



# Hancock Public Health

## Board of Health

### Regular Meeting Agenda

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 7:30 a.m.



#### **BOARD 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 (via cell phone)
- A Robin Spors
  
- X Karim Baroudi, MPH, Health Commissioner
- X Nathaniel Ratnasamy, M.D., Medical Director

#### **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**

President Pasztor called the September 2021 regular meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

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

Commissioner Baroudi announced two guests: Sara Arthurs, Journalist, The Findlay Courier, and Kayla Vorhees, MPH Candidate observing the work of a Board of Health.

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

### **2.1 Approval of September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Agenda Items**

President Pasztor requested motion to approve the 9/17/21 meeting agenda as presented in the Board information packet.

**Mr. Alge moved to approve the Agenda of the September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Regular Board of Health meeting.** Seconded by Vice President Edler. **Motion carried 5-0.**

### **2.2 Approval of August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Baroudi requested correction in Board Member Attendance section, Page 1, from Nancy Moody-Russo as Absent to Nancy Moody-Russo as Present via cell phone.

Ms. Jones requested two corrections in Section 2.8, Page 3: 1) Change credentials of BVHS Nurse Practitioner to APRN-CNP; 2) Correct misspelling of Cindy Lamm, Hancock Co. Prosecutor's Office, to Cindy Land. Corrections duly noted.

President Pasztor requested motion to approve the 8/20/21 meeting minutes as presented in the Board packet, with corrections as noted above.

**Ms. Jones moved to approve the minutes of the August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Board of Health meeting as transcribed, with noted corrections.** Seconded by Dr. Lindamood. **Motion carried 5-0.**

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

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

**Dr. Lindamood moved to approve the bill schedule for August 2021.** Seconded by Mr. Alge.  
**Motion carried 5-0.**

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

#### **2.4.1 Integrated naloxone in the amount of \$5,500.00**

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

**Dr. Lindamood moved to approve the Board Recognition of Revenue, as presented.**

Seconded by Vice President Edler. **Motion carried 5-0.**

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

**2.5.1 Covid Enhanced Operations Grant – salary, worker’s comp, and IT equipment line items in the amount of \$25,000.00**

**2.5.2 Integrated naloxone – salary, worker’s comp, Medicare, insurance, and PERS line items in the amount of \$5,500.00**

**2.5.3 General Fund Equipment line items in the amount of \$5,995.00**

**2.5.4 Drug Overdose '22 project in the amount of \$12,202.78**

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

**Ms. Jones moved to approve the Appropriation Increase, as presented.** Seconded by Vice President Edler. **Motion carried 5-0.**

### **2.6 Board of Health to Approve Waiving Habitat for Humanity Homes Plumbing Permit Fees:**

**2.6.1 Permit Fee for Address 2050 Elyria St., Findlay, Ohio in the amount of \$150.00**

**2.6.2 Permit Free for Address 2060 Elyria St., Findlay, Ohio in the amount of \$150.00**

President Pasztor requested motion to approve waiving the above fees, based on Ms. Summit’s explanation of the Board’s history with waiving Habitat for Humanity plumbing permit fees.

**Vice President Elder moved to approve Waiving Plumbing Permit Fees, as presented.**

Seconded by Mr. Alge. **Motion carried 5-0.**

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

### **3.1 Medical Director – Dr. Ratnasamy**

Dr. Ratnasamy stated COVID trends in general continue to be concerning, however there is recent hopeful indication of percent positivity trending downward in Hancock Co. Dr.

Ratnasamy updated the Board on hospitalization rates, with 32 COVID patients in BVH on 9/16/21, 13 of 32 in critical care beds, 1 of 32 having had previous COVID vaccination. Mr. Alge asked if BVH patients with non-COVID issues are being turned away; President Pasztor reported no patients have been turned away during the most recent COVID surge in Hancock Co., and no

surgeries have yet needed delay/cancellation. Ms. Pasztor stated hospital leaders are meeting multiple times per day to carefully arrange bed availability. Ms. Pasztor reported the hospital is performing a lot of monoclonal antibody infusions due to the team of four critical care pulmonologists at BVH who manage a COVID Clinic in collaboration with Wood County Hospital, and are able to respond to COVID patients quickly.

