

**Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health Minutes**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
July 31, 2017

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, Deb Lambert, Dr. Todd Rumsey, Mary Hess and Ted Sobol. Tim Pape 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 April 17, 2017 minutes.

Summary of Motions Passed at this Meeting:

- Motion was made by Todd Rumsey to approve the April 17, 2017 minutes. Ted Sobol seconded the motion. (MPU)
- Patti Hays made a motion for a do pass recommendation to go to the Allen County Commissioners on the proposed amendments to: Allen County Code, Title 17, Article 2—Allen County Onsite Wastewater Management District Ordinance. Mary Hess seconded. (MPU)

Special Presentations:

**Student Presentation: “Trauma Transfers: A Retrospective Analysis of Multiple Transfers”, Presenters: Shivani Parikshak and Mary Langemeier:**

- Dr. McMahan introduced Shivani and Mary and explained that they are a part of the Student Health Fellowship program which used to be the MAHE program. Their project originated from a - Regional Trauma Advisory Council Meeting where the group realized there were unusual numbers of double transfers between hospitals from Northeast Indiana. Shivani and Mary researched the issue and found that the majority of transfers were not in fact double transfers but errors in reporting to the state data base. Shivani and Mary recommended increased training, state wide, for staff who are inputting data into the Indiana State Department of Health Trauma data base.

**Captain Kevin Hunter, Fort Wayne Police Department: Update on Illegal Drug Overdoses in the Community:**

- Captain Hunter said the number of drug overdoses continues to increase. He added that most overdoses that occur through heroin and or fentanyl have been saved through Narcan. “That is why our overdose deaths are not skyrocketing,” he said. He continued, “We are still seeing heroin and fentanyl on a regular basis and it is very common to see them mixed. The second most popular drug we are seeing is Spice and we are seeing a dramatic increase in Spice overdoses.” Captain Hunter shared information from a previous day where there were 21 Spice overdoses in one 24-hour period. He said the department is also seeing an increase in crystal meth but a decrease in the 1-pot meth labs. “We started educating our officers about the

dangers of carfentanyl which is a huge danger to first responders," he said. The areas first carfentanyl death occurred on April 25, 2017. Captain Hunter said it took a while to confirm the cause of death. Captain Hunter said that carfentanyl is 100 times more powerful than fentanyl. "This is very dangerous drug," he said.

- Spice overdoses are on the increase and Capt. Hunter said some of the substances returned after analyzing are an unknown substance. "So when we test it, we don't know what we are testing," he said. "It could be spice, it could be something else. What we are hearing is that people use bug killer, vehicle antifreeze, transmission fluid and who knows what else that is being sprayed on the spice and sold out in the streets." Capt. Hunter said the physical symptoms of a spice overdose include: foaming at the mouth and losing consciousness. He said he has seen a video posted on line of a girl suffering a seizure from an apparent spice overdose.
- Captain Hunter compared month-to-month overdose numbers from 2016 to 2017 and showed each month in 2017 has a significant increase. He said July numbers were not yet in but he expected a significantly higher number for July 2017 from July 2016 because there were 50 overdoses from the week prior to the board meeting. He said there are 53 overdose deaths with 10 or more pending toxicology reports, to date for 2017.
- "I think this is going to get worse before it gets better and I think we are seeing that right now. We are doing everything we can to address the dealers and take this off the street. Right now there is a huge cluster of overdoses in the southwest quadrant of Fort Wayne and again we are working as hard as we can to address those issues," said Captain Hunter.
- Dr. McMahan thanked Captain Hunter for his presentation and added that one of the consequences that mental health professionals are seeing from Spice is long term psychosis. "Some people are not coming back from this – which makes this even more frightening," she said. She added that she met with Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill and he indicated that adding to this problem is that many legislators see Spice as synthetic THC and that is no longer the case she said. Attorney General Hill indicated that the existing laws regarding Spice do not treat possession of Spice as a serious offense. "There is not much punishment for possession of Spice. It is looked at very similar to marijuana possession," said Captain Hunter. He indicated he supports the Indiana Attorney General's efforts to increase penalties. Captain Hunter continued, "In my opinion, Spice is on par with heroin as far as the damage it is doing to society."
- "We need to do some more education on this," said Dr. McMahan, "Everyone needs to understand this is not a benign drug. It is a real threat." She continued, "We want to get into the schools." The Indiana Attorney General is supporting the idea to produce a series of modules for educating youth. He wants to start at fourth or fifth grade. "Middle school is not soon enough anymore," said Dr. McMahan. Mary Hess commented that she loves the idea of getting legislation behind educational tools for this. "Legislation is essential to make this is implemented consistently," she said.
- Board Discussion continued about asking INSPECT to include overdose data in their system. Dr. Rumsey said including this information would be extremely helpful in learning more.
- Dr. McMahan asked the board to think of ways in which Compassion Fatigue could be addressed among health professionals and emergency responders. Captain Hunter said the people who overdose multiple times can discourage first responders, but it is their job to administer lifesaving techniques whether or not they have done this before. Dr. McMahan said she thinks it would be a good idea to have a Compassion Fatigue seminar to help health care professionals and first responders address these issues.

