurse, Alexa Dreyer, is back to full-time capacity solely in the BCMH Program since pre-COVID and the program is now treating more clients than ever in its history; 2) Vaccine Program – Expected small increase in vaccinations during the next month during the end of the school season, then most likely an expected drop in vaccinations during summer months; 3) Mobile Health Clinic (MHC) /Nurse Practitioner (NP) – Interviews for the MHC NP are completed and decision will be made at end of current date, 5/20/22, for new NP hire. The MHC is getting much more publicity in the community due to the recent HPH outreach program of County employee health screens.

Mr. Alge asked if there might be an opportunity for the HPH MHC and the Ohio Northern University (ONU) MHC to be present at the same community event. Commissioner Baroudi stated the main target for the HPH MHC is locations identified as having low vaccination rates and that the ONU MHC has a very different scope of practice, mainly offering basic screenings and no immunizations.

3.5 Help Me Grow (HMG) Program – Alexa Heacock

Ms. Heacock referred to her printed Board report and primarily focused on HMG Program expansion in her special considerations' discussion. Ms. Heacock described an upcoming expansion grant opportunity through ODH/OhioRISE, which would result in all Medicaid-eligible families being immediately referred to the HMG Program; this would create a significantly higher number of families needing HMG services. Part of the grant includes hiring a full-time staff person and HMG receiving a large lump sum from the State for assistance in responding to the potentially expanded programming. The State has reached out to Ms. Heacock, inquiring about the possibility of the HPH HMG Program accepting referrals for families in Wood County, given the extreme staff shortage in Wood County Home Visitors. Ms. Heacock has written into the grant the acceptance of referrals in Bloomdale, Bairdstown, Fostoria, and North Baltimore, as these towns are generally in tri-county locations.

Ms. Heacock addressed the recent formula shortage issue. She reported formula shortage is affecting approximately half of the HMG families. The HMG retention funds have allowed for the purchase of formula for participating families, but the shortage continues and especially impacts families with children who require hypoallergenic formula. Commissioner Baroudi stated the national news predicts an expected lessening of the formula shortage in the coming months. Mr. Alge asked if HMG qualifies for formula samples; Ms. Heacock answered that she has reached out for formula samples, but HPH does not qualify due to not having 501(c)(3) status and that there is no pediatric-designated provider for HPH.

President Edler suggested it might be a good time to revisit potential 501(c)(3) status for HPH. Commissioner Baroudi stated the 501(c)(3) status was shelved for a time due to the COVID response and that more legal opinion is required due to government entity/fundraising issues. Mr. Baroudi offered one option for 501(c)(3) is working through a Public Health Fund managed by the Community Foundation with its own Board, separate from the Board of Health.

3.6 Environmental Health (EH) Services – Lindsay Summit

Ms. Summit summarized her printed Board report, with special consideration announced that EH is adding tick surveillance to the Mosquito Program. The new EH Vector Control Technician (who will begin on 5/23/22) will be involved with tick and mosquito surveillance activities. Ms. Summit reported that the other new EH staff person began 5/16/22 and thus far is making good progress with acquiring his Sanitarian-In-Training certification.

3.7 IT & Health Data Management Services – Craig Niese

Mr. Niese updated the Board on two main projects going on at HPH currently: 1) Document Management/Paperless Documentation – Staff received training the week of 5/16/22 and will begin trial of document management system implementation soon; 2) HPH Parking Lot – Parking lot pothole was recently noted, contractor assessed and referred to excavator due to finding of potentially more serious issue under concrete, excavator soon to evaluate.

3.8 Health Commissioner Remarks & Legislative Update – Karim Baroudi

Commissioner Baroudi reported that some ODH monies have been earmarked for the following HPH projects: Renovation of HMG office space due to need for expansion, parking lot project reviewed above by Mr. Niese, and replacement of the HPH front main doors to improve accessibility and ADA compliance.

Commissioner Baroudi notified the Board that the building next door to HPH on E. Melrose Avenue is currently for sale. Mr. Baroudi announced he has reached out to Senator Brown to inquire about potential for capital grants at the federal level for investment in public health in general and the need for future HPH expansion. Mr. Alge asked if accreditation status of HPH helps with respect to receiving capital grants; Commissioner Baroudi answered yes. Further updates regarding potential capital grants will be offered to the Board when available.

Commissioner Baroudi summarized the following legislative updates for the Board:

- 1) House Bill 631 – Proposal for Public Health to promote alternative treatments for COVID. Committees are ongoing, no hearings have yet occurred, monitoring will continue.
- 2) Senate Bill 324 – Proposal to eliminate District Advisory Councils and transfer governance of Health Departments from Health Districts/Boards of Health to County Commissioners. Testimony in Opposition session has occurred, with the main concern voiced regarding Commissioners not wanting to take on fiscal responsibility of Health Departments. Mr. Alge asked if the DAC has a lobbyist for support navigating the Bill; Commissioner Baroudi answered the DAC does not have a lobbyist, but the Township Trustees have their own lobbyist and attorney, who testified along with the President of the Commissioner's Association in opposition of the Bill. Mr. Baroudi stated there is a lack of understanding at the legislative level of how the Board of Health operates, and much-needed education was offered during the Opponents' session. Mr. Alge asked if the Hancock County Commissioners are knowledgeable about the DAC; Mr. Baroudi answered yes and added that the Hancock County Commissioners are active members of the DAC. Mr. Baroudi reported Senate Bill 324 seems to be coming from issues in counties where Health Departments are struggling, especially in locations where there is no functional DAC, which is not the case in Hancock County.