Vice President Edler asked if monoclonal antibodies are in decent supply in Hancock Co.; Dr. Ratnasamy stated so far there is decent monoclonal antibody supply, but patients must meet criteria in order to receive treatment (i.e., age, medical conditions, comorbidities, etc.). Mr. Elder asked how a person could voluntarily donate monoclonal antibodies; Dr. Ratnasamy stated monoclonal antibodies are not a donated product, compared to plasma which can be donated. A few Board members and HPH staff recounted stories of patients who received monoclonal antibodies very quickly in Hancock Co. and improved almost immediately with no severe illness. Ms. Chamberlin asked if there is a correlation between vaccinated vs. unvaccinated patients and response to antibody treatment; Dr. Ratnasamy stated he does not have access to this type of research yet. Ms. Chamberlin stated HPH gets calls about where to donate plasma and residents are referred to Cleveland Clinic with those questions. Dr. Ratnasamy stated donated plasma has not been found to be as effective in COVID treatment as initially believed.

Ms. Chamberlin asked for ideas on making mental health resources readily available for staff experiencing anxiety/PTSD symptoms related to working during the most recent COVID surge. President Pasztor and Commissioner Baroudi answered that both the hospital and HPH staff have Employee Assistance Programs for said services. Ms. Chamberlin suggested it may be beneficial to offer more direct trainings or service reminders, as staff tend to respond more readily to active encouragement to utilize mental health services.

### **3.2 August 2021 Financial Report and Analysis – Karim Baroudi**

Commissioner Baroudi summarized August 2021 revenue trends and six-year comparison, noting a recent upward revenue trend due to a combination of factors: HPH re-opening after pandemic, back-up of fees for service, and state COVID grant monies. Mr. Baroudi stated HPH is still trying to fill gaps in the budget, especially for fee for service revenue, but overall, 2021 trends are sloping upward and are slightly above expectations. One area of concern discussed by Mr. Baroudi is that EH revenues are generally a couple years behind in budget reflection, thus 2021-22 trends may be reflect negatively in the 2022-23 budgets; careful monitoring and budget analysis of the effects of the pandemic on operating budget will be especially important in the coming months. Commissioner Baroudi stated next month he will bring to the Board 2022 budget plans.

Vice President Edler asked for clarification of multiple mortgage payment listings in the recent August 2021 budget, stating the multiple listings may be a typo. Ms. Summit duly noted the typo and stated Financial Officer would make corrections.

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

No written report available due to home emergency issue.

Re-Accreditation Update: Mr. Masters summarized activities relating to the re-accreditation process. In the first year, the PHAB Board requires an update report and report on the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) project (electronic records/document scanning), for which the CQI team has already met. By May 2022, PHAB requires a report to demonstrate improvement in deficiency areas noted in initial accreditation assessment. During year three post initial accreditation, activities will begin for the re-accreditation planning process.

Health Education Update: Mr. Masters gave verbal update on the Health Education Program Safety Grant received the last two years, which involves collaboration with local law enforcement to decrease fatal auto accidents due to distracted/impaired driving. Part of the requirement of the grant is to educate residents during community events, and Jessica Halsey has been involved with a couple events with good public reception. The HealthPath grant was submitted (\$60,000--\$300,000 over three years), which will be used for staffing, programming, and falls in line with the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Injury Prevention (IP) Update: The State recently granted an additional \$81,000 (initial request was \$91,000) for the IP Program, which will eventually help with increased staffing needs. Jamie Decker and Gary Bright have been busy with daily community outreach, the Hancock Co. Fair, and a Recovery Walk. Over 30 Narcan kits were distributed to residents during the fair, with ample opportunity for program discussion/education.

