

Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
July 16, 2018

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: Tim Pape, Deb Lambert, Mary Hess, Ted Sobol, Dr. William Pond, Dr. Todd Rumsey and Patti Hays.

Dr. William Pond 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 January 22, 2018 minutes as corrected.

Summary of Motions Passed at this Meeting:

- Motion was made by Patti Hays to approve the January 22, 2018 minutes. Tim Pape seconded the motion. (MPU)

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):

- Gary reported that construction is complete in all of the current construction areas, except the river crossing and east of the river in the Poe project, and some minor lift station issues in the Glen Elm Drive area. In addition, 145 properties have received orders to connect and 134 of them have connected. There are 71 notices to be sent yet for this round. The District is working on securing funding for the next round of projects, which consists of 29 connections at Indianapolis Road and Branstrator Road, 33 connections at Monroeville Road and Marion Center Road, 34 connections at Felt Place and Monroeville Road, 62 connections in the village of Maples on Franke Road, and the Hoagland regionalization project, which will include a few new connections along the way, including eliminating the treatment system at Hoagland and pumping the sewage back to Fort Wayne for treatment. The Department of Health has received 7 exemption requests for this new group of projects, and the department is working through that process. The District plans to wait to pursue additional projects until this new group is under construction.

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

- Dr. McMahan said that in the interest of time, she asked the board to refer to her written report and asked them if they had any questions. She said she would be sharing new information under special reports during the meeting.
- SEE ACTUAL COMMISSIONER’S REPORT FOR ALL OTHER INFORMATION SHARED (but not discussed).

Communicable Disease Report – Deborah A. McMahan, MD

- Dr. McMahan said the communicable disease report will be shared in the special report for the night.

Administrator's Report – Mindy Waldron

- Mindy reviewed SSP data and shared that the SSP Clinic continues to have a 97-99 percent needle exchange rate at the clinic. She also commented on some budgetary items. The Indiana State Department of Health is continuing the Immunization Grant for the department. This allows for two medical positions as well as some equipment and supplies. The next grant cycle will allow for some advertisement of information related to the importance of HPV vaccinations. St. Joe Community Foundation once again granted the department funds to pay for two part-time Burmese interpreters to work in the clinic. The total amount received was \$54,000. This is an increase from \$44,000 the previous year. This increase was granted to allow for a change in duties for each interpreter. The 2019 budget is being developed at this time and a report will be shared at the October meeting. Mindy also commented that at the October meeting, the board will have some ordinance amendments to consider.
- SEE ACTUAL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT FOR ALL INFORMATION SHARED (but not discussed).

Personnel Report – Mindy Waldron

- Samantha Nirva was hired as a full-time Environmental Food Inspector.
- Jasmine Cox was hired as a full-time medical assistant.
- Kelsey Martin was hired to work part-time in the SSP Clinic as a Harm Reduction Counselor.

Old Business

None

New Business

- **Disturbing Public Health Trends and Call to Action** – Community partners were invited by Dr. McMahan to discuss current data, issues and concerns regarding health data for Allen County. Dr. McMahan began the presentations with an overview of Deaths of Despair and discussed how depression and anxiety make us all vulnerable to making choices that we would likely otherwise not make. Easy Fixes – that are not good for us – are too readily available. The current environment in which we are addressing these disturbing trends and consequences of despair has affected our ability to use proven public health tools. More intensive collaboration and expansion of mental and physical health treatment options are required to fight these trends. That will require more resources than are currently available as our state ranks 49th in public health funding.
- **A Retrospective Analysis of Drug Overdose Death in Allen County, IN 2008-2017**: Dr. Greg Eigner, Fort Wayne Medical Education Program, Jana Sanders, Informatics Director, and Haley Mathias, Intern, presented findings from the study which included a 45 percent increase in the

number of over dose deaths from 2016-2017. Also reported was the fact that 71 percent of the individuals who died from overdoses were employed. Dr. Eigner highlighted the increase of fentanyl in overdose deaths and said that current numbers show there is a 50 percent decrease in the number of overdose deaths where prescribed opioids were present in the decedents' system.

