

Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
January 25, 2019

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: Ted Sobol, Jorge Ortiz, Dr. Thomas Dykstra, Deb Lambert, Dr. William Pond, Patti Hays. Mary Hess was absent.

Dr. 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 October 15, 2018 minutes.

Summary of Motions Passed at this Meeting:

- Motion was made by Patti Hays to approve the October 15, 2018 minutes. Deb Lambert seconded the motion. (MPU)
- Motion was made by Ted Sobol to nominate Patti Hays as Vice-President for the year 2019. (MPU)
- Motion was made by Deb Lambert to nominate Dr. William Pond as President for the year 2019. Dr. Dykstra seconded the motion. (MPU)

VISITOR PRESENTATIONS:

Infant Mortality (current overview and efforts underway): Meg Distler, Prenatal and Infant Care Network; Tony GiaQuinta, MD, Overview of Allen County Data; Erin Norton – Fetal Infant Mortality Review and Footprints; Paige Wilkins – Healthier Moms and Babies Case Management: Dr. McMahan said that Indiana has the 7th Highest Infant mortality rate in the US and the 3rd highest maternal mortality rate in the US. She said she invited local experts who are working to change those numbers to speak to the board. She explained that local community partners work on developing a collaborative infrastructure to make changes.

- **Meg Distler, Executive Director, St. Joe Community Health Foundation,** shared information about the Prenatal and Infant Care (PIC) Network. In 2015 she said, “we were hearing a lot of groups suddenly talking about strategic planning but none of them were communicating with each other. So we invited 25 of them to lunch to share best practices.” This is when, Meg said, the PIC Network started. From this first meeting, a quarterly luncheon series was started. Today, Meg said there are over 240 people on the mailing list for this group who now participate in the network. At least 60 different entities are represented that support women in need. Medical offices, faith based groups, medial health workers, social services and more are represented. An advisory committee helps decide on educational programs and more. The advisory committee has looked at the Cradle Cincinnati program and is making plans to implement many of their educational strategies. As space limits participating, Meg said meetings are recorded so groups can share information with those who can’t attend. She said, “This is a community collaboration – to lift the professional community, volunteers and improve the lives of mothers and infants.”

- **Tony GiaQuinta, MD – President, Indiana Academy of Pediatrics** – Dr. GiaQuinta shared some data about Infant Mortality. “This is one of the issues that is incredibly hard to move the needle on. The truth is we haven’t made much progress. It is the same. Over the last five years- it is a stagnantly high rate. The definition of Infant Mortality is babies who do not live past their first year. Indiana as a whole is right around 7.5 deaths per 1,000 births. Fort Wayne is no different. We are usually right around 7 deaths per 1,000 births. In some zip codes, we are even much higher,” he said. He continued, “As a state we have one of the worst Infant Mortality rates in the country --in a country that has a depressingly high Infant Mortality rate. This is a public health indicator of how we are doing as a society at preventing something this absolutely preventable.” Dr. GiaQuinta said that Infant Mortality is a very complex – with many issues relating to the problem. Getting everyone communicating about these issues is what is going to increase the momentum in lowering the Infant Mortality rate.
- **Erin Norton, Director of Community Outreach, Parkview Women and Children’s Service Line**– Erin explained that the Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) team’s purpose is to understand how a wide array of social, economic, health, educational, environmental and safety issues relate to infant death and to use the information to improve community resources and systems of care. Footprints FORT WAYNE is a newly established group that will meet and review ideas and determine what is needed in Fort Wayne to create solutions for families to improve lives of infants and adults.
- **Paige Wilkins, Director Healthier Moms and Babies** – Paige shared information about Healthier Moms and Babies (HMB) programs: Prenatal Home Visitation Program, Nurse Family Partnership, Cribs for Kids and Baby & Me Tobacco Free. She said that HMB was founded in 1997. It started as a very small home visitation program. Access to resources, pre-natal education, goal setting and finding solutions to help in eliminating barriers to care are all goals of HMB. In 2018 HMB added a new home visitation program. This program helps HMB serve an additional 200 women. In 2018 HMB serviced 522 pregnant women. Four years earlier – HMB served less than 100 pregnant mothers. In 2018 HMB had 224 healthy babies in the program, four years ago, HMB had 45 babies in its program. The program has grown immensely. The majority of the program serves women living in the 46806 zip code area.

