**HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
February 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** Audra Nixon; Stacey Bisnette; Judith Chernoff; Jason Bashura; Erica Martin; Matt Reber; Emily Greenberger; Anthony Wisniewski; Jill RachBeisel; Paul Nagy  
**Members Excused:** N/A  
**Members Absent:** Melinda Kantsiper  
**Staff:** Maura Rossman, Health Officer; Antigone Vickery, Deputy Health Officer; Kandyce Hopkins, Management Associate  
**Guest:** N/A  
**Public:** N/A

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<th>Topic/Agenda</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
<th>Action / Follow-up</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Welcome and Call to Order</strong></td>
<td>The meeting was called to order by J. Bashura at 6:05 p.m.</td>
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| **Approval of Minutes** | J. Bashura proposed January’s minutes for approval.  
January’s minutes accepted.  
- **Nominations Committee**- M. Reber’s Board term is set to expire in June. The committee recommends Sharon Stanley Merriweather to fill Reber’s slot. Nominee Paloma Leon was previously submitted to fill Gary Stewart’s vacancy.  
- **Legislation Committee**- J. Bashura plans to seek participants to sit on the legislation or advocacy committee with him. A. Wisniewski volunteered to assist.  
- **Board Priorities**- The board drafted a list of priorities during February’s meeting. Mental health, accessibility, chronic disease, diabetes prevention, access to care are priorities that the Board plans to focus on. A. Nixon suggests determining the Board’s top three priorities. A. Nixon suggested the Board break off into groups to begin the steps the Board can take to address the established priorities. | Motion to accept January’s minutes by J. Chernoff, 2nd by S. Bisnette.                                                                                                                                                                   |
S. Bisnette is planning to move to Michigan & will be leaving the Board in the near future. She will submit this in writing to be forwarded to County.

**Youth Task Force** - J. Bashura participated in a meeting with Health Occupation Students of America.

J. Bashura proposed that the Board could return to in-person meetings.

In January at the height of the Omicron variant, there was a case rate of 189 daily new cases per 100,000, high range. Currently, the rate has decreased to 10.73 per 100,000 which places Howard County in the substantial range according to CDC. If the trends continue to improve, Howard County will reach moderate range when mask requirements can be relaxed. Howard County leads the state in vaccination rates: more than 90% of citizens 5 & up have had both doses, the 5-11 age group, 60% have had 2 doses, the 12-17 age group is 60% boosted. Hospitalization capacity has also improved. With COVID metrics decreasing, the Health Department is able to resume more normal activities.

HCHD requested funding to supplement state salaries. The Board’s letter of support was greatly appreciated.

HCHD’s LHIC applied for & was awarded a $50,000 grant for diabetes education & prevention.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm

**Next meeting is March 22, 2021.**

Vote: Unanimous approval

Dr. Rossman will evaluate space and IT configuration for Barton Conference Room

Motion to adjourn by A. Wisniewski, 2nd by J. RachBeisel.