- **Suicide Date in Allen County:** Dr. McMahan shared that nationally, suicide rates have risen nearly 30% since 1990. She added that among people ages 15-34, suicide is the second-leading cause of death. Allen County had a 44 percent increase in suicides in 2017. The average age was 44 years-old. The age range of deaths was from 13-103. Eighty-one percent of these were male and 19 percent were female. Dr. McMahan said 80 percent of the people who died by suicide in Allen County were employable. She said that many people believe that there are only older, non-employable individuals who die by suicide and clearly that is not the case. She said 80 percent of the decedents were in the prime of their life and very employable.
- **Current State of Youth Mental Health –** Dr. Michael Mirro presented data from a 2017 study of Northeast Indiana youth found 15 percent of high school aged youth and 9 percent of college aged youth seriously considered suicide in the last 12 months. In addition, 33 percent of high school youth and 31 percent of college youth felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities. Dr. Mirro concluded by sharing that in Indiana, 71.1 percent of youth who have depression are not getting any mental health treatment.
- **Child Abuse and Neglect -** Judge Charles Pratt, with Allen Superior Court, said his responsibility is primarily with child abuse and neglect cases. He has been on the bench 30 years. He said, “We did an analysis mid-2017, 1,238 kids were under ward ship in Allen County which means, kids that have been identified and adjudicated as children of abuse or neglect. Of that number there were 469 during that same period identified as cases primarily associated with drug abuse. Of that number, 593 had a secondary cause identified as drug abuse. So the vast majority of the children we have under our supervision, 86 percent, are related to drug usage and that number is increasing. In 2017 we had 667 new cases. By the end of 2017 we had over 800 new cases and that trend is not declining for 2018. That is a significant increase for one court to handle and it is largely due to the opioid crisis.” He continued by sharing one of the most concerning issues for him is lack of uniformity in terms of what is considered appropriate and inappropriate in terms of treatment. He said conflicting statements from experts make this more difficult for a court to respond. “The inconsistency of statement is a problem that we need to address as a community,” he said. Judge Pratt said that medical experts need to address what appropriate levels of treatment are for substance use disorder. “It’s a significant question because there is great inconsistency depending upon what agency might be self-selected by an individual for their treatment and care. So it’s a real challenge from the legal perspective that I think we have to come to terms with as a county and as a community.”
- Judge Pratt also brought to the board’s attention concerns he had over a recent study the Indiana Governor commissioned in regards to child abuse and neglect cases and the Department of Child Services. Judge Pratt said he is concerned that the report suggested that there should be a limitation as to the courts involvement with cases related to drugs. “Evidence shows that frequent oversight promotes success,” he said. One other concern Judge Pratt mentioned about

the report was the fact that it was recommended that the time DCS has to respond to a life threatening circumstance should be expanded from one hour to 24 hours.

- Judge Pratt concluded by sharing that a recent focus of Great KIDS make GREAT Communities is training community members on adverse childhood experiences. He said adverse childhood experiences affect children's health, ability to learn and how they act. Judge Pratt said that training community members on adverse childhood experiences is one of the solutions to ensure better outcomes for Allen County Children.
- Board discussion continued about cases that might be in several different counties and the difficulty of getting consistent responses from responding agencies. Dr. Tony GiaQuinta commented on new protocol being developed that would recommend all babies, in all counties, exposed to substance abuse be treated with the same protocol. He said he has been working with Judge Pratt, DCS and other hospital experts to develop these standards.
- **Trends in Teen Smoking** – Dr. Tony GiaQuinta – President of the Indiana Academy of Pediatrics, shared information about Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS). Data and technology shows smoking of ENDS products have risen among teens. These products include: e-cigarettes, personal vaporizers, vape pens, e-cigars, e-hookahs or vaping devices. These products contain nicotine and other chemicals and are not approved for smoking cessation. He added that the long-term health effects of these products are still unknown. The American Academy of Pediatrics is calling for more education of children, parents and the public about these devices and calling for more and immediate regulatory action to move ahead with review of the dangers posed by these devices. He added that the group advocates for a minimum smoking age of 21 years-of-age. He said Indiana lacks good regulations for ENDS devices and increasing public health funding could help improve the situation.
- Dr. Pond asked Dr. GiaQuinta and Judge Pratt– “How can our board support what you are doing?” Dr. GiaQuinta commented that the board could support the recommendations from the group calling for new procedures for universal testing of women who come in to the hospitals in labor. Judge Pratt commented that he supported these recommendations as well.
- **Sexually Transmitted Infections** – Susie Cisney, Director Clinical Nursing, reported that Allen County has seen a 20 percent increase in gonorrhea cases and a 3 percent increase in chlamydia cases in the first 6 months of 2018 from 2016. She also shared contact investigations and treatment barriers include an increase in: anonymous sex behaviors; co-morbidities; treatment non-compliance; and at-risk/high risk populations. She said that social trends are requiring new and innovative public health investigations and outreach. Susie concluded by saying that the department's response to these issues has been to increase its outreach programs in areas such as local clubs, partner agencies and more.
- **Public Health Infections** – Erika Pitcher, Director Community Health & Case Management, reported that Indiana is part of a multi-state outbreak of hepatitis A. Indiana usually sees an average of 20 cases a year, so far this year there have been 220 confirmed cases, resulting in 101 hospitalizations and one death. Allen County currently has 8 cases for 2018. In 2017, there was zero. Currently, Hepatitis C cases in Allen County total 143 for the year with 18 pending.

