

Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
April 15, 2013

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health was called to order in the Council Chambers located at 200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana, at 5:30 p.m., pursuant to the notice sent to all Directors in accordance with the bylaws.

The following Directors were present: Dr. William Pond, Joe Steensma, Rick Regedanz, Patricia Hays, Mary Hess and Terri Farr. Dr. Todd Rumsey was not present.

Dr. William Pond, President, presided over the meeting. Jennifer Miller recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Dr. Pond called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Motion was made to approve the January 28, 2013 minutes by Rick Regedanz and seconded by Joe Steensma.

Motions Passed at this Meeting:

- Motion was made to approve the January 28, 2013 minutes by Rick Regedanz and seconded by Joe Steensma. (MPU)

Sewer Board Update – Gary Chapple, Director of Pollution Control:

Construction is progressing on both of the new projects, one in the Greater Cedar Creek area and one in the Wheelock Road area. Expected completion is early fall. Little progress has been made since the last report on the septic replacement projects. This is due to the weather and the window of construction for soil based systems. The Department of Health has been working with the sewer district engineer and some companies that provide decentralized systems to explore some options to serve some of the communities that are beyond the practical reach of a sewer line.

Child Abuse Study Presentation

Meg Wilson, Director of Research for the Fort Wayne Medical Education Program, and Jana Sanders, Informatics Director, presented a summary report of their recent Child Abuse Study Survey. The study surveyed health care professionals about their level of familiarity with child abuse reporting laws and their level of comfort with reporting child abuse. Among the findings, the study concluded that more training is needed for health care professionals so that they do feel more comfortable in identifying and reporting child abuse. Discussion among board members occurred on different avenues for improving awareness.

Allen County Code Title 10, Article 4.5 (Septic System Ordinance)

Mindy Waldron provided an update on the ordinance that was amended in 2012 and took effect on March 1, 2012. The ordinance provides buyers with a point of sale disclosure that the home under consideration is on a septic system. At the time of passage, the Board asked that a meeting be called to review the ordinance again and determine if this should be mandatory and whether or not the requirements were having a positive or negative effect on home sales, etc. Data says the number of homes that sold on a septic system went up. A small amount of disclosures, twenty, went through the department. Inspectors/home owners are worried that department would institute punitive measures if they share the results with the department. Lack of disclosure is a problem. Discussion among board members occurred on whether or not disclosure should be mandatory. Many of the board members are in favor of making both the disclosure and inspection process mandatory as that is likely the best overall for the protection of public health. However, it was agreed to wait a year, gather more data and discuss the ordinance again in one-year.

Health Commissioner's Report – Deborah A. McMahan, MD

- Dr. McMahan reported that the Immunization Clinic is going to start a project in their travel clinic. The department will visit churches and immunize groups who are preparing for mission trips. This will allow for immunization of 10-20 individuals at one time.
- The Prescription Drug Abuse Task force efforts are progressing well. Dr. McMahan said in terms of awareness, Indiana is doing very well compared to national efforts. Nikki Hartman, Director of Community Health and Case Management, reported on Safe Medication Disposal Day – April 26. She said there are 14 sites this year.

SEE ACTUAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT FOR ALL OTHER ISSUES.

Infectious Disease Report – Deborah A. McMahan, MD.

- Vaccines for TB are running low nationwide and Dr. McMahan said this makes treating the illness difficult.
- Dr. McMahan said the numbers of teens being seen in the clinic for STI's is not reflecting the numbers of infections seen nationally and state wide. She feels the department needs to step-up its efforts to reach the high school population. She asked for a board member to participate in meetings to see how the department can increase efforts to reach out to this population. Mary Hess offered to work with the department in this capacity.

SEE ACTUAL INFECTIOUS DISEASE REPORT FOR ALL DATA REPORTED.

Administrator's Report – Mindy Waldron

- Mindy Waldron updated the board on three ordinances that are currently under review.
- The Food Ordinance Amendment is on hold at this time. Further efforts are being made to ensure that the current enforcement process is sound. The department will seek further assistance on a new scoring system.
- The Hotel/Motel Ordinance has been legally reviewed. The goal is for the Board to have comment/discussion on the ordinance in September of this year.
- The Public Health Nuisance/Hazard Ordinance has been sent for legal review by the department attorney.

SEE ACTUAL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT FOR ALL INFORMATION SHARED.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Senate Bill 159 (Septic Systems) Mindy Waldron reported that the bill is no longer under consideration for this year. The administrators of area local health departments are meeting in May to discuss ways in which they can present a unified voice about public health legislation to our state lawmakers.
- Dr. Pond asked if Board Members would like a new starting time of 6:00 p.m. A new starting time of 5:45 p.m. was decided upon.

Adjournment: 7: 01 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: July 15, 2013 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah A. McMahan, MD
Health Commissioner

William Pond, MD
Board President