



# Hancock Public Health

## Board of Health

### Regular Meeting Minutes

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 7:30 a.m.



#### **BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE:**

- X Barbara J. Pasztor, MSN, RN (President)
- X William Alge, Esq.
- X Brian Edler (Vice President) (arrived at 7:48 a.m.)
- X Karen Jones, MSN, RN
- X Michael Lindamood, M.D.
- X Nancy Moody-Russo, RN, JD
- X Robin Spoors

- X Karim Baroudi, MPH, Health Commissioner
- X Nathaniel Ratnasamy, M.D., Medical Director (exited at 8:25 a.m.)

#### **STAFF:**

- X Shannon Chamberlin, Nursing Director
- X Alexa Heacock, Help Me Grow Director
- A Chad Masters, Health P&P Director
- X Craig Niese, IT/Data Manager
- X Lindsay Summit, Environmental Health Director

## **1.0 CONVENTION**

### **1.1 Call to Order**

President Pasztor called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m.

#### **1.1.1 Board of Health (BOH) to Re-Organize: Passing of The Gavel from President Pasztor to President Elect Brian Edler**

Commissioner Baroudi explained BOH By-Laws, specifically election of new BOH President every two years. Mr. Baroudi announced current Vice President Edler would take over as BOH President and current President Pasztor would move to second in command, effective 3/18/22. Election of a pro tempore president will take place during the March 2023 Board meeting, with the newly elected president installed by the Board in its March 2024 meeting.

#### **BOH Committee Assignments for 2022-23**

Commissioner Baroudi explained change of committee assignment policy for BOH members, occurring every two years. Board members were offered to make requests for new committee assignments. No requests were voiced. Mr. Baroudi announced standing BOH committee assignments, which will be up for review again in March 2023: Personnel – Ms. Spoors and Ms. Jones; Finance – President Elect Edler, Mr. Alge, and Ms. Nancy Moody-Russo; Environmental Health – Ms. Pasztor and Dr. Lindamood.

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

Commissioner Baroudi announced the following staff/guests to the 3/18/22 meeting:

- 1.2.1** Sara Arthurs – Journalist/Health Reporter, The Findlay Courier Newspaper
- 1.2.2** Gary Bright – Injury Prevention Coordinator, Hancock Public Health
- 1.2.3** Jamie Decker – Peer Support Specialist, Injury Prevention, Hancock Public Health
- 1.2.4** Sharona Bishop – Peer Support Specialist, Injury Prevention, Hancock Public Health
- 1.2.5** Cheryl Miller – PR/Marketing Coordinator, Hancock Public Health
- 1.2.6** Angela Guthrie – Hancock Co. Resident, by prior request
- 1.2.7** Holly Frische – Hancock Co. Resident, by prior request
- 1.2.8** Casey Berquist – Hancock Co. Resident, by prior request

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

### **2.1 Approval of March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Agenda Items**

President Pasztor requested motion to approve the 3/18/22 meeting agenda as presented in the Board information packet.

**Dr. Lindamood moved to approve the agenda of the 3/18/2022 Regular Board of Health meeting.** Seconded by Ms. Jones. **Motion carried 6-0.**

### **2.2 Approval of February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes**

President Pasztor requested motion to approve the 2/18/22 meeting minutes.

**Ms. Spors moved to approve the minutes of the 2/18/2022 Board of Health meeting.** Seconded by Ms. Moody-Russo. **Motion carried 6-0.**

### **2.3 Approval of February 2022 Bill Schedule**

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

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

### **2.4 Board of Health to allow time for Public Participation at the request of Angela Guthrie:**

Ms. Guthrie thanked the Board and HPH staff for their efforts toward understanding the importance of community inclusiveness and transparency. She verbalized her opinion that BOH meetings should be livestreamed for public viewing. Ms. Guthrie presented the Board with data she believes indicates increased deaths among triple COVID- vaccinated populations and possible connection to increased hepatitis B in Hancock Co. and asked the Board how this information would be communicated to the public. Ms. Guthrie opined a need for more local data and suggested this would be a good role for the HPH PR/Marketing Coordinator. Ms. Guthrie requested that the Board publicly address the cost and medical effectiveness differences between Ivermectin and PAXLOVID, and also requested the Board address the COVID-19 dashboard wastewater monitoring network, the solar panel deal, and EPA funding issues.

