



**HURON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
June 8, 2023, at 1:00 PM

**Present:** Kathleen Butler, Dr. Gottfried, Greg Polachek, Jeremy Loose, Ron Robinson

**Absent:** Kim Stults, Lisa Reer, Lisa Nedolast, Dane Howard

**HCPH Staff:** Tim Hollinger, Karen Boose, Nicole Marks, Eric Cherry, Chris Cherry, Melissa Caranfa

**Guest(s) In Person:** Matt Roche-Norwalk Ohio News

The Board of Health of Huron County Public Health (HCPH), Huron County, Ohio met at a regular meeting of the Board on June 8, 2023, at HCPH Conference Room 1. Board President, Dr. Gottfried called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm. Dr. Gottfried requested a roll call. Mrs. Marks completed a roll call.

Dr. Gottfried opened the meeting with a public comment period. With no public comments, Dr. Gottfried asked for a motion to go into executive session per ORC 121.22 (G)(2). Mr. Loose made a motion to go into executive session and Mrs. Butler seconded the motion. A roll call was taken. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler-Aye, Mr. Polachek-Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried asked for a motion to come out of executive session per ORC 121.22 (G)(2). Mr. Polachek made a motion to come out of executive session and Mrs. Butler seconded the motion. A roll call was taken. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler-Aye, Mr. Polachek-Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried presented Resolution 2023-43, Approval of Minutes from the last Board meeting. Mrs. Butler made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-43 Approval for Minutes from the last Board meeting and Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried presented Resolution 2023-44, a resolution to approve the payment of the monthly expenditures with prior approval. Dr. Gottfried requested a motion to present and approve Resolution 2023-44. Mr. Loose made a motion to present and approve the payment of the monthly expenditures with prior approval. Mrs. Butler seconded the motion. Mrs. Boose presented the monthly expenditures for the month of May on the screen and asked if anyone had any questions. Dr. Gottfried had a question. On page three of the report, he asked Mrs. Boose to clarify private vaccines paid to GlaxoSmithKline and Sanofi Pasteur. Mrs. Boose explained that private vaccines are the vaccines we order for patients that have private insurance. This is different than Vaccines for Children (VFC) from the state. Dr. Gottfried asked if we got vaccine from two different sources and Mrs. Boose answered yes. Dr. Gottfried thanked her and asked if there were any other questions. With there being none, Dr. Gottfried asked for a roll call. The motion carried upon a roll call vote. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler-Aye, Mr. Polachek-Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried presented Resolution 2023-45, a resolution to approve the May 2023 budgetary transactions. Dr. Gottfried requested a motion to present and approve Resolution 2023-45, 2023 May Budgetary Transactions. Mrs. Butler made a motion to present and approve Resolution 2023-45, approval of the May 2023 budgetary transactions. Mr. Polachek seconded the motion. Mrs. Boose gave further information on Resolution 2023-45,

reviewing all appropriation adjustments for the month of May. With no questions, the motion carried upon a roll call vote. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler- Aye, Mr. Polachek-Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried presented Resolution 2023-46, Approval of Health District Updated Fees. Mr. Loose made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-46, Health District Updated Fees. Mr. Polachek seconded the motion. Mrs. Boose explained that there are six fees that the health department is presenting for an increase. Mrs. Boose covered all increases and asked that the new fees be effective June 12, 2023. With no questions the motion carried upon a roll call vote. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler- Aye, Mr. Polachek-Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried presented Resolution 2023-47, Request to contract for OEPA WPCLF [Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Water Pollution Control Loan Fund] services. Mrs. Butler made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-47, Request to contract for OEPA WPCLF services. Mr. Loose seconded the motion. Mr. Cherry had to step out of the meeting, so Mr. Hollinger went over the resolution. Mr. Hollinger explained that HCPH has been doing this for a few years now with monies from the EPA. This is for citizens within our county who financially qualify for help with a new or repaired septic system. These properties were put out for bid and the winning bids are what is being presented to the Board. These are all properties that qualify for WPCLF funds. Mr. Loose asked if these were new builds and Mr. Hollinger informed him that yes, they are new builds. With no questions the motion carried upon a roll call vote. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler- Aye, Mr. Polachek-Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried presented Resolution 2023-48, Request to apply for, accept, and appropriate grant funds for the Creating Health Communities (CHC) Grant. Mr. Polachek made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-48, Request to apply for, accept, and appropriate grant funds for the Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) Grant and Mrs. Butler seconded the motion. Mrs. Marks gave further information on Resolution 2023-48, explaining that this is the final year of the CHC grant cycle and since it is the last year of the grant, they are looking at shifting to align the state grant funding with federal grant funding timelines for the next competitive cycle. CHC funding has been cut from \$105,000.00 to \$80,000.00 due to the shortened budget period (January 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024). Mrs. Marks requested that the Board approve HCPH to apply for, accept funding from, and appropriate the funding for the CHC Grant for Fiscal Year 2024. With no questions, Dr. Gottfried asked for a roll call vote. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler- Aye, Mr. Polachek -Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried asked for a motion to discuss the fiscal report. Mr. Loose made a motion to hear the fiscal report and Mr. Polachek seconded the motion. Mrs. Boose then reviewed the fund balance report. Mrs. Boose also reviewed the General Fund outstanding advances and the total of all funds. She also went over the general fund budget performance and covered some May expense highlights. With no questions for Mrs. Boose, Dr. Gottfried asked for a roll call. Dr. Gottfried-Aye, Mrs. Butler- Aye, Mr. Polachek- Aye, Mr. Loose-Aye, Mr. Robinson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried asked for a motion to hear the Communicable Disease and School Absenteeism Report. Mr. Loose made a motion to hear the Communicable Disease and School Absenteeism Report. Mrs. Butler seconded the motion. Melissa Caranfa then presented the report. Mrs. Caranfa reported there were seventeen reportable disease cases reported in May, and reviewed highlights for communicable disease reporting, COVID-19 and school absentee surveillance. The highest reported communicable disease for May were STDs at 57% and Hepatitis at 24%. There were 22 reportable diseases in May which was a slight increase from April with 17