Hancock County Fair Update: Mr. Alge asked if the Mobile Health Clinic (MHC) was present during the County Fair event. Mr. Masters summarized the Public Health themes during each day of the County Fair and stated the MHC vehicle was present during the entire fair. The State recommended no COVID vaccinations be given during 2021 fair events, thus no vaccines were given at the Hancock Co. Fair. Mr. Alge asked if the County Fair resulted in increased COVID calls/cases; Commissioner Baroudi answered there has been no observed COVID case uptick since the fair event.

Epidemiology Update: Mr. Masters stated the most recent surge of COVID has inundated HPH with calls. Commissioner Baroudi explained that the State had previously reassigned all contact tracing to a third party, PCG, in early 2021 for the purpose of increased consistency with contact tracing. However, with the recent COVID surge, PCG has been unable to keep up with tracing and the State has reassigned contact tracing back to local health departments. In the beginning of COVID, it was easier to reassign HD staff for COVID duties due to the HD being closed for regular services. However, with the most recent COVID surge it has been difficult for HPH to keep up with calls/contact tracing, as regular HD services require consistent staff time. Nevertheless, Hannah Plumley in Epidemiology, Kurt Schroeder from EH, and Jayne Catlett from Clinic have been re-assigned to focus primarily on COVID calls and now contact tracing. There is hope for additional State funding through the Enhanced Operations Grant, which will be used once again for contact tracing contract services with a third party hired by HPH.

### 3.4 Health Services – Shannon Chamberlin

Ms. Chamberlin summarized her prepared Board report, with most discussion focused on Board member questions about COVID testing and answers from HPH staff.

Regular Clinic Update: Back-to-school vaccine clinics are starting, with one occurring on 9/16/21, 88 doses administered, considered a good turnout. Flu vaccine clinics are filling up the

Nursing October calendar, only the high-dose flu vaccinations have been shipped to HPH thus far. Regarding HIV testing, nine HPH associates are trained to conduct HIV testing and the HIV test kits are in stock. HIV testing will be offered by appointment only and focus population for testing will be BIDPP clients.

COVID Updates/Discussion: Ms. Chamberlin announced there has been a variable response from Hancock Co. schools regarding HPH COVID protocol for quarantine. Nursing is brainstorming on best method for COVID quarantine message distribution to students/families, as sometimes contact tracing calls are not being made until after a child is finished with quarantine. Flyers were given out with quarantine/close contact instructions at the most recent school vaccine clinic on 9/16/21. Ms. Chamberlin welcomed suggestions from the Board on better school protocol message distribution.

Ms. Chamberlin stated she has noticed a trend in residents who have changed their minds about requesting a COVID vaccine. She thanked Vice President Edler for sharing his personal story during the Board meeting on 8/20/21, as she stated she believes it is personal accounts such as Mr. Edler's that have made an impact on residents moving from anti-vax to pro-vax beliefs.

President Pasztor asked for information about COVID third dose vaccine and/or booster. Ms. Chamberlin stated COVID third dose vaccines have been approved for immunocompromised people with special medical qualifications. HPH is currently administering third dose vaccines to this immunocompromised population. Commissioner Baroudi stated HPH is adhering strictly to CDC guidelines on qualifications for third shots.

Vice President Edler asked if there are timelines for the COVID booster shot. Commissioner Baroudi answered COVID boosters have not yet been approved; HPH hopes to have more clarification regarding boosters by the end of September 2021. Mr. Baroudi stated he feels when the booster is approved, it may initially be reserved for medically qualified, at-risk residents; Dr. Ratnasamy agreed. However, currently the vaccination is still showing effectiveness for people who received it as far back as December 2020.

Mr. Alge asked for information regarding the under 12-year-old COVID vaccination situation. Commissioner Baroudi noted he has heard unofficial word that a COVID vaccine may be available for children 12 years old and younger by December 2021, but no other clear information is currently available.

