

Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
April 20, 2015

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, Dr. Todd Rumsey and Tim Pape. Mary Hess was absent.

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 February 2, 2015 minutes.

Summary of Motions Passed at this Meeting:

- Motion was made by Patti Hays to approve the February 2, 2015 minutes. Todd Rumsey seconded the motion. (MPU)
- Motion was made by Todd Rumsey to grant the Department of Health permission to move forward with a needle exchange program in the event that the Indiana State Legislature would pass legislation allowing local entities or health departments to do so and a motion that this board is now lending its support to state activity toward passing a bill or act allowing a needle exchange program. Patti Hays seconded the motion. (MPU)
- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tim Pape. Todd Rumsey seconded the motion. (MPU)

VISITOR PRESENTATIONS:

STI (Sexually Transmitted Infection) Clinic Marketing Campaign: Anthis Career Center Students

- Kathy Thornson, Director HIV/STD Prevention, introduced Mary McArdle, Assistant Principal of the Anthis Career Center, and several Anthis graphic design students who prepared marketing materials for the STI clinic. Kathy explained that she and her staff decided there was a need to market to youth more effectively after a department survey indicated that many youth are completely unaware of the services provided by the department. The Anthis students shared samples of business card-sized documents indicating service locations and posters that will be distributed among schools and other key locations. Each student explained how they designed their portion of the project. Board members emphasized the need for wide distribution in areas that will be widely noticed. Among doctor's offices and emergency rooms, bathroom stalls were also emphasized as a good place to get people to read the information.

Children's Health Improvement Plan for Allen County (CHIP) – Update

- Terrell Zollinger, DrPH, and Robert Saywell, PhD, MPH, Indiana University, provided an update on the progress each CHIP subcommittee has made in identifying the problem areas they will focus on for the strategic plan. Terrell also provided an outline for the board on how each subcommittee will continue to refine their list of problems to produce an action plan for the subcommittee. He emphasized that it is of great importance for the CHIP subcommittees to

leave a legacy that will carry on beyond the immediate activities. The subcommittees will do this by focusing on changes in policy or changes in our systems that will leave a lasting improvement on the infrastructure of the system. Dr. Saywell will also help identify the economic costs of not implementing the recommended changes. This will help emphasize the importance of implementing the CHIP plan.

- Tim Pape commented that it is wonderful to bring this multi-faceted approach to helping children and asked, “Is the funding available for this?” Dr. Zollinger explained as the project progresses and interventions are identified, then funding sources could be identified. Some interventions will need funding and some will not. Until there is a better understanding of what the CHIP strategic plan will call for – funding will be difficult to identify.
- Dr. David Cochran, IPFW, gave a presentation explaining how systems engineering is going to be used to help enhance the CHIP strategic plans. He explained it is a complex system that will equip anyone who works with children with the ability to address any problem that may arise. One of the goals would be to empower health care workers, teachers, and social workers and more with the knowledge of what community resources are available and how to referrals take place.

Sewer Board Update – Gary Chapple, Director of Pollution Control (the Board’s representative and ex-officio member on the Allen County Regional Water and Sewer District):

- Engineering design of sewers for the next round of sewer projects has been approved by the District. The District is working on bids and funding for these projects. Construction on this round of projects should begin sometime in 2015. The Department of Health is working through the exemption process (required by law) for the homes who have requested exemption from connection in these projects. Applications have been received from 15 homeowners who were eligible and inspections are in progress. The District is trying to fast track a project in the Popp Road and Tonkel Road area to assist homeowners with failing onsite sewage systems. The hope is that this project could catch up with the projects already scheduled for construction in 2015. The Department of Health continues to look for more homeowners who are eligible and interested in another SRF (State Revolving Fund) round of funding for septic replacement systems (a low cost loan program).

