

Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
October 13, 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 Dr. Todd Rumsey. Tim Pape was 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 July 21, 2014 minutes.

Motions Passed at this Meeting:

- Motion was made by Todd Rumsey to approve the July 21, 2014 minutes. Patti Hays seconded the motion. (MPU)
- The Board voted unanimously to approve the Public Health Hazard/Nuisance Ordinance.
- The Board voted unanimously to appoint Al Frisinger to the Allen County Regional Water & Sewer District.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ted Sobol. Mary Hess seconded the motion. (MPU)

Operation F4 – Fight For a Fitter Fort- Ted Sobol and Christopher Blake

- Fort Wayne is one of the top five most obese cities in the United States. Chris Blake, consultant, said he and Ted are working to help the community embrace the changes needed to address the problem. Operation F4 is a community wide effort to connect and engage the community. A Website – OPF4.com is the connecting point that will help individuals track progress, find resources and seek support. Over 80 companies in the area have offered support to the website and Chris and Ted are looking for more community support to motivate individuals to do what is needed to be healthier. Ted said that they are working to reach all aspects of the community and support all efforts in the area to promote healthy behaviors.

Refugee Scholar Program – Cindy Chenoweth, Matt Schomburg and Meg Distler

- Meg Distler, Executive Director of the St. Joe Community Health Foundation, said the program is both robust and fragile. Several agencies have been working together including St. Joe Community Health Foundation, Ivy Tech, FSSA, Department of Health, Parkview and more. Meg shared a brief history of how the St. Joe foundation has been involved in the community. Starting with St. Joe Hospital, the foundation has long been a partner with private sectors in bringing together resources to help refugees. In 2014, 10 percent of the foundations private grant dollars have been invested in refugee programs. To date 1.5 million in private funds have been invested and 2 to 3 times that have been raised in federal contracts for refugee programs. Medical Interpretation has been a large focus of the foundation. SJCHF currently partners with 27 different agencies, including the Department of Health, to help fund positions. Meg said there is a large group of refugees who want to have health careers and need help getting to the next step. She has seen many programs and none have been as successful as Ivy Tech's. At the program's launch, it was determined that only 6 out of 90 applicants had sufficient language skills to proceed. Cindy Chenoweth from Ivy Tech, redesigned the program to make sure students could succeed. For every refugee able to get into the program and be successful, there are multiple refugees watching and seeing what can be done.

- Matt Schomburg, State Refugee Coordinator for Indiana, said the program came about when he was at a meeting with Dr. McMahan and she said there are a lot of refugees who have potential for a career and they need assistance. He asked how can we help? That is how this program started. Matt said the Office of Refugee Resettlement has redirected a great deal of funds to the unaccompanied minors coming in at the borders. This has made funding for the program fragile.
- Cindy Chenoweth, Coordinator of the Refugee Scholar program, shared that when the program began, students were not meeting the minimum requirements for language proficiency. Almost 80 students were interested. Forty students completed the testing. Twenty-three students in Fort Wayne and Indianapolis were invited to participate. A lot of individuals were interested but did not meet grant requirements. Those students had to meet some of the funding requirements themselves. Sixteen participants in Fort Wayne completed the course work. Sixty-one percent of the students passed the CNA state exam on the first try. Students were allowed three attempts to pass the test. One hundred percent of the students passed the test after all three attempts. Sixty-Three percent of the students are currently employed and the rest are interviewing. In January CDL, CNA and CDL classes will begin to be offered in January of 2015.

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

- The Sewer District has contracted with four different engineering firms to complete the design phase of sewers for the areas in the next round of projects. The proposals include nine different areas which include approximately 530 homes. It will be sometime after the first of the year before the funding package is complete to know what projects make the final list, but construction on the next round should begin sometime in 2015. The Department of Health has been working with the Sewer District on a process for prioritizing future projects on the district’s list. The District also coordinated an upcoming conference call between the Department of Health, the Sewer District, the Department of Environmental Management and the Indiana State Department of Health to discuss the permitting process for decentralized systems. The District has received requests from several homeowners and continue looking for more who are eligible and interested in another round of funding for State Revolving Fund septic replacement systems.

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

- Dr. Pond provided an update on the Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force. The task force was formed two years ago at the request of the Indiana General Assembly to develop emergency prescribing rules. Dr. Pond said that all in all rules were received very well. The rules were reformulated to state that drug testing would be required if it was deemed medically necessary. Seventeen criteria were utilized to determine what is medically necessary. Rules were passed by Medical Licensing Board and awaiting the governor’s signature and will go into effect on November 1st. Rules reflect the best standard of care and are actually very workable, as some have already discovered profound affects of the pending set of regulations. Dr. Pond thanked Dr. McMahan and others from the community who helped in the efforts to develop the rules. Dr. McMahan also noted that by the next board meeting she would have data to present on heroine use and her concerns with the increase in abuse.
- Community Health Improvement Plan for Children (CHIP). Most of the participants have been identified. Real work begins after January in subcommittees. First informational seminar is October 31st at The Summit. Dr. Nancy Swigonski, IU School of Medicine, will talk about pediatric development and research, forming policy and improving educational outcomes. Dr. Gladys Beal, pediatric phycologist, will talk about behavioral and mental health issues for our kids.