reported. Melissa also reviewed with the board mosquito information for both protection from and ways to reduce mosquito risks. With no questions Dr. Gottfried asked for all those in favor of accepting the Communicable Disease and School Absenteeism Report as presented to say Aye and all opposed Nay. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Gottfried referred to Mrs. Marks to report on reaccreditation. Mrs. Marks explained that HCPH's pre-site visit review was completed and returned by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) on May 17, 2023. PHAB has reopened and asked for more information for fifteen measures out of approximately 90 total. HCPH has until July 1, 2023 to submit the additional information requested. Mrs. Marks, her staff and Department Directors are working on the additional documentation request. It usually takes 4-6 weeks for PHAB to review the newly submitted documents and then they will reach out to HCPH to schedule the virtual site visit.

Dr. Gottfried then turned the meeting over to Mr. Hollinger to discuss an illness outbreak. Mr. Hollinger shared the press release that HCPH put out last week regarding a gastrointestinal illness outbreak affecting 34 individuals. Mr. Hollinger reiterated that all publicly-available information is available in the press release and that HCPH cannot share any additional information until test results are returned from the ODH laboratory.

Dr. Gottfried then informed the Board members they would be moving on to Board of Health education, presented by Health Commissioner Tim Hollinger. Education began at 2:52PM and concluded at 3:17PM. Mr. Hollinger began the education on COVID-19 wastewater treatment monitoring. Mr. Hollinger explained that we need to move to another way of monitoring and reporting COVID-19 moving forward. He explained that Huron County has four wastewater treatment plants that have been testing for COVID-19 and HCPH has been looking at how to report this to the community. This required HCPH to work with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the ODH Laboratory. Mr. Hollinger and a couple of staff members went out to the water treatment plants that are monitoring COVID-19 locally to see how the process works and to help HCPH figure out how data can be reported to the public. Mr. Hollinger went on to explain how the virus is shed and how wastewater data is impacted when people are shedding the virus. Data will not result in exact case numbers, but only data showing possible spikes in a community. This data will be published mostly for people who are at higher risk and might want to modify their behavior at any point in time based on transmission levels. Mr. Hollinger noted that wastewater data is the most useful when used with other data such as historical wastewater data for a specific location and reviewed potential graphics that may soon become available in a public COVID-19 wastewater report for Huron County.

With the completion of agenda items, Dr. Gottfried then asked if there was any old business or new business. With no comments from the Board, Dr. Gottfried spoke about the United States being inundated with gun tragedies and mass shootings. Dr. Gottfried stated he felt this was a health issue and asked if the Board should be taking a stand or making a recommendation from the Board. Dr. Gottfried asked if the Board should reach out to local officials and recommend, they take a stand, especially against AR-15 guns. Mrs. Butler stated, "unfortunately this all goes back to mental health, but if they didn't have the guns they could not kill as many people." After further discussion, Dr. Gottfried asked Mr. Robinson what he thought. Mr. Robinson also agreed it goes back to mental health, but that our founding fathers through the constitution gave people the right to bear arms in the Constitution. Dr. Gottfried stated that nothing is being done about these mass shootings and that somewhere along the line someone is going to have to make a decision that is not going to be popular. Dr. Gottfried then instructed the Board members to think about it and that they would discuss more at the next Board meeting, scheduled for July 6, 2023.

With no additional business, Dr. Gottfried then adjourned the meeting at 3:21PM.