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

- Dr. McMahan shared that last summer the department was approached by the Sexual Assault Response Team to assist in providing services to unattached and un-resourced victims of sexual assault. The Department served its first patient recently and the team treating her did an excellent job. Not only did the treatment include HIV prophylaxis, but included mental health support, and other treatments the patient required. Dr. McMahan believes this is a valuable service and the treatment team is ready to serve new patients as needed.
- Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force – Dr. McMahan said that Aaron’s Law has passed the Indiana State Legislature. This will allow a provider to write prescriptions for naloxone for a family member or certain groups like shelter providers. This will save lives because as the department’s overdose study showed, over half the people who died accidentally from overdoses were in the presence of another person. Now there is a need for the state’s Task Force to write protocols to help providers. The Task Force has also agreed to write an addiction kit for primary care physicians. It will include tools for screening and referral.

- SEE ACTUAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT FOR ALL OTHER ISSUES.

Communicable Disease Report – Deborah A. McMahan, MD

- The HIV crisis in Scott County has prompted the department to seek out areas where the department can think proactively and implement strategies to prevent such an occurrence taking place in Allen County. Increasing testing sites in the county is a goal, along with some novel ways to reach people who are at risk. One thought is to offer a pop-up clinic in town in an area where there may be a high number of high risk people who need to be tested. One area Dr. McMahan would like to see this take place is at the local truck stop. Efforts to get this approved with the truck stop are ongoing.
- Dr. McMahan said another effort that could be undertaken in Allen County to reduce and prevent HIV transmission is a needle exchange program. The programs do reduce the transmission of HIV and Hepatitis C and do not promote increased IV Drug use. An exchange program would also provide an opportunity to establish a relationship with someone and then offer more services to them. Pop Up clinics and needle exchange programs would be interim measures to reduce the burden of disease until the real work could be done to reduce the addiction. HIV is very costly. Dr. McMahan said the board may need to weigh in on the possibility of a needle exchange program if legislation passes at the state level to allow this.

Board Discussion:

Dr. Rumsey said, "A needle exchange program would serve as a point of entry for us to address the public health concerns. Emergency or not, they are proven to be effective. We don't have access to these people until we offer an exchange program. Patti Hays asked if the board has to wait until the governor declares an emergency. Proposed legislation would allow the counties to have an exchange program. Dr. Pond asked the board to support this initiative if the law passes. Do we want to support the law as a group?"

Dr. Rumsey made the motion, "To grant the Department of Health permission to move forward with a needle exchange program or policy in the event that the Indiana State Legislature would pass legislation allowing local entities or health departments to do so and a motion this board is now lending its support state activity toward passing a bill or act allowing a needle exchange program." Patti Hays seconded the motion. (MPU)

- SEE ACTUAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT FOR ALL OTHER ISSUES

Administrator's Report – Mindy Waldron

- Mindy offered an update on the ISDH Immunization Grant. She said a good portion of the grant will be used for technology upgrades, equipment upgrades and changes to policies. Most of the grant is to be used to develop an educational awareness campaign aimed at increasing immunization rates. Mindy added that the department is hopeful that it is chosen as a site that is funded for a multi-year grant. Some of the programs

have some sustainable funding needs. It is hoped that the grant will continue funding through 2017.

- Mindy also provided an update on the Hall's "The Deck/Nick's Boardwalk." She said the Halls folks have submitted for a variance with the Indiana State Department of Health to deviate from the State Food Code as it relates to barriers/protections for a permanent outdoor food establishment. The 30-day comment period ended April 19th. The department is awaiting a decision from ISDH to be rendered after that time for implementation. Mindy stated it is her understanding that ISDH will engage in some back-and-forth written communications with the Hall's establishment folks until they have reached agreement on the likely language and requirements that will be provided for in the variance as it is issued.

