

**Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health Minutes**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
July 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, Mary Hess and Tim Pape. Dr. Todd Rumsey was not present.

Dr. William Pond, President, presided over the meeting. Jana Sanders 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 April 21, 2014 minutes.

**Motions Passed at this Meeting:**

- Motion was made by Patti Hays to approve the April 21, 2014 minutes. Ted Sobol seconded the motion. (MPU)
- Motion was made by Patti Hays and seconded by Mary Hess to accept the suggested amendments to the Onsite Sewage Ordinance. Motion passed 5-1. Tim Pape opposed.

**Marcia Haaff – CEO, Lutheran Foundation:**

- In 2013, Lutheran Foundation contracted with Praxis to conduct a mental and health behavioral needs assessment of the 10 counties they service: Adams, Allen DeKalb, Huntington, Lagrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash Wells and Whitley. Key informant interviews asked individuals a variety of questions that covered a wide range of questions regarding informants' mental health, what services are being offered and what kind of services are needed. Marcia reviewed some key statistics from the survey. Full survey results can be found at: [www.areyouththebody.com](http://www.areyouththebody.com) or [www.thelutheranfoundation.com](http://www.thelutheranfoundation.com).
- As a result of the survey, mental health and behavioral health will be a key focus of the foundation in years to come. Collaborating with interested organizations will be a key first step in reducing the stigma of mental health and moving forward with a clear strategy for the area. Mary Hess said that connecting people to mental health resources can be very difficult and she is pleased to see the foundation move forward with these goals.

**A Retrospective Analysis of Overdose Deaths in Allen County 2008-2013 – Jana Sanders, Informatics Director**

- Jana Sanders gave a basic summary of the study and the results. The national rate for overdose deaths was 13.1 per 100,000 (2010). Indiana's rate was 14.9 per 100,000 (2010). In 2002 this was the second leading cause of accidental deaths in the nation. Prescription pain killers have been involved in more overdose deaths than cocaine and heroin combined. Indiana is one of the leading states in numbers of prescriptions for pain relievers. Six years of data were studied in Allen County. Death certificates and the coroner's files were reviewed. Allen County had 287 deaths total for six year period of the study. There was 55 percent increase from 2008 to 2013. In 2013 motor vehicle deaths and drug overdose deaths were equal. For the total time period of the study, there was a 55 percent increase in the amount of overdose deaths. Dr. Serbus, Academic Chief Resident, Fort Wayne Medical Education Program, went over the toxicology of the report. She said that 75 of the people in the study had more than one substance in their system and the average number of substances was 4 with the highest being 11. Opioids were the most commonly used drugs in overdose deaths. Opioids use in overdose deaths has increased 160 percent from 2008-2013. The study organizers would like to acquire approval from INSPECT to investigate further how patients use prescriptions.
- Board Discussion followed. Patti Hays pointed out that the Lutheran Foundation's study and this study go hand in hand. Because there is a stigma on mental illness people don't ask for help. They instead turn to prescription

drugs. Dr. Pond suggested the study organizers send the board suggestions on how each member could approach the INSPECT Board and ask for approval for the study.

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

- There are approximately 25 connections remaining, out of the almost 500 homes in the total projects, to be made between the Flutter-Wheelock project and the Greater Cedar Creek project. The Tills on Auburn Toad, who appealed to this board the department's denial of their exemption, have connected to the sewer. The Sewer Board continues looking for homeowners who are eligible and interested in another round of State Revolving Fund septic replacement systems. The Sewer District is moving forward with the preliminary engineering reports, as the first step in seeking funding for the next round of projects. It may be January 2015 before the funding package is complete to know what projects make the final list. Construction should begin on the next round, sometime in 2015.