Erika said Allen County also had a tuberculosis exposure over the last year in a homeless population. As a result, the department has tested in 5 different locations (some locations multiple times) to reach those people potentially exposed. Since 7/12/18 – 544 individual people have been tested. As a result of second round testing of those recently exposed, 647 tests have been conducted. Erika shared some challenges of the outreach programs are:

- 1) It is difficult to get people to come to us; we need to meet them where they are.
- 2) It is difficult to keep track of people and to find them again for results/further testing/treatment
- 3) It is difficult to get people to trust the department. Often hear statements are: “You are injecting me with a tracking device,” “You are infecting me with Hep A/TB,” or “This is a government conspiracy.”
- 4) It is difficult to complete outreach during normal business hours: 8:00-4:30.
- 5) It is difficult to plan large outreach activities while still covering normal job responsibilities.
- 6) Large outreach events can be physically demanding: setting up tents/tables/chairs, packing and transporting supplies.

- **Trends in Law Enforcement in Allen County** – Captain Kevin Hunter said for 2018 to date, the Fort Wayne Police have seized 1,291 grams of heroin and 741.1 grams of fentanyl. Drug poisonings for 2018 total 506 with 40 pending. To date, he said there are 35 deaths due to drug poisonings. Cocaine seizures so far for 2018 equal a total 643.6 grams of crack and 162.6 grams of powder. In 2017, 692.3 grams of crack cocaine and 724.1 grams of powder were seized in the entire year. Captain Hunter said heroin and fentanyl are still common and popular. Cocaine is rising in popularity. Captain Hunter also mentioned that Spice is very popular with homeless and there was a decline in the drug poisonings in June because 22 of the repeat offenders were incarcerated.
- **Public Health Funding & Public Health Enforcement Trends in Allen County** – Mindy Waldron, Administrator, shared data from the 2016 National Profile of Local Health Departments survey. For this survey, 2,333 health departments nationwide were surveyed. The survey showed that for health departments with a population of 200,000-499,999, the number of Full time equivalents (FTE) per 10,000 people was 4.3. The Fort Wayne-Allen County’s FTE per 10,000 is 1.8. The data also showed that the average spending per capita expenditures and revenues by local health departments for the same population was: \$32 (expenditures) and \$31 (revenue). The Fort Wayne-Allen County Departments average is \$14 (expenditures) and \$13 (revenue). Mindy also shared that Indiana is 49th/50th in the nation in public health funding. Funding for Allen County actually ranks 57th in the state in terms of FTE’s /population.
- Mindy also detailed the multiple changes made from 2005-2018 to establish more effective and robust enforcement programs and increase positive outcomes for the department. These changes have provided a framework for enforcement in all divisions and raised the department’s credibility regarding orders and follow-up. This has also created a great deal more work for inspectors, directors and the department administrator to stay on top of all the enforcement occurring, fine tracking, court processes for non-compliance and documentation. A review of data from 2006-2017, revealed that 400 more permits are beings issued, 1,100 more inspections are being conducted and the number of complaint inspections has almost doubled.
- **How to Improve Public Health Funding in Indiana** – July Halbig presented a proposal by the Alliance for a Healthier Indiana to improve the health of Indiana residents by focusing on four

key areas: Tobacco Use, Opioid Abuse, Obesity and Infant Mortality. The Alliance would like to propose a cigarette tax to help fund efforts to improve outcomes in these areas.

- Board discussion continued about cigarette taxes and Dr. Rumsey proposed that the Alliance should tax all tobacco products, not just taxes on cigarettes.
- **Turning Hope Into Action: Evaluating the Opioid Crisis in Fort Wayne** – Rachel Blakeman, JD., summarized the recent report by the Fort Wayne Allen County Task Force for Opioid Strategic Planning (FATOS). The report called for more prevention education with emphasis on students and parents; seamless transition between intervention, treatment and recovery; resources to expand holistic treatment and recovery services; more treatment and recovery services for people in the criminal justice system; reducing the stigma on substance use disorder and seeking treatment.

Adjournment: 8:45 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: October 15, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah A. McMahan, MD
Health Commissioner

William Pond, MD
Board President