## **3.0 Board of Health to RECOGNIZE REVENUE for fiscal year ending 12/31/22**

**3.1 Safe Communities Project in the amount of \$5000.00**

**3.2 Mobile Health Clinic Project in the amount of \$5000.00 (Donation from Brian Edler)**

**3.3 Mobile Health Clinic Project in the amount of \$50,000.00 (Community Foundation Grant)**

**3.4 NACCHO project in the amount of \$10,000.00 (Grant to enhance MRC Volunteer Engagement)**

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

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

## **4.0 Board of Health to APPROVE APPROPRIATION INCREASE for fiscal year ending 12/31/22**

**4.1 Safe Communities Project in the amount of \$5000.00**

**4.2 Mobile Health Clinic Project in the amount of \$5000.00**

**4.3 Enhanced Operations Project in the amount of \$86,329.98**

**4.4 NACCHO project in the amount of \$10,000.00**

**4.5 Mobile Health Clinic Project in the amount of \$50,000.00**

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

**Mr. Alge moved to approve the Appropriation Increase, as presented.** Seconded by Ms. Moody-Russo. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**5.0 Board of Health to APPROVE REVENUE DECREASE for fiscal year ending 12/31/22**

Tabled for 4/15/22 BOH Meeting, per Commissioner Baroudi's request.

**6.0 Public Health Program Highlights: INJURY PREVENTION (IP) TEAM (0.5 CEUs)**

Commissioner Baroudi introduced Gary Bright, LSW, Injury Prevention (IP) Program Coordinator. Mr. Bright presented an overview of IP services at HPH. He reported all IP programs at HPH are completely funded by two main Ohio Department of Health grants: 1) Drug Overdose Prevention Grant, with two new grant subcomponents, the first involving a law enforcement data interface bridge to HPH in order to acquire overdose data more efficiently, and the second for the promotion of Overdose Awareness Day in August; 2) Integrated Naloxone Grant, the primary components of which are funding for peer support staff and purchase of all naloxone distributed in the community. Recently the Integrated Naloxone Grant added another subcomponent involving additional funding for increased peer support outreach services and testing services for hepatitis C, HIV, and syphilis. Mr. Bright described a recently submitted grant application for the FY 2022 SAMHSA Harm Reduction Program Grant, which would provide the IP Program an additional \$400,000.00 per year for three years to further expand community outreach of harm reduction services with peer support specialists and other staffing and service additions.

Mr. Bright summarized a handout he had provided the Board (Principles of Harm Reduction), clarifying an additional component to the Injury Prevention Program, the Bloodborne Infectious Disease Prevention Program (BIDPP), which is intended to serve people at highest risk of acquiring infectious diseases or overdosing. Thus far in 2022, there have been 128 overdose reversals through the BIDPP services in Hancock Co. alone. Mr. Bright described that all HPH IP programs are aimed at helping people with substance use disease by treating them with dignity/respect, meeting each person at his/her level of desire to participate in recovery, and giving participants the resources needed to remain alive, stay safe and healthy, and/or initiate recovery services.

Ms. Guthrie, Public Guest, asked if there are programs aimed at drug prevention in addition to harm reduction. Mr. Bright and Commissioner Baroudi answered there are many programs in Hancock County addressing prevention services, however, the focus of the HPH program is working with the highest risk population by first saving lives and second encouraging a path to recovery.

Mr. Alge asked if overdoses in Hancock Co. are increased or decreased compared to past. Mr. Bright reported there has been inconsistent overdose data in Hancock Co., which makes it difficult to determine whether overdoses are increasing or decreasing, and which also justifies the importance of working on an interface tool with law enforcement to receive overdose data faster and more efficiently. Mr. Bright stated Hancock Co. in general is improving data gathering on overdose occurrences, but there is a long way to go for more consistent communication among all involved entities.