Board Appointment Reports:

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

- Dr. McMahan said, “What we are learning is our numbers our increasing and we have to provide increased services. However, the people we are dealing with are fundamentally different. What we could do before to treat patients, is not working. We have had to pivot from you come and see us for the services you need to we will come and find you. Legally we are responsible for treating these patients and making sure these reportable diseases are treated and mitigated. I am so proud of our staff. They have done a great job. All of our numbers for all of our services have increased. We need to increase staff to deal with these issues, or we will really start seeing some problems. We will lose our ability to treat patients and solve issues.”
- Dr. McMahan advocated for support of the recently proposed Tobacco Tax Increase as a way supporting local health departments.

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

Communicable Disease Report – Deborah A. McMahan, MD

- **Erika Pitcher, Director of Community Health and Case Management** - Erika explained that Indiana has been part of a national outbreak of Hepatitis A since November of 2017. Over 915 cases are confirmed. Typically, Indiana sees less than 20 a year. Erika said that this outbreak has unusual risk factors: drug use, MSM, incarceration, homelessness and contact to an active case. She said that from 2013-2017, Allen County confirmed 6 cases of Hepatitis A. In 2018, Allen County confirmed 52 cases. Outreach efforts of the department have included delivering education materials to local homeless shelters, treatment facilities, sober living facilities and the jail. Also, the department has been communicating outbreak information with all local infection perfectionists at area hospitals. This has helped increase awareness and reinforce protocols for any confirmed cases. Educational efforts are ongoing throughout the community.
- Erika also shared that in May of 2018, Allen County was offered publicly funded vaccine (free of charge) to those that met the risk categories. The department vaccinated 1,349 high risk individuals. The outreach took several early or late hours and was physically demanding as off-site distribution sites had to be established. In addition, many of those at risk were uninterested in their own health and did not trust the staff. The outreach was difficult at times.
- Board discussion continued on the cost of vaccinations for Hepatitis A compared to the cost to treat patients who have Hepatitis A. Dr. Pond asked if a cost comparison of Hepatitis A vaccinations vs. treatment of Hepatitis A could be provided next meeting.
- **Kathy Thornson, Director of HIV/STI Division** – Kathy reported that Allen County's rates of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea have increased again this year. For 2018, Allen County had 674 per 100,000 pop. reported cases of Chlamydia and 283 cases per 100,000 per pop. cases of Gonorrhea. This mirrors a national trend of increased STI's. Kathy also reported that there were 29 new cases of HIV reported in 2018. Syphilis cases remained the same as 2017 with 1.1 cases reported per 100,000 pop.
- Board discussion continued regarding treatment and prevention efforts for STI's. This also included a discussion of staffing levels and the ability of staff to keep up with demand for services.
- **Susie Cisney, Director for Clinical Services-** Susie shared information about outreach STI Clinics. She said the Positive Resource Connection is one off site that has allowed for increased testing. In addition, 6-7 additional sites have been added. When you see appointments in the annual report, you will see that increased numbers of testing because of this.
- SEE ACTUAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT FOR ALL OTHER ISSUES

Administrator’s Report – Mindy Waldron

- Mindy reported that the department was awarded a grant for a mobilization project – or mobile clinic. All nine counties with Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) were notified they could apply for the grant and all of the counties applied. Approximately \$130,000 was awarded to the department. The mobile clinic will be used for all outreach efforts. Mindy said that she hopes to have the unit available by late summer for use.
- Mindy said the Annual Report is in development and all board members should receive a copy by the end of March.
- Mindy reported that in December the Allen Commissioners passed the proposed changes to the Tattoo & Body Piercing Ordinance and The Miscellaneous Fees Ordinance and they took effect on 1/1/19. The Commissioners asked for some changes to the Onsite Sewage Disposal Ordinance. After a second hearing on 1/18/19, the ordinance passed and will be effective on 2/4/19.
- Mindy asked all Division Directors who did not speak to introduce themselves to the board.
- SEE ACTUAL ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT FOR ALL INFORMATION SHARED (but not discussed).

Personnel Report – Mindy Waldron

- Jennifer Harber was hired as an Environmental Services Technician for Food and Consumer Protection Division.
- Candy Lucero-Palma was hired as a nurse in Clinical Services
- A Vital Records Clerk position was just posted and interviews should start soon

Old Business

None

Adjournment: 7:28 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: April 15, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah A. McMahan, MD
Health Commissioner

William Pond, MD
Board President