SEE ACTUAL COMMISSIONER’S REPORT FOR ALL OTHER ISSUES.

Communicable Disease – Deborah A. McMahan, MD

- STI’s are down a very slight percentage.
- Outreach for local colleges – Department is offering low cost alternative for immunizations and TB skin testing for students. Ivy Tech is going to be first area college where this is offered.

- Ebola- Dr. McMahan said the department is working with the medical community to make sure travel histories are included in patient intakes. She said, without travel history, it is very hard to determine what you are dealing with. She added, because patients are not contagious during incubation period, it is challenging for public to understand Ebola. Unless things change remarkably in the affected countries, cases of Ebola will increase greatly in the effected countries. The greatest challenge is that the public doesn't understand a lot of what is going on.
- The department is meeting with community partners to help them plan for possible cases. Laura Maser, Department of Health Attorney, shared that the state law allows Health Commissioner to isolate or quarantine someone. Processes are in place to get that established. The department is prepared to offer help when needed.
- Contact investigations, isolation, monitoring, providing food are all processes the department would conduct when needed. Waste management and PPE training procedures have all been reviewed. The department is making sure all processes are in place within the department and working with community partners to see if they have what is needed as well.
- Education of community and staff is a vital role in making sure everyone receives one united message. Dr. McMahan would like to survey local health care workers to see what their concerns are and then she feels health care providers can address them.
- Mindy Waldron said more community meetings will take place to address law enforcement issues, PPE concerns, protocol issues and more. Communication issues will be the most important link for all partners. Social media rumors can't be prevented. But by being open and honest with messages to the public, all true information regarding Ebola will come directly from the Department of Health and be shared with all media outlets.
- SEE ACTUAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT FOR ALL OTHER ISSUES

Administrator's Report – Mindy Waldron

- The ISDH has awarded the department an Immunization Grant that will be geared at increasing childhood immunizations and updating vaccine safety measures. The main focus of the grant is IT upgrades (specifically those that will increase safety of vaccine such as refrigerator alarm upgrades, new refrigerators manufactured specifically for holding vaccine, as well as overall computer/printer upgrades for areas conducting immunizations). The amount of the grant has not been determined. Exact grant outlines will be determined once the contract is received and the budget is determined.
- Mindy Waldron congratulated Dr. McMahan on being named the 2014 recipient for the Milton and Ruth Roemer Prize for Creative Local Public Health Work by the American Public Health Association.
- Dr. McMahan congratulated Mindy on being named the recipient for the 2014 Tony and Mary Hulman Health Achievement Award in the field of Environmental Health. Mindy was awarded this honor for her legislative work.

SEE ACTUAL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT FOR ALL INFORMATION SHARED.

Personnel Report – Mindy Waldron

- Lisa Lehman was hired as the Medical Coding and Credentialing Specialist. Teresa Marion was hired as a part-time pollution control technician.

Old Business – Mindy Waldron

- **Public Health Hazard Ordinance-** Mindy Waldron shared that the department has been working with neighborhood code, building department and Commissioners to share and vet the ordinance that has been developed. All as well as other partner agencies have endorsed the ordinance. The ordinance is complaint based. Mindy said about five percent of residents do not comply with orders to clean up properties. This ordinance will help the department enforce those orders. Dave Fiess, Director of Vector Control and Environmental Services, said some of the issues this will help the department deal with include: trash issues, rodents and mosquitoes. Mindy added that when Meth Labs are found in homes, this will set time lines for home owners to clean up the home. Currently there is no state law that issues a time line. It also addressed many other “gap” issues for which penalties are not well-defined.
- Ordinance was passed unanimously. Mindy Waldron said she will now take it to the Commissioners for a vote with the hope of a 1/1/15 effective date.

New Business

- **Sewer Board Member Appointment Update – Mindy Waldron**

Mindy explained that the Department would like to appoint Al Frisinger, Allen County Surveyor, as Mark Herber’s replacement on the Allen County Sewer and Water District. In the past, two members of the Department of Health staff have been appointed to the District, but because the district has an executive director now, and handles its own enforcement and administrative issues, it makes more sense to reallocate Mark Herber back to the department to focus on septic issues. Al Frisinger is a content expert and willing to serve on the District. The board voted unanimously to appoint Al Frisinger.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ted Sobol and seconded by Mary Hess.

Adjournment: 7:17 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: January 26, 2015 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah A. McMahan, MD
Health Commissioner

William Pond, MD
Board President