Mr. Bright stated the most critical component of the Injury Prevention/Harm Reduction Program is professional peer support. He introduced the two Certified Peer Recovery Specialists at HPH, Jamie Decker and Sharona Bishop. Mr. Decker and Ms. Bishop briefly discussed their personal past life experiences with addiction and recovery, with Mr. Decker notably stating Narcan saved his life. Mr. Decker explained that people who have personally experienced past addiction generally have a better understanding about how to communicate with people currently experiencing addiction and emphasized the importance of building trust with a person experiencing addiction in order to move toward any recovery process. Mr. Decker reported the recovery process often occurs over many years with multiple attempts and potential relapses. Ms. Bishop explained that the first step in the recovery process is a desire to speak with someone who is trusted in the recovery community; once this step is taken, the door is opened to potential healthier life choices and future participation in treatment. But without this first trusted communication, there may be limited progress toward recovery. As testimony to the importance of an initial trusted communication source, Ms. Bishop recounted the statement of a young man after he had recently participated in the HPH Syringe Service Program: "This was the first time I have been treated like a human."

Mr. Decker and Ms. Bishop detailed the long list of their outreach activities in Hancock County and the community agencies with which they are involved to further education regarding the importance of harm reduction as a step toward recovery. Ms. Bishop stated some of the involved agencies have a focus on basic life needs such as housing/shelter, food, clothing, because recovery will be significantly hindered if basic needs are not being met in a person's life. Other agencies the Peer Support Specialists are involved with include law enforcement, behavioral health agencies, children and family service organizations, inpatient psychiatric settings, and special second chance groups (i.e., "Welcome to a New Life"). Mr. Decker explained that for a person experiencing addiction, most doors for positive community services, interaction and experiences have been closed; the Injury Prevention Program is the first open door to a different life.

Mr. Alge asked what information is being relayed from IP Program participants to their network of friends/family. Mr. Decker stated he believes IP Program participants are surprised that they are not being told what to do immediately upon participation, instead they are given a choice to participate; people experiencing <sup>addicted, b12</sup> addiction are probably surprised that they are treated with respect rather than judgment, that they are encouraged instead of punished or scolded, that they may be telling their friends/families HPH is an agency that can be trusted as a first step. Mr. Decker emphasized the importance of having Peer Support Specialists present to act as living examples of successful recovery for people who are in situations where they believe there is no hope.

Ms. Frische, Public Guest, asked if IP Program participants have an opportunity to formally sign up for the program for the purpose of tracking their progress; Mr. Bright answered that the IP Program must be anonymous - people experiencing addiction are much less likely to use services if they believe they are being tracked. Ms. Frische asked for clarification regarding the next step of recovery after being involved in a harm reduction (HR) program; Ms. Bishop answered that the next steps are encouraging HR participants to make more healthy, safe choices in their daily lives and eventually become involved in more formal treatment methods for recovery and, for people who choose more formal methods, to provide them with contacts and community resources. Ms. Jones asked if HPH had a sense of the percentage of HR program participants becoming involved in other treatment programs; Mr. Decker

answered that most HR program participants are not simultaneously involved in other treatment programs, however, the Peer Support Specialists have observed many HR participants may initiate involvement in other programs and go back and forth between harm reduction services and other treatment methods. Mr. Decker further clarified that the idea of recovery is having a desire to quit substance use, but the life change to quit can be very difficult and take years, even when a person has the desire.

Ms. Guthrie, Public Guest, asked if HPH could receive funding for prevention programs and opined that focusing on harm reduction to the exclusion of drug use prevention is imbalanced, irresponsible programming. Mr. Bright, Ms. Chamberlin, and Commissioner Baroudi explained there are many other community organizations receiving funding for primarily prevention-focused programs based on the agency's licensed staffing capabilities. Mr. Baroudi stated many funding sources have shifted the focus of funding from prevention to harm reduction due to the apparent failure of prevention programs as a single treatment model. Ms. Jones specified that prevention funds for addiction services have come mainly from the ADAMHS Board, which receives funding from ODH, and their services are focused on approved grants for school and other community prevention programs. Mr. Decker stated it makes more sense for mental health programs with licensed staff to use prevention funding, as those programs already have required licensed staff in place to carry out prevention programming. Mr. Bright stated that ideally prevention and harm reduction should be addressed as a whole, but that one organization cannot do it all, which is why HPH is collaborating with multiple other organizations, some of which address prevention. Mr. Bright clarified that, up until this point in Hancock County, just as much funding (if not more funding) has gone toward drug use prevention, with very limited funding going toward harm reduction services, adding that presently HPH is the only organization in Hancock Co. addressing high-risk populations with a harm reduction approach. Thus, the imbalance of addiction services in Hancock County referenced by Ms. Guthrie above is actually in favor of prevention programs, which have not proven to be adequately successful.

