

Chairperson: Matt Reber (Acting)  
 Vice Chairperson: Jason Bashura  
 Executive Secretary: Maura Rossman, M.D.,  
 Recorded By: Antigone Vickery

**HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
 March 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** March 24, 2020  
**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Howard County Health Department  
 8930 Stanford Blvd., Columbia, MD 21045

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

<b>Topic/Agenda</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action / Follow-up</b>
<b>Welcome and Call to Order</b>	Meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman, M. Reber at 6:04 pm	Meeting held by ZOOM
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>  <b>Approval of Minutes</b>  <b>Committee Reports</b>	<p>Motion to accept March’s BOH agenda by J. Bashura and Second by P.Nagy. Motion to approve unanimous.</p> <p>A motion was made to approve the February minutes by J. Bashura and seconded by P. Nagy. Motion to approve unanimous.</p> <p><b><u>Nomination</u></b></p> <p>M. Reber offered to serve as interim chair until May. J. Bashura as Vice Chair. Motion made by J. Chernoff and seconded by P. Nagy. Motion to approve unanimous.</p> <p>Moving the application of new BOH member (a hospitalist who works at a HCGH) to the County Executive’s Office for review. This still leaves one additional vacancy. The group reiterated that appointed individuals should add to the diversity of the BOH. Skills sets / background include someone from the insurance industry or with a legal background. Dr. Rossman knows of an individual and will inquire their interest.</p>	<p>Dr. Rossman will follow up with an individual who meets these criteria. If interested, Dr. Rossman will forward the resume to the Nomination Committee.</p>

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action / Follow-up
<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<p><b><u>Mental Health</u></b> BOH members Emily Greenberger and Erika Martin met with staff to discuss behavioral health issues and needs. It was identified that perhaps staff could use some behavioral health support. Members suggested some suggestions I can help with mental health such as mindfulness, meditation, buddy walks and exercise. They will examine their time to see what they support they can provide.</p> <p><b><u>Update on COVID-19 – Response</u></b></p> <p>Dr. Rossman provided an update on what has been occurring over the last two weeks with regard to COVID-19. We have figured out how to continue services remotely and now HCHD is operating almost entirely remote. This has changed radically how we operate. We are operating are essential public health services as well as managing our COVID-19 response.</p> <p>Dr. Rossman also reviewed local and state statistics, local and state mitigation strategies</p> <p>Dr. Rossman described a typical day in the COVID response. HCHD is operating in incident command. We participate in different meetings daily including those with the county, the state and with different stakeholders. We are managing different operations including outbreak and case investigations, PPE distribution, and phone bank. We are also in the planning phases on conducting testing utilizing the vehicle emission sites. For outbreak investigations, we need to prioritize those in nursing homes, outbreak situations and those involving healthcare workers. One of my biggest challenges is a changing guidance and keeping up with that. Another concern is the shortage of PPE. We received our federal allotment from the SNS. We fill the PPE requests from health care facilities based on available supplies. Another area that we spend a lot of time is messaging. Not just developing messages but also debunking myths that we here are in the community.</p> <p>A question was asked as when is the expected peak of COVID cases to be in Maryland? Current model says late April early May,</p> <p>Other planning includes surge capacity planning with the hospital and looking at alternative care sites. We hope for the best, but always plan for the worse. Other agencies are taking the lead on other aspects of the pandemic such as the economic aspects.</p> <p>A question was asked about the content of the calls that come into the call center. These change over time. At the beginning it was about getting permission for getting tested and is no longer required. Other questions may include current events in the news such as Trader Joe’s or announcements by the Governor.</p>	

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action / Follow-up
	<p>P. Nagy offered that JHU students are doing a <i>Hack-a-Thon</i>. If we have any problems that can benefit from problem solving we can present these to the students who can help.</p> <p>The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, April 28 but the group decided a midterm meeting would also be helpful. The group met on April 7 to get a update on COVID-19 but that it would not be a standard meeting.</p>	
<p><b>Topics for future meetings:</b> Adjournment</p>	<p>Update on COVID-19</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.</p>	
<p><b>Next Board of Health Meeting: April 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Howard Co. Health Department 8930 Stanford Blvd. 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Columbia, MD 21045</b></p>		