

Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health Minutes  
Board of Directors Meeting  
April 16, 2012

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health was called to order in the County 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. Joe Steensma, Mary Hess, Terri Farr, Dr. Todd Rumsey, Dr. William Pond, Rick Regedanz, and Patricia Hays.

Dr. Joe Steensma, President, presided over the meeting. Jana Sanders, Director of Informatics, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Dr. Joe Steensma called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Motion was made to approve the January 23, 2012 minutes by Dr. Rumsey and seconded by Patricia Hays.

Motions Passed at this Meeting:

- Motion was made to approve the January 23, 2012 minutes by Dr. Todd Rumsey and seconded by Patricia Hays. (MPU)
- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rick Regedanz and seconded by Dr. William Pond. (MPU)

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

Orders to connect on final current project are going out this week of April 16<sup>th</sup> (Cedar Shores/Cedar Lake). New projects still on track for funding in late May or early June include: Wheelock/Flutter and Greater Cedar Creek. This project encompasses 450-500 homes. Septic funding is scheduled to close at the same time. At the last meeting of the sewer board preliminary investigation reports for three areas were received – the small communities of Maples, Yoder and Poe. The Sewer Board is going to look for funding sources.

County Council Representative Darren Vogt

Council Representative Darren Vogt introduced himself as the new liaison to the health department. He came to the meeting to discuss funding and how it works. He explained that the department of health's funding is tied to the general fund and that as revenues shrink, he wants departments to be ready to react. He feels it is important for the department to make sure it is charging appropriate fees for its services—primarily the immunizations the department provides. Dr. Todd Rumsey said that Councilman Vogt should be pleased there is a line of revenue the department has now that it did not have 5 years ago. And Dr. Steensma said that the department has been looking at essential services and cost cutting measures for some time. He mentioned the elimination of the department's lab as an example. A discussion ensued about the meaning of essential services and the cost to the public health if those services are not utilized because of increased fees. Mindy Waldron concluded the discussion by pointing out that the department priority has always been to provide essential services in conjunction with cost saving measures.

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

- Dr. McMahan discussed the recent results of the Robert Wood Johnson County Health Rankings. She pointed out that she was disappointed with Allen County's rankings in some areas. She said Allen County has room to improve in several areas. The bright spots of the report were that the high school graduation rate has increased to 88%. She would like Allen County's goal to be 100%. Dr. McMahan said she is concerned with the data that shows 1 in 5 children in Allen County live in poverty and that the amount of single parent households has increased to 33%. Discussion of other data points in the reports continued along with discussion about the high percentage of fast food restaurants in Allen County. Dr. McMahan concluded that we must make peace with the drive thru-window and learn how to make good choices.
- Dr. McMahan also discussed the Community Mental Health Assessment Project. Dr. McMahan said the project, which is still in need of funding, is desperately needed in Allen County because the mental health system is difficult to navigate. Even physicians, she pointed out, have trouble understanding it. Mary Hess agreed and said she sees a particular need for a psychiatric assistance for young people.
- Dr. McMahan reported to the board that the Fort Wayne Residency Program is going to start seeing patients infected with HIV. This occurred after the AIDS Task Force reported difficulty in finding physicians to treat these patients.

SEE ACTUAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT FOR ALL OTHER ISSUES.

#### Infectious Disease Report – Deborah A. McMahan, MD.

Dr. McMahan reported there are currently 8 cases of TB in the county. After a recent TB case in a health care facility, there has been considerable testing and counseling in that facility. Dr. McMahan talked briefly about the Noro- virus and that fact that it is the number one cause of food- borne illness. She then reported about the STD rates in Allen County. County rates of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea are higher than the state and national rates. Discussion occurred about the reason for this and possible solutions.

SEE ACTUAL INFECTIOUS DISEASE REPORT FOR ALL DATA REPORTED.

#### Administrator's Report – Mindy Waldron

- Mindy briefly talked about the 2 Noro -virus outbreaks that have occurred recently. Discussion occurred about better ways to educate people on what to do if they think they have a case of food- borne illness.
- Mindy gave an update on the recent tattoo convention and the progress the department has made in permitting and inspecting for this event. She said that the biggest problem the department faced was that the vendors submitted late paperwork. Vendors decided it was easier to pay the \$25 late fee than get the paperwork in on time. Discussion among board members included increasing late fees/fines to encourage vendors to turn in paperwork on time. Dr. Steensma said introduction of an amendment to make late fees/fines higher was in order. There was also discussion of bringing back tattoo vendors in October 2012 to discuss the ordinance and see how it was affecting their business.

SEE ACTUAL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT FOR ALL INFORMATION SHARED.

Personnel Update – Mindy Waldron

- Mindy introduced Jennifer Miller, executive administrative assistant for Dr. McMahan and Mindy Waldron, to the board.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Adjournment: 7:15 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: July 16, 2012

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah A. McMahan, MD  
Health Commissioner

Joseph Steensma, PhD, CIH, MPH  
Board President