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

- Dr. McMahan said she is very pleased with the collaboration with the Bowen Center that provides mental health services at the Medical Annex. The patients' rate of compliance has increased from 0% to 64%. She said the reason for this is that services are being offered at a familiar place.
- The State Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force has established new working groups to better coincide with their new goals. One goal in particular that Dr. McMahan highlighted was a group to increase collaboration between mental health and all other providers.
- John Silcox was congratulated by Dr. McMahan for becoming a Certified Communicator in Public Health. There are only 10 others in the country who have the certification.
- CHIP co-leaders have been identified. Dr. McMahan said the process is moving ahead. There is an August meeting scheduled for co-leaders to identify individuals for the working groups. Large group meetings will offer educational sessions focusing on a child's total health. The goal of the CHIP process is to have each domain develop a clear assessment of their group's needs and abilities and what goals each domain wants to accomplish.

SEE ACTUAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT FOR ALL OTHER ISSUES.

**Communicable Disease – Deborah A. McMahan, MD**

- STI's continue to be a real issue for the community. Dr. McMahan said the department is working on strategies to connect with younger people. Dr. McMahan hopes to see progress soon. She said another area of focus is STI's in pregnant women. She said that last year 20 percent of STI patients were pregnant.
- There are two new Chikungunya cases in Florida. Dr. McMahan said at the next meeting Dave Fiess could offer a full report. Her concern is that people that travel will become infected, come back here and be bitten by a mosquito and then disease will then spread. These mosquitoes that spread the disease are daytime biters. She said mosquito repellent is the only way to prevent the disease and when traveling everyone needs to be especially aware of this disease.

SEE ACTUAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT FOR ALL OTHER ISSUES

**Administrator's Report – Mindy Waldron**

- Mindy Waldron gave an update on the Lodging Ordinance that took effect January 1, 2014. Overall, things are going well with inspections. The length of time it took for the staff to conduct the inspections was underestimated. The staff has adjusted now and is conducting inspections in teams and less time is needed. Some changes to the ordinance might be suggested to the board in the future.
- The department has finalized a new strategic plan. Mindy provided copies for all the board.

SEE ACTUAL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT FOR ALL INFORMATION SHARED.

**Personnel Report – Mindy Waldron**

- Haley Brooks has been hired as a new clerk for Vital Records. Susie Cisney has been hired as the Clinical Director of Nursing.

**Old Business – Mindy Waldron**

- Food Ordinance – Ann Applegate, Director of Food and Consumer Protection, explained the Indiana State Department of Health is currently in the process of amending the Indiana Food Code. Although there has been a lot of progress amending the department's food code, it would be unwise to proceed at this point until the language of the new amendment from the state has been finalized. By fall, the state should have drafts available for local health departments to review and provide comments.
- Public Health Ordinance- Mindy explained the ordinance is designed to address several "gap" issues not covered in existing local ordinances or state codes – but for which the department is responsible and received complaints. Mindy also said the department has partnered with other departments such as Neighborhood Code in developing the ordinance. The department already follows up on complaints about properties. This ordinance would make enforcement a little bit easier by allowing the department to issue fines if needed.
- Onsite Sewage System Ordinance- Several small amendments were requested. Among them, is a fee that will be assessed when a property owner requests an exemption from available sewer connection per statute and this required site visits. A \$100 fee would be assessed for the visits. The fee would be a one-time payment for as many inspections needed to assess the system. Gary Chapple, Director of Pollution Control, stated the fee is actually a low estimate for the department's costs. Tim Pape asked what someone would do if they couldn't afford the fee. Mindy Waldron said she would need to discuss that with the departments' attorney. She added that the tax allocations received by the department cover only two thirds of the services that the department provides. User fees are vital in helping the department recover other lost revenue. Dr. McMahan asked if we could offer some sort of a hardship policy for the ordinance. Mindy Waldron offered to explore the idea further with the department's attorney and report back to the board.
- Motion was made by Patti Hays to accept the ordinance amendment as written. Mary Hess seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-1. Tim Pape opposed the motion.

**New Business**

- No new business was offered.

Adjournment: 7:15 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: October 13, 2014 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah A. McMahan, MD  
Health Commissioner

William Pond, MD  
Board President