

Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
October 16, 2012

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health was called to order in the County Council Chambers located at 200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana, at 5:30 p.m., pursuant to the notice sent to all Directors in accordance with the bylaws.

The following Directors were present: Joe Steensma, Mary Hess, Rick Regedanz, Dr. William Pond, and Patricia Hays. Dr. Todd Rumsey and Terri Farr were not present.

Joe Steensma, President, presided over the meeting. Jennifer Miller recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Joe Steensma called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Motion was made to approve the July 16, 2012 minutes by Dr. Pond and seconded by Patricia Hays.

Motions Passed at this Meeting:

- Motion was made to approve the July 16, 2012 minutes by Dr. William Pond and seconded by Patricia Hays. (MPU)
- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. William Pond and seconded by Mary Hess. (MPU)

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

All current projects are complete and most of the customers have connected. New projects should finally receive funding in November. (Wheelock/Flutter and Greater Cedar Creek, 400-500 homes total.) Septic funding is scheduled to close at the same time. The project currently has 15 homes and working to get two more. This was a pilot project and sewer board is not sure if it will happen again, but it looks as if it will get completed this time. Several smaller preliminary investigation reports for projects have been authorized. Further work is on hold though until funding is secured and current projects move forward.

Healthy Neighborhood Initiative – Amy Hesting, Healthy Homes Director

Amy Hesting explained how the department has identified a neighborhood area where individuals need assistance from many community organizations. The area also has many strengths to support the individuals in the community like churches, schools, grocery stores and more. The initiative would locate services in key community anchors and reach out to provide support to individuals. Dr. Crystal Bush, New Zion Tabernacle Church, and Timothy Hallman, Anchor Community Church, spoke about their desire to serve as anchors in the community and work with service providers to help community members. Community partners the department has identified in this project are: the city of Fort Wayne, Habitat for Humanity, CANI, Fort Wayne Housing Authority, Aging & In-Home Services and United Way. Dr. McMahan expressed the department's desire to use this initiative as a model for other areas in the community, once it is developed. Joe Steensma shared that the reason the health department is involved in the project is that public health is affected by all variables in a neighborhood and that as budgets are being cut this is one way to work on preventative measures.

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

- Dr. McMahan gave an update on the mentoring program being developed with Big Brothers, Big Sisters, the Backyard Missionaries and Crime Victim Care. The program has been given the go ahead from the mayor and the commissioners. This is a lunch buddy program that will provide door to door transportation for volunteers to the schools. The volunteers will be provided with talking points to help guide them in providing essential information to children. The goal is to launch the recruitment phase of the program later this year.

SEE ACTUAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT FOR ALL OTHER ISSUES.

Infectious Disease Report – Deborah A. McMahan, MD.

- Dr. McMahan said 300 cases of Hepatitis C have been identified this year. Twenty-five percent of those suffer serious liver problems. Thirteen TB cases have occurred in Allen County this year. An increase from 4 in 2011. Mindy Waldron explained that the resources needed to treat this high number of cases have taken a toll on the department. Treatment of these cases is very complex and requires a lot of personnel hours, financing for treatment, housing and other issues. A discussion about new ways the department could seek funding occurred.

SEE ACTUAL INFECTIOUS DISEASE REPORT FOR ALL DATA REPORTED.

Administrator's Report – Mindy Waldron

- Mindy briefly reported on the cuts the department has had to implement. The Emergency Preparedness Director position was the one full-time position elimination that will take place. Mindy thanked Brad Witte for his hard work and dedication in this position. His duties however, will still need to be taken care of and will be split between existing staff members. Mindy said the department hopes to also hire a "very" part-time position in 2013 to assist with the duties.
- A grant from the state for the STD/HIV program has been reduced. This reduction meant all part-time staff must be eliminated and the management position has been reduced. Mindy pointed out that although staff members have been reduced, the case load has not.
- Two new possible ordinances were discussed. A Hotel/Motel Ordinance and a Public health Nuisance/Hazard Ordinance. Discussion occurred about both ordinances. They are under consideration and research.

SEE ACTUAL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT FOR ALL INFORMATION SHARED.

Personnel Report – Mindy Waldron

- Five new individuals have been hired into the department. Laura Fair is a part-time Administrative Assistant for the Immunization Clinic. Betsy Graham is a full-time Administrative Assistant for the Support Staff. Kelly Roe is a part-time Public Health Nurse. Alyssa Walker is a part-time Environmental Technician for Pollution Control. Britny Guingrich is a full-time Environmental Health Specialist –Food.

Old Business: none

New Business: Joe Steensma requested a presentation for the next board meeting about prescription drug abuse and how the problem is affecting Allen County. Dr. McMahan agreed to make the presentation.

Adjournment: 7: 30 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: January 28, 2012

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah A. McMahan, MD
Health Commissioner

Joseph Steensma, Ed.D., MPH, CIH
Board President