

Chairperson: Jason Bashura
 Vice Chairperson: Audra Nixon
 Executive Secretary: Maura Rossman, M.D., Antigone Vickery
 Recorded By: Kandyce Hopkins

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
 November 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes

DATE: November 24, 2020
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual - WebEx

Members Present: Jason Bashura, Judith Chernoff, Audra Nixon, Emily Greenberger, Paul Nagy, Erica Martin,
Members Excused: Matt Reber, Jill RachBeisel
Staff: Maura Rossman, Health Officer; Antigone Vickery, Deputy Health Officer
Guest: Miriam Bennett
Public: Joel Hurwitz

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action / Follow-up
Welcome and Call to Order	The meeting was called to order by Dr. Rossman at 6:05 p.m.	
Introductions Approval of Minutes Committee Reports	<p>Dr. Rossman introduced the Board members, HCHD staff and Miriam Bennett. Bennett will provide an update on the “Difficult Discussions” video series.</p> <p>J. Bashura proposed October’s minutes for approval. J. Chernoff offered two edit suggestions. Motion to accept October’s minutes after minor edits by E. Martin and second by P. Nagy. Motion of approval was unanimous. J. Bashura proposed the special meeting minutes for approval. Motion to accept special meeting minutes by E. Martin and second by J. Chernoff. Motion of approval unanimous.</p> <p>Nomination Committee- The County Executive’s Office is proceeding with the nominations of Mindy Kansiper and Stacey Bisnette. The County Council will vote on it the first week of December.</p>	

<p>Old Business</p>	<p>Health Disparities Committee- The committee agreed unanimously to move forward with The Horizon Foundation and their diabetes taskforce. A. Nixon expressed her interest in joining the taskforce. J. Bashura motioned for A. Nixon to represent the Board of Health on Horizon Foundation’s diabetes taskforce, second by P. Nagy.</p>	<p>A. Nixon will share all information regarding the taskforce with the Board.</p>
<p>Update: “Difficult Conversations”</p>	<p>Miriam Bennett, of the Behavioral Health Bureau, updated the Board on the progress of the “Difficult Conversations” video series. The videos now include roleplays. The first video will be completed in January, the second video will be completed in February, and the third video will be completed in March. Facilitated conversations will be incorporated to promote dialogue after watching the videos. They are partnering with the Office of Human Rights to assist with mediation and facilitation. A toolkit is being developed to provide viewers with resources for further education on the topic. The facilitated conversations may be held as a webinar, prepackaged and advertised as an event. A. Nixon inquired about marketing tactics for the video series. M. Bennett indicated capitalizing on social media and community partnerships.</p>	
<p>New Business</p>	<p>The mitigation recommendation letter has been shared for edits and additional information. include more of the Board’s recommendations. J. Chernoff made a motion that the letter be sent to the County Executive, E. Martin second. E. Martin addressed the deficit of rapid testing in Howard County. Dr. Rossman explained that there is an increase in volume of citizens getting tested, heightened awareness and the holiday season has contributed to the long waits for COVID testing. The turnaround times are also prolonged, increasing from 48 hours to 72 hours. PCR tests have a longer turnaround time and rapid tests have lower efficacy.</p>	<p>The Board’s letter will be finalized and sent to the County Executive’s Office via Dr. Rossman.</p>
<p>The Health Officer’s Report</p>	<p>COVID-19 Updates by Dr. Rossman Enforcement- Executive Orders are issued by the Governor or from the local County Executive. Governor’s orders fall under the jurisdiction of the state and local police and health departments. Enforcement data has been compiled primary by the Environmental Health Bureau. Since April, over 1000 SNAP tickets sent to the Bureau of Environmental Health. Each ticket represents a concern or complaint for investigation. 124 advisory letters (approximately 10% of total complaints) have been sent out regarding recommendations following an investigation. 11 of these cases required additional follow-up/reprimand. No monetary citations or closings were issued. Most of the on-site inspections were conducted at “food” businesses. A COVID hotline was established. The related data dates to July and the complaints are categorized as “food” vs “non-food”. In July, there were 147 enforcement calls (approximately half “food” and half “non-food”. In August, there were 142 calls, the majority of which were “non-food” related. In September, there were 107 calls. In October, there were 84 calls. From November 1-20, there were</p>	<p>Dr. Rossman will get clarification on the specific guidelines of the Executive Order.</p>

<p>Board Chair's Report</p>	<p>100 calls. From July to mid- November, data was collected from 600 calls. There is also documentation of 29 enforcement calls to local police since July. In general, the businesses are typically compliant to guidelines.</p> <p>Seasonal Flu Clinics- The Health Department is mostly finished with the flu clinic.</p> <p>Open Meeting Act Training- J. Bashura completed the Open Meetings Act training again. At least one member of the Board who has completed the training should be present at the meeting. Any members who have completed the training should submit a copy of their certificate of completion.</p> <p>NALBOH- J. Bashura recommends that the Board join the National Association of Local Boards of Health. There is a \$400 fee, which the Board has no budget to accommodate. Bashura believes that aligning with other Board's of Health will be beneficial to the Board. A. Nixon requested a written list to highlight the benefits of a NALBOH membership.</p> <p>BOH Strategic Plan and Retreat- The Board should consider a retreat and strategic planning session in Fall 2021. There are no current plans for it. This is a relatively new Board that would great benefit from strategic planning.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.</p> <p>Next meeting is January 26, 2021.</p>	<p>J. Bashura will present additional information at the January meeting outlining the advantages and benefits of the Board joining NALBOH. The Strategic Plan and Retreat will be further discussed at January's meeting.</p>
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