President Pasztor thanked Mr. Bright, Mr. Decker, and Ms. Bishop for their presentation and dedication to the Injury Prevention Program at HPH. President Elect Edler suggested it would be helpful if staff could organize an informational resource detailing all the different addiction/recovery services available in Hancock County; Commissioner Baroudi stated an informational resource of this nature would be considered in the future.

## **7.0 STAFF REPORTS ON PROGRAMS & SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY**

### **7.1 Medical Director – Karim Baroudi, for Dr. Ratnasamy**

Commissioner Baroudi reported Dr. Ratnasamy needed to exit the meeting due to time constraints, but that there are no major updates to the medical Board report for 3/18/22. Mr. Baroudi stated Board meeting participants with questions could email questions to Mr. Baroudi. No questions were voiced regarding the medical report during the meeting.

### **7.2 February 2022 Financial Report and Analysis – Karim Baroudi**

Commissioner Baroudi summarized February 2022 financials with use of slides and details included in the Board packet provided earlier in the week to Board members. Expenses and revenue are both decreased, which is typical for the month of February. A seven-year financial comparison was reviewed. No questions were voiced regarding budget during the meeting.

### **7.3 Health Planning & Promotion Services – Karim Baroudi, for Chad Masters**

In Mr. Master's absence, Commissioner Baroudi summarized the Health Planning & Promotion Services report which was included in the Board packet provided earlier in the week, with highlights on car seat distribution/health education data.

### **7.4 Health Services – Shannon Chamberlin**

Ms. Chamberlin summarized her Board report, announcing school nursing is on track with all contract timelines and immunization education outreach.

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

Ms. Heacock summarized her Board report, reporting stable revenue and active participation in family programming activities in the last month. No questions voiced during the meeting.

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

Ms. Summit stated the most recent EH program surveys which were conducted at HPH (ODH Food Program Survey and EPA Solid Waste Survey) both passed with flying colors, neither survey requiring action plans. Interviews continue for the open Registered Sanitarian position, and Ms. Summit is hoping for that position to be filled very soon.

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

Mr. Niese updated the Board on progress with ongoing IT projects. He announced that \$4600.00 was credited to HPH for 60% coverage of the agency's broad-band internet expenses for 2021, provided through a federal grant. Mr. Niese is reapplying for the same internet credit grant for 2022, which will help offset other upcoming expenses. Mr. Niese reported that camera options for increased building security are being researched currently and soon to be upgraded, and a new main printer/copier for the building is soon to be upgraded, as well.

### **7.8 Health Commissioner Remarks & Legislative Update – Karim Baroudi**

Pandemic Update: Commissioner Baroudi reported Omicron variant surge has relatively subsided, with average daily cases of two and all other COVID-severity indicators decreasing accordingly. An upgraded COVID information dashboard will be released today 3/18/22.

Legislative Updates: Commissioner Baroudi summarized legislative activity in the last month as it relates to public health issues, including House Bill 428 – advisory committee on adverse childhood events related to mental health, House Bill 178 – McKenna's Law (pressure regulations for swimming pools), Aquatic Rides Bill – changing aquatic rides regulating authority from Ohio Dept. of Agriculture to Ohio Dept. of Health, Recreational Marijuana Bill, House Bill 327 – prohibits teaching of "divisive concepts," House Bill 587 – modify income tax credit for lead abatement expenses, and State Bill 296 – access to naloxone and other narcotic testing materials. Mr. Alge asked for clarification regarding State Bill 296 and whether this would impact distribution of naloxone; Mr. Baroudi answered that State Bill 296 only deals with testing materials and will not affect naloxone distribution.

## 8.0 OLD/NEW BUSINESS

### 8.1 Personnel

There were no HPH hirings or separations in March 2022.

### 8.2 2021 Community Health Assessment Rough Draft

CHA consultants will have a rough draft available 3/23/22; updates will be provided to the Board as information allows.

