

Chairperson: Jason Bashura
 Vice Chairperson: Vacant
 Executive Secretary: Maura Rossman, M.D., Antigone Vickery
 Recorded By: Antigone Vickery

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
 June 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes

DATE: June 23, 2020
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual - WebEx

Members Present: Jason Bashura, Judith Chernoff, Audra Nixon, Jill RachBeisel, Emily Greenberger
Members Excused: Darryl Burnett, Paul Nagy, Erika Martin, Matt Reber
Staff: Maura Rossman, Health Officer, Antigone Vickery, Deputy Health Officer,

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action / Follow-up
Welcome and Call to Order	The meeting was called to order by M. Rossman at 6:00 p.m.	
Approval of Agenda	Motion to accept BOH agenda. It was noted to remove ‘approval of agenda’ from the agenda and minutes moving forward.	
Approval of Minutes	Motion to accept and approve May’s minutes by J. RachBeisel and Second by J. Chernoff. Motion of approval was unanimous.	
Committee Reports	Nominations – No additional nominations have been received. We have two vacancies to fill. In addition, there will be D. Burnett’s vacancy which occurred this month. We have the summer months to recruit three positions. We have sent one application to the County Executive; no word yet.	
Old Business	<p>Election of Vice Chair A.Nixon expressed interested in the Vice Chair position. She has been nominated by J. Bashura. Motion made by J. Chernoff and second by J. RachBeisel. Motion of approval was unanimous</p> <p>COVID-19 Updates by Dr. Rossman The State and Howard County will be transitioning to Phase III with malls reopening on Friday. Howard County has reached many milestones that help to open the community. Hospital occupancy has decreased; HCHD has been successful in hiring 15 contact tracers allowing many of our regular staff to return to their positions; we have</p>	

sufficient supplies of PPE such that we can distribute to PCP providers in the community, and we have increased testing in the community such as anyone who needs or wants a test can receive one. We need to continue to practice social distancing, handwashing and wearing our masks.

There were questions regarding planning for vaccinations. Dr. Rossman confirmed early discussions on vaccination planning have occurred. There were also questions regarding plans for schools. Dr. Rossman shared there is a taskforce on schools and that there are different groups providing feedback into the school’s plans.

Dr. Rossman noted testing numbers are down. Dr. Rossman also explained the concept of a ‘no provider order’ test. This is point that has not been fully messaged to the public. There is no such thing as a no provider order. You must have a provider order. Dr. Rossman is the provider for those who come without an order. Another testing issue mentioned is that there are many providers are not referring for tests unless an individual has symptoms. Another point about testing is the concept about ‘free’. In many circumstances, tests are provided at no out-of-pocket cost to individuals. HCHD does collect insurance. However, individuals should contact their health plan prior to receiving a COVID-19 test to determine whether testing is covered by the plan in their circumstance. Out-of-pocket expenses may apply if the test is not covered by the health plan

New Business

Recognitions

- **Recognition of Daryll Burnett**
Daryll has been on the BOH for 10 years and has been a great champion for health equity and will be missed. Dr. Rossman will send him a formal recognition of service to him.
- **Recognition of Gloria Whittington**
Gloria, Executive Support for the BOH and Antigone Vickery has retired in June, along with Carolyn Lowe, Dr. Rossman’s assistant. Both will be missed.

Racism as a Public Health Crisis (New Business #1 in J. Bashura’s 6/23 email)

J. Bashura presented a resolution statement on Racism as Public Health Crisis, a statement from the American Public Health Association emailed to the group earlier in the day. The group uniformly agree and supports the proposed language of the resolution. While the BOH does not meet in the summer months, the group agrees there is a sense of urgency and desire to meet to work on this issue during the summer to develop action steps. The Health Disparities Subcommittee (Jason, Daryll, Audra) will take the lead. The group will meet in July (proposed 28th) and August (proposed 25th) to have a focused discussion. Motion proposed by J. Bashura and second by A. Nixon. Motion of approval was unanimous

Resolution Recognizing Public Health (New Business #2 in J. Bashura’s 6/23 email)

J. Bashura and A. Nixon will develop agenda for meeting. Maura will send meeting dates out.

Dr. Rossman to follow up with

J. Bashura presented a resolution formally recognizing HCHD's efforts during the COVID response, a statement from the National Association of County and City Health Officials. Dr. Rossman proposed an edit to the resolution to ensure all 230+ HCHD employees receive recognition and not just Executive Team. Motion proposed by J. Bashura and second by J. Chernoff. Motion of approval was unanimous

The group discussed how to communicate and disseminate the resolutions. Ideas proposed included: posting on the website, holding a media event, writing Op Ed pieces. Working the HCHD's PIO (Lisa DeHernandez) can help develop strategies.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Topics for future meetings:
Health Disparities

Next meeting is September 22.

Lisa De Hernandez
(PIO).