Commissioner Baroudi announced the HPH Mobile Health Clinic (MHC) is offering health screenings to Hancock County employees, taking place the week of 5/16/22 and on the current date, 5/20/22. Mr. Baroudi welcomed the Board to participate in screenings, if desired.

Mr. Alge asked for clarification of the differences between hiring a Nurse Practitioner (NP) for the MHC versus hiring an RN, specifically what will an NP offer that an RN could not offer. Ms. Jones stated an NP is comparable to an extension of a physician, being able to act as an independent practitioner, similar to the role of a physician, with prescription-writing power, and does not require the presence of or orders from a physician at all times. An RN is not considered an independent practitioner and must take direct orders from a physician. With an RN in the MHC position, a physician or Medical Director would need to have much more constant physical presence at HPH.

4.0 OLD/NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Personnel

Abbie Davis, HMG Home Visitor I (began 5/18/22)
Andrew Lehman, EH Specialist (began 5/16/22)

4.2 2021 Community Health Assessment (CHA) – Final Draft

Commissioner Baroudi announced the completion of the final draft of the 2021 Community Health Assessment the week of 5/9/22, with approval of shared partners (Blanchard Valley Hospital, ADAMHS Board, and the Community Foundation). A public release date is being determined and the CHA will be released electronically with a recording for greater ease of review by community members. After public release, the committee will regroup for the three-year planning process.

4.3 New Infectious/Communicable Disease Dashboard Rollout

Jessica Shrake, CDC Foundation Epidemiologist, was physically present during the 5/20/22 BOH meeting to discuss her newly-created project, a dashboard containing infectious disease information, updates, education, including but not limited to COVID. Ms. Shrake offered the Board a complete active demonstration of how to utilize the dashboard tool. Commissioner Baroudi stated this would be a much more user-friendly method for community members to independently seek out information/updates on various infectious diseases. President Edler asked how the dashboard would be updated; Ms. Shrake answered that updates are currently planned to occur monthly and will be manual updates rather than automatic.

5.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

5.1 Motion to move Board of Health into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matter

Commissioner Baroudi requested Board Executive Session regarding a pending resignation/personnel matter. President Edler requested motion for the Board of Health to move into Executive Session.

Ms. Jones moved for the Board to recess into Executive Session at 10:05 a.m. for discussion regarding a pending resignation/personnel matter. Seconded by Dr. Lindamood. Motion carried 6-0.

Ms. Summit conducted roll call related to the above motion:

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

At 10:22 a.m., President Edler motioned to move the meeting out of Executive Session.
Seconded by Ms. Spoons. **Motion carried 6-0.**

BOARD ACTION: President Edler requested motion for the Hancock County Board of Health to regrettably accept the resignation of Dr. Ratnasamy as Medical Director of the Board, effective July 2022, pending Medical Director replacement, with the willingness of Dr. Ratnasamy to act as a Board of Health consultant as needed.

Ms. Jones moved for the Board to accept the resignation of Dr. Ratnasamy as Medical Director, as presented in President Edler's Board Action statement above. Seconded by Ms. Spoons. **Motion carried 6-0.**

6.0 CONTINUING EDUCATION

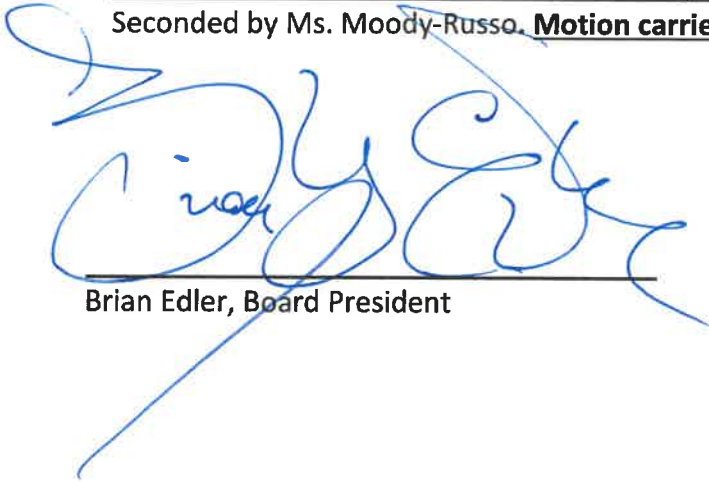
6.1 No CEUs were offered at the current meeting of 5/20/22.

7.0 NEXT MEETING

7.1 **Friday, 6/17/22, 7:30 a.m.,** Hancock Public Health, 2225 Keith Parkway, Findlay, Ohio.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Edler requested motion for adjournment of the 5/20/22 Board of Health meeting. **Ms. Spoons motioned the Board of Health to adjourn the Regular Meeting of 5/20/22 at 10:25 a.m.**
Seconded by Ms. Moody-Russo. **Motion carried 6-0.**



Brian Edler, Board President



Karim Baroudi, MPH, Board Secretary