Ms. Jones asked if HPH still has rapid test kits available for public. Ms. Chamberlin announced that HPH is currently out of all rapid test kits, but a new shipment is set to arrive very soon of 1500 more kits. Ms. Chamberlin stated HPH is recommending that all people using rapid test kits ensure they conduct the test by connecting via internet to the TeleHealth visit, as no official follow-up, contact tracing, or data can be done without a formal TeleHealth visit and confirmed TeleHealth results. Commissioner Baroudi reported there is currently a nationwide shortage of rapid test kits, but hopes more tests become widely available as testing mandates increase. Discussion ensued about rapid test shortcomings and concerns about testing availability.

Ms. Jones asked if the same test kits are being distributed from the Findlay-Hancock Co. Public Library and asked about the method of testing in home test kits. Commissioner Baroudi answered that the home test kits being distributed from the Library and HPH are the same, and the test method is nasal swab. Mr. Alge asked what happens after someone tests positive after taking a rapid test at home. Commissioner Baroudi stated the law with all home test kits is for the lab (TeleHealth in this case) to report results electronically to HPH. Mr. Baroudi added that if HPH does not have official lab test results, no quarantine can be initiated, and the case cannot be tracked.

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

Ms. Heacock summarized her prepared Board report. She stated that HMG home visits appear to be decreased in the last year by the data report but explained this is due to most those visits being virtual or material drop-off visits rather than face-to-face visits due to COVID. However, revenue has not been impacted by the changing nature of HMG visits. Service capacity of the HMG program is maxed out with 100 families, and seven families are on a wait list.

Ms. Heacock announced that, per collaborative decision by Commissioner Baroudi and herself, HMG home visits will once again be switching from face-to-face visits to outdoor, drop-off, or virtual visits only, thus HMG visit data may appear to decline in the data again in the future. This decision was not based on State mandate, as the State is leaving home visit decisions up to local organizations.

### **3.6 Environmental Health (EH) Services – Lindsay Summit**

Ms. Summit reported EH staff are working on first round food inspections, which has been difficult mainly due to increased COVID activity/calls and staff shortage in food businesses causing increased time needed for inspections.

Ms. Summit updated the Board on two special projects with which she continues to be involved: 1) Solar Farms project, particularly in Washington Twp, and 2) Committee for Bluebonnet/Bittersweet Sewer project. Regarding the latter, Ms. Summit has been communicating with Doug Cade, Hancock Co. Engineer.

Ms. Summit announced that has begun cost methodology analysis for Environmental Services, stating the Board will need quorum during the next meeting (October 2021) for discussion/decisions.

Lastly, Ms. Summit discussed her concerns regarding various staff changes in the Environmental Health Dept. which may further impact daily operations: 1) One staff member out on extended medical leave; 2) EH staff once again being re-assigned to COVID calls/contact tracing; and 3) Thomas (TJ) Rutter's, Registered Sanitarian, recent resignation from HPH. Commissioner Baroudi stated that Mr. Rutter took a position at Bowling Green State University, his previous employer, after recently receiving an MBA. Mr. Baroudi added that there is special concern with the loss of a Registered Sanitarian, as there is a current shortage of sanitarians statewide.

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

Mr. Niece summarized the most active IT projects in the last month:

Dedicated IT Room A/C Unit: The new A/C unit has been installed. The last step is waiting for electricians to hook up the unit for regular use. An appointment was scheduled for hookup, but the contractor had staff issues due to COVID. Hopefully next week hookup of the new A/C unit will occur, week of 8/23/21.

Refrigeration Unit Remote Monitoring: With the ability to remotely monitor vaccine refrigerator temperatures by phone alerts, less staff time will be used responding to alarm calls. Vice President Edler asked about number of sensors for refrigeration units, as he has encountered problems with needing sensor back-ups with refrigerators used in his own businesses. Mr. Niece answered there are two total sensors for the vaccine refrigerators, one for active use monitoring and one back-up sensor.

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

Commissioner Baroudi summarized Hancock Co. COVID trends, as presented in the Board packet, and noted Hancock Co. is in the middle of another pandemic surge, with most data still trending upward and 7-day-average peaks similar in comparison to Fall 2020. Currently there have been two Hancock Co. COVID-related deaths, though not yet officially filed until finalized with the State, although overall severity of COVID illness has not been as severe as the first surge in 2020 most probably due to vaccinated individuals having less severe symptoms.