- Some “next steps” that Dr. McMahan would like to see include working with Employee Assistance Programs to make sure they are prepared to address the opioid issue in the work place.

**Board Appointment Reports:**

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

- Mindy Waldron reported that Gary Chapple was not available to attend the board meeting but reported that all projects were progressing.

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

- Dr. McMahan said that there are increasing numbers of young people being diagnosed with STI’s. She asked Kathy Thornson, Director of HIV & STD Prevention, to share recent data with the board. Kathy said there is a 27% jump in gonorrhea cases this year and a 7% increase in chlamydia cases. Kathy also reported that 9 % of the STI cases for this year have been pregnant women. The staff works with the patients to insure they are tested and retested as CDC guidelines suggest.
- Dr. McMahan said the department has tried expanding services and said there is another location under consideration where the department could expand its testing services even further. She said she has also talked with Dr. Adams at the State level and asked him why the state is not more aggressive in teaching sex education. Dr. McMahan said that Dr. Adams informed her that Indiana is a “home rule decision” state. “These are unpleasant decision but these are things we have to talk about. We don’t teach effective sex education in schools. Do we need to think about teaching this more effectively? If not in the schools where can we do this?” said Dr. McMahan. Dr. Pond replied, “Is it a matter of education or morality? Or is it that people don’t know they shouldn’t have unprotected sex or is it they don’t care?” Dr. McMahan replied that many don’t know. She said the department conducted a number of focus groups with young people and she was shocked at the number of young people who did not know the risks. “I would like young people by age 18 to have had the opportunity to hear and understand the facts and then your family, your church or your synagogue would have to help you determine how to live a moral life. But you need to know what causes what,” said Dr. McMahan.
- Mary Hess commented that although it is ideal that families would address this issue, it is not always the case. Patti Hays asked Mary Hess, “Is abstinence the path of education that is taught in Indiana?” “Yes and that is legislated by the state,” said Mary. “That can be a barrier for schools because it is hard to decide to take that on when that language is in the state standard. It is not an easy thing to take on no matter what but is especially hard when that is what the state standards are,” said Mary.
- She continued, “How school nurses address the problem on a one on one basis is a little different then how you would attack that from what should schools be teaching in health class. Children are mandated to have health class in grade 10. It is addressed in some degree. It is way too late. After that there’s a comfort level among those health teachers on how deep they will go on that topic. So there are a lot of barriers there. If you want true change you need to address this on a state level and have that language addressed.”
- “We teach each about the diseases. Where you get into problems is when you teach about prevention. That is an abstinence approach that the state standards require. It becomes a

barrier. If we could get Dr. Adams to talk to the schools on a state level about changing that language in the state standards --that could be useful, " said Mary.

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

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

- SEE ACTUAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT FOR ALL OTHER ISSUES

**Administrator's Report – Mindy Waldron**

- Mindy reported that the budget is in development for 2018. No cuts were required and grant funding is level.
- She also shared information about the possibility of obtaining funding for an expansion to a building on the Medical Annex property that would service as an emergency Point Of Distribution. (POD). This would allow for more flexibility when large mass vaccination events are needed. More information will follow.
- Mindy also congratulated Dr. McMahan and Jana Sanders who were awarded the Michael Mirro Research Award for their continued work with the Student Fellowship Program.

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

**Personnel Report – Mindy Waldron**

- Myriam Foster was hired as a Vital Records Clerk.

**Old Business**

None

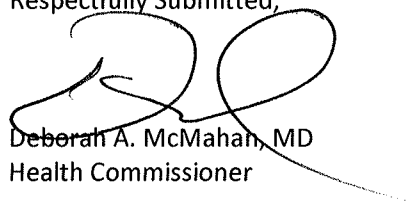
**New Business**

- **Proposed Amendments to: Allen County Code, Title 17, Article 2: Allen County Onsite Wastewater Management District Ordinance – Mindy Waldron and Laura Maser**
- Mindy Waldron explained that this is an older ordinance that required a few changes. Mindy asked that the board consider a do pass vote.
- Laura Maser explained that the amendments simply ensure the original language is cleaned up and consistent as well as to make it clear what is required when a property changes ownership (which is a situation that was never contemplated by the original authors). There are no other substantive changes being made.
- Patti Hays made a motion for a due pass recommendation to go to the Allen County Commissioners. Mary Hess seconded. (MPU)


Adjournment: 7:05 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: October 16, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,



Deborah A. McMahan, MD  
Health Commissioner



William Pond, MD  
Board President