### 8.3 Board to consider requests to livestream/broadcast Board of Health meetings

Commissioner Baroudi made a statement to Public Guests and the Board that HPH is attempting to be as transparent as possible with all information presented during Board of Health meetings. Mr. Baroudi welcomed the Public Guests during the current meeting and any future attendance at BOH meetings. Mr. Baroudi stated the Board will be considering alternative options for public involvement during future BOH meetings. Ms. Guthrie, Public Guest, expressed her belief that Sunshine Law provides a Constitutional right to have BOH meetings livestreamed to public. Commissioner Baroudi stated the Board is currently reviewing best options for publicizing BOH meetings due to potential cost concerns and effects on taxpayers. Mr. Niese presented various options for sharing Board meetings with the public based on research of other NW Ohio Health Departments. There are currently two out of 14 NW Ohio Health Departments that livestream meetings – one of these provides camera footage, one provides audio only. Mr. Baroudi reported that a smaller, potentially unreliable camera system would cost up to \$2500.00-\$3000.00; a more professional and reliable system would be in the range of \$10,000.00. Currently a link to Board meetings will be shared with the public and Board minutes will be readily available, as always. Ms. Frische suggested options for livestreaming, including but not limited to creating a YouTube channel which would be connected to the HPH website. Commissioner Baroudi stated the Board has a fiscal responsibility to the public before making final decisions regarding livestreaming. In the meantime, the BOH meetings are currently open to public and in perfect compliance with Ohio Sunshine Laws. President Pasztor requested that Commissioner Baroudi and Mr. Niese further research options related to the livestreaming request. Ms. Pasztor stated at this time she would prefer to hold BOH meetings at the Hancock Public Health building, following a comment made by public participation of Ms. Frische suggesting the use of the City of Findlay Council Chambers. Mr. Niese stated he would present more accurate livestreaming (camera and audio) options, including costs, at the next Board meeting on 4/15/22. Commissioner Baroudi stated he would like consent from the BOH President for researching livestream options.

President Pasztor requested motion for approval to research options for livestreaming Regular Board of Health meetings. **President Elect Edler motioned for Approval to Conduct Research on Public Livestreaming Options of Regular Board of Health Meetings.** Seconded by Mr. Alge. **Motion carried 7-0.**

### 8.4 District Advisory Council (DAC) Meeting Update – 2021 Annual Report Published

DAC met during the week of 3/7/22 and approved a 5% increase to HPH allocation for three years. Annual report was presented to the Board and reviewed.

**9.0 CONTINUING EDUCATION**

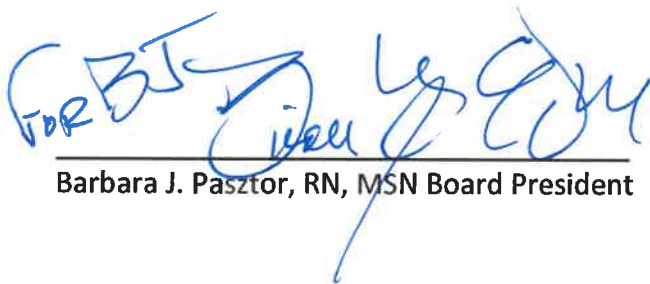
**9.1** 0.5 CEUs will be granted to Board of Health members, for the Injury prevention presentation at the current Board meeting.

**10.0 NEXT MEETING**

**10.1** Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7:30 a.m., Hancock Public Health, 2225 Keith Pkwy, Findlay, OH

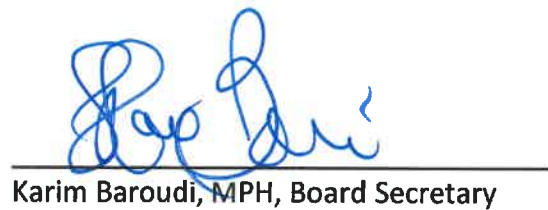
**11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

President Pasztor requested motion for adjournment of the 3/18/22 Board of Health meeting. **Ms. Spoons motioned the Board of Health to adjourn the regular meeting of 3/18/22 at 9:30 a.m.**  
Seconded by President Elect Edler. **Motion carried 7-0.**



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Barbara J. Pasztor, RN, MSN Board President



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Karim Baroudi, MPH, Board Secretary