Commissioner Baroudi announced that he and Dr. Ratnasamy attended the State Conference during week of 8/16/21, with conference theme centered around COVID workforce trauma/fatigue. Mr. Baroudi expressed he feels there is a need to strategize to keep staff engaged and healthy during pandemic surges and stated this issue will be discussed in upcoming Board of Health meetings.

President Pasztor asked if the timing of vaccinations is having an impact on breakthrough cases. Commissioner Baroudi answered there is no data related specifically to that issue yet but may be able to extrapolate when data becomes available. Dr. Ratnasamy stated breakthrough cases are dependent on many different factors.

Ms. Jones asked for recommendations regarding activity of residents for COVID prevention. Commissioner Baroudi stated for vaccinated people, the highest risk of COVID transmission is having close contact more than 15 minutes without a mask. When vaccinated individuals wear masks, they cut their risk in half of contracting COVID. Discussion ensued among Board members and staff regarding the significance of the data regarding current COVID surge hospitalization rates, critical care rates, and symptomatic severity in vaccinated vs. unvaccinated people. It was concluded that best practice is to be fully vaccinated AND currently wear a mask in public or in crowds/gatherings, whether vaccinated or not.

Commissioner Baroudi emphasized to the Board the value of having consistent Health Department staff presence at community events, such as the Hancock Co. Fair, stating every community member who engages in discussion regarding COVID is an opportunity to shape positive prevention behaviors among the community at large, especially in the matter of influencing more people to become vaccinated. Dr. Lindamood asked for clarification about how residents are being misinformed regarding COVID prevention/vaccine. Commissioner Baroudi and Dr. Ratnasamy presented various examples of misunderstandings about the COVID vaccine (i.e., vaccine will change human DNA, tracking microchip in the vaccine, general confusion, lack of education, emotionality related to politics) and explained many of these misconceptions are being communicated through mass social media.

Dr. Lindamood expressed concern with the low vaccination rates in Hancock County and suggested there needs to be a strategy to discount widespread misinformation. Ms. Jones suggested using a series of educational videos regarding vaccine myths/facts. Mr. Baroudi opined the importance of listening to individuals who have COVID misconceptions at their level and continuing to persevere with the true message of prevention, despite strong resistance in some individuals.

Ms. Jones asked if there has been feedback from the parent group that was gathered outside HPH during the 8/20/21 BOH meeting. Commissioner Baroudi stated there have been many messages from concerned parents filled with heightened emotion about COVID school protocols. Mr. Baroudi reported he has been answering messages with a focus on science, relaying facts about the COVID virus, providing proper guidance regarding vaccinations and prevention protocols, but advising parents that Hancock Public Health is limited in its direct impact on school protocol legislation.

Sara Arthurs, Journalist of The Findlay Courier and guest at the Board of Health 9/17/21 meeting, made a statement that she would like to encourage all of the Board of Health members and HPH staff to reach out with suggestions about getting the most accurate COVID information out to the community through the newspaper. Mr. Alge expressed thanks to Ms. Arthurs on behalf of the Board of Health for her fair and proactive reporting throughout the COVID pandemic.



#### 4.0 OLD/NEW BUSINESS

##### 4.1 Personnel

Thomas (TJ) Rutter, REHS, resigned from Environmental Health effective 9/10/21.

#### 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, 10/15/21, 7:30 a.m., Hancock Public Health, 2225 Keith Parkway, Findlay, Ohio.

#### 7.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Pasztor requested motion for adjournment of the 9/17/21 Board of Health meeting.

**Ms. Jones motioned the Board of Health to adjourn the regular meeting of 9/17/21 at 9:12 a.m.**  
Seconded by Vice President Edler. **Motion carried 5-0.**



Barbara J. Pasztor, RN, MSN Board President



Karim Baroudi, MPH, Board Secretary