Board Discussion:

Dr. Pond asked when a decision might be reached on the variance. Mindy said it is her understanding that there are no concrete time lines. It is also her understanding that there will be some communications from the state asking for collaboration on certain points of the variance. Halls will then have a chance to respond. Mindy added that it will not affect Hall's ability to open this season as far as the Department of Health is concerned. Dr. McMahan added that the longer term solution is that the state law needs to be changed. The Department has been working on advocating for guidance on this issue as well as for an ultimate law change.

Tim Pape posed some statements/questions to the Board/Department: He stated that he wondered if the Board of Health is "development oriented enough". He said, "A wealthier community is almost always a healthier community." He said he wonders if the department needs more engagement with the economic development community. He said he sits on the Greater Fort Wayne, Inc. Board and just wonders if the Department engages with them or others related to development. He stated that he hasn't heard any complaints and indicated that perhaps not having heard complaints may mean we are doing an OK job, but just had concerns that we were not proactively making efforts to change laws as he felt perhaps we should that might assist with issues such as the planned Riverfront development projects. He indicated several outdoor food establishments were planned and that we likely knew this and asked if we were making efforts to change laws to allow it.

Dr. Rumsey said he thinks the Board/Department is engaged with the economic needs of the community. As an example he mentioned the economic opportunity to have a tattoo convention in town several years ago and some concerns that were raised for which the Board had to develop guidance and rules. He explained how the Board had to balance that economic impact opportunity with the public health concerns of having transient artists in town in a temporary location providing tattoos and body piercing at the time. Dr. Rumsey said he felt the department met that need head on and was able

to protect the public health needs of the community while allowing the event to occur. As far as the Hall's situation, Dr. Rumsey stated that he thinks the Board realized the situation isn't perfect. The Board has offered support to change the law but until the circumstances change, the Board has to uphold the law.

Tim Pape said, "I would like to challenge the department to regularly engage the community on what is happening from a community development perspective. I would like the department to take this to a higher level. Can we be an agent of change for laws that don't make sense? Can you regularly meet with the economic professionals?" Deb Lambert commented that Dr. Pond asked the Board if they should spearhead a change in local food rules and wondered if it would be a proactive step to take.

Dr. Pond added that the department can have relationships with developers but you also have rules. Police and administrative organizations have to enforce them. He said, "The fact that you got away with not paying your taxes for 5 or 10 years doesn't give you a pass not to pay them when you finally do get caught on it. I am going to have to stand up for the Board of Health on this one. When they became aware of it, they had to enforce it. They also identified that the state law had to be modified. These people have to enforce what it is even if it is unpopular to do so."

Dr. Rumsey said the department is open and available for the developers who want to work with them. The developer who has a need has to come talk with the department. They need to know they are welcome. We will let them know what the department can and cannot bend on. We don't have the staff to go to the developers and anticipate their needs.

Dr. Pond added that he spoke with Halls and they offered some very concrete ideas on what was needed and he hopes that they will be incorporated in the variance at the state level. Dr. Pond thanked the Board for the spirited conversation.

SEE ACTUAL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT FOR ALL INFORMATION SHARED (but not discussed).

Personnel Report – Mindy Waldron

- Audrey Dominguez was hired as a Medical Assistant for Clinical Services.
- Angela Klopfenstein was hired as a nurse with the Community Health and Case Management Division.
- Rosalina Perez was hired as a Support Staff Administrative Assistant.
- John Silcox, Communication Director, left his position. Megan Reust was hired as his replacement and will start on Monday, April 27th.
- Nikki Hartman, Director of Community Health and Case Management, has resigned. Her last day is Friday, April 24th. Efforts are in place to fill her position.

Old Business

None

New Business

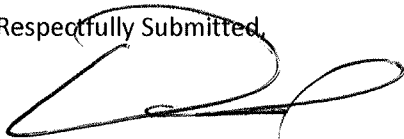
None

Motion to adjourn was made by Tim Pape and seconded by Todd Rumsey.

Adjournment: 7:25 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: July 20, 2015 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Deborah A. McMahan, MD
Health Commissioner



William Pond, MD
Board President