

Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
April 21, 2014

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 5:45 p.m., pursuant to the notice sent to all Directors in accordance with the bylaws.

The following Directors were present: Dr. William Pond, Patricia Hays, Ted Sobol, Deb Lambert and Dr. Todd Rumsey. Mary Hess and Tim Pape were 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 5:45 p.m. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Motion was made and approved to accept the January 13, 2014 minutes.

Motions Passed at this Meeting:

- Motion was made to approve the January 13, 2014 minutes. (MPU)

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

- Current construction projects: Homeowners in both the Flutter Rd./Wheelock Rd. project and the Greater Cedar Creek (GCC) project have received order to connect letters. Over 60 percent of the connections in Flutter-Wheelock are complete and the GCC is approaching 10 percent of the homes connected. The Sewer Board met with staff from the State Revolving Fund office and revised some criteria for septic replacement funding. The board is currently looking for home owners who are eligible and interested in another round of funding for these systems. The sewer district approved three preliminary engineering reports, which cover 11 sewer projects and three decentralized projects. Total cost for all projects in the PERs is about \$12.75 million, with a total customer count of approximately 750. Most projects will require a substantial amount of grant money to get the monthly payments into a reasonable range, so the final project list will depend on the financing package available.

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

- Dr. McMahan invited Phil Hutson, Assistant Director, Bowen Center, to explain the on-site mental health services being provided at the [Medical Annex as a collaboration started recently to provide mental health counseling to refugees](#). Phil said refugee patients have very complex issues and the Bowen Center’s goal to provide services as soon as possible [since most refugees find it difficult to make their way to other locations for such care](#). Refugees often face difficulties with language, finding employment and learning new skills. These concerns are often accompanied by depression and anxiety. Once the patients meet with the therapist in the clinic, Bowen Center provides wrap around services such as a translators and rehabilitation service providers who work with refugees out in the community. Bowen Center treats their depression and anxiety but also works with the refugees to solve very complex social issues such as domestic violence. Ultimately, Bowen Center works to help patients achieve a lifestyle where they are stable enough to start working for a better future. Dr. McMahan added that seeing a [“warm hand off”](#) to therapists at the clinic really improves the patients trust in the provider.
- Steve Williams, Immunization Services Supervisor, spoke about the Refugee Case Conference that occurred in March. The case conference brought together various service providers in many disciplines to help provide complete care for all patients. Medical and behavioral health, legal and vocational representatives, Medicaid

insurance representatives, case workers from Catholic Charities and East Allen Community Schools attended the first meeting. Two or three of the most complex cases were presented and specific treatment plans were determined. Future conferences are planned every other month.

- Nicole Hartman, Director of Community Health and Case Management, provided an over view of the Human Trafficking SOP meeting set for May 22nd. In 2012 the department had a patient that was likely a victim of human trafficking. Staff worked with Dr. Maiko of Crime Victim Care to learn more about this issue. Representatives from the Attorney General’s Office will be here in Fort Wayne on May 22 to assist community partners in developing a SOP for the community. This will allow all service providers to know what to do when encountering individuals they feel may be victims. Dr. McMahan pointed out that again this is a very complex issue and takes collaboration between many groups. Housing, legal immigrations services, mental health counseling and more are all needed for these victims.

SEE ACTUAL COMMISSIONER’S REPORT FOR ALL OTHER ISSUES.

Administrator’s Report – Mindy Waldron

- Senate Bill 107 –Mindy provided an update on the status of the bill. If passed, the bill would have transferred oversight authority of the septic system or pollution control issues from the Indiana State Department of Health to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Local health departments and most installers and designers were not in favor of the change. Many groups came together and did a lot of educational presentations to legislators and the bill was defeated. The bill may be introduced again next session and the same groups will need to be prepared to reach out and discuss again. Dr. McMahan thanked Mindy for her efforts in the initiative.
- Mindy invited Ann Applegate, Director of the Food and Consumer Protection Division, to share some information about the new food establishment ordinance amendment. Ann explained that several different models in large market areas were looked at to see what would make sense to incorporate into the department’s ordinance. The current system has “swing” violations – which can be considered critical or non-critical, depending on what the inspector observes. This makes having an absolute scoring tool very difficult. The system being considered would focus more on the critical violations – those that are known to contribute to foodborne illness. Thus, they are considered more risky violations. Mindy added that local food establishment owners will be asked to comment on the new ordinance once it is drafted and education will occur for both the industry and the public well in advance of the ordinance implementation is passed. She added that incentives will be built in to offer food establishment owners opportunities to improve grades upon re-inspections. Mindy and Ann reported that they were to meet soon with members of Visit Fort Wayne to share information on this with some of the their members as a first step in getting the word out about the intended ordinance amendments. Board discussion followed and was in support of the proposed changes.
- Massage Parlor/Establishment Ordinance – Mindy explained that the department was approached by the City of Fort Wayne several months ago about some issues associated with local massage parlor establishments. Currently, the City of Fort Wayne has an ordinance, but only has one licensed facility (due to lack of enforcement in ensuring all who need to be are actually permitted). Meetings have been occurring with the Fort Wayne Police Department, Fort Wayne legal department, Allen County Prosecutor and others about amendments to their existing ordinance as the possibility of developing a specific ordinance from our Department addressing the public health issues of concern. Mindy asked the board for their opinion on whether or not the Department of Health should look into developing an ordinance for permitting and inspection of these facilities or if the Department should continue to assist when asked for help by other departments. Board comments focused on the fact that the department has few resources being stretched in a lot of different areas. Dr. Pond felt that the departments focus should remain on public health issues and disease outbreaks. The Board agreed that no

separate ordinance would be created at this time and the Department will assist as requested on a situational basis.

SEE ACTUAL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT FOR ALL INFORMATION SHARED.

New Business – Children's Health Improvement Plan – Deborah A. McMahan, MD

- Dr. McMahan's power point presentation reviewed the current health outcomes for Indiana children. She presented statistical data focusing on the demographics, poverty level, health outcomes and more. She presented the data in preparation for her July presentation to the board on the Children's Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for Allen County. The Indiana Health Ranking for children is 30 out of 50 states. The CHIP will focus community partners into six key domains: physical, mental, spiritual, education, social and justice. The goal will be to provide integrated care for all children so that all may achieve their greatest physical, mental and spiritual health.

SEE ACTUAL HEALTH COMMISSIONER'S REPORT FOR ALL INFORMATION SHARED.

Adjournment: 7:12 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: July 21, 2014 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah A. McMahan, MD
Health Commissioner

William Pond, MD
Board President