

Allen County Department of Health Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
July 15, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the 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, Dr. James Cameron, Dr. Thomas Dykstra, Mary Hess, Dr. William Pond, Patti Hays. Deb Lambert 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 January 28, 2019 minutes.

Summary of Motions Passed at this Meeting:

- Motion was made to approve the January minutes. (MPU)

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Public Health Partners in Excellence Award: Dr. McMahan thanked Marcia Haaff, CEO, The Lutheran Foundation (TLF), for all of her work advocating for mental and behavioral health and wellness. In a video presentation, Judge Wendy Davis, Paul Wilson and Rachel Blakeman applauded Marcia's effort to advance collaboration for mental health services among local community corrections, the department of probation, problem-solving courts, governmental affairs, and community health centers. Captain Kevin Hunter, Bishop Crystal Bush, Connie Kerrigan and Commissioner Nelson Peters spoke at the meeting and thanked Marcia for her contributions to the community in helping those most in need. Marcia was presented her award and had pictures taken with the board.

Introduction of new board member: Dr. James Cameron: Dr. Pond welcomed Dr. Cameron to the board.

Board Appointment Reports:

Health Commissioner's Report – Deborah A. McMahan, MD 6:05

- Dr. McMahan said she was shocked the Indiana legislature did not pass the tobacco tax increase. She was hoping this would bring more funding to local health departments. Because of this, Dr. McMahan said she would like the board to think about other ways to increase sustainable funding for the department. With so many public health issues facing Allen County, Dr. McMahan told the board more staff are needed to make significant changes in the health outcomes for the community. She said one such need is for additional staff for data research, such as an epidemiologist. In addition, she would like to see additional funding used to create a collaborative group to address and prioritize public health issues. She said she would like to see business, law enforcement, health care, foundations and social services come together to approach these issues.

- Board discussion continued about what is legal for the board to pursue in terms of funding. Laura Maser said she could explore further options available. Mindy Waldron explained that half of the department's funding comes from taxes and because of property tax caps – increasing the current tax funding is not an option. Dr. Dykstra commented that seeking advice from a Development Professional well versed in seeking new revenue sources would be a good contact for the board. Dr. Pond added that when talking about funding needs, it is better to have a tangible need and concrete metrics by which the board can explain what will be missed if this need is not met.
- Dr. McMahan shared that she and Mindy have asked the department directors to detail in writing what they feel their department needs in order to be more proactive. The directors have included tangible needs that would be essential in making a change in public health outcomes. Once finalized, it can be shared with the board.
- SEE ACTUAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT FOR ALL OTHER ISSUES.

Communicable Disease Report – Deborah A. McMahan, MD

- Dr. McMahan said there has been another surge in Hepatitis A cases. She complimented the staff at the Allen County Jail by acknowledging how helpful they have been in making sure the department has access to those who need vaccinations and other public health services. Dr. Pond asked for the report on costs of immunizations versus costs to treat illnesses be resent to the board.
- STI's continue to increase. Fort Wayne Medical Education Residents are working on a curriculum for young students. Dr. McMahan said after conducting some focus groups with young people, the residents will create some social media pieces to increase education and awareness. She also said that she hopes the new Mobile Unit will increase the identification of young people needing treatment.
- Board discussion continued about STI education: Dr. Cameron said the education on STI's in all schools is lacking. He suggested that all school boards needs to change their approach on how students are educated. "Life-long reproductive health issues are the result of students not being educated," he said. He added that the discussion about STI's needs to be destigmatized and education needs to start early so children know what they are getting into. Mary Hess said that her district is trying to promote more consistency in education. She said destigmatizing sex education is important and adds a behavioral health piece also needs to be considered when educating students. Kathy Thornson, Director of HIV/STD Division, said that in today's world, there are many factors contributing to the rise in STI's, including dangerous relationship dynamics, social media influences and more.
- SEE ACTUAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT FOR ALL OTHER ISSUES

Administrator's Report – Mindy Waldron

- Mindy shared that the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation once again approved a grant to fund two part-time interpreters. She thanked the foundation for their support and said that the department will begin to phase these positions into the budget over the next few years, lessening the monetary request to SJCHF as this takes place.

- Mindy said the mobile unit is expected to arrive soon. The grant for this was over \$130,000. This allowed the department staff to design the unit themselves so it will function well with the outreach programs planned for the unit.
- SEE ACTUAL ADMINISTRATOR IS REPORT FOR ALL INFORMATION SHARED (but not discussed).

Personnel Report – Mindy Waldron

- Mindy reported that several positions are posted and she would have an update at the next meeting.

Old Business

- SSP Update – Mindy said the program is in its third year. She said that the department would be seeking approval of a 2- year renewal of the program in the next few weeks. Through data collection, she said that she can share that client’s reuse and sharing of needles is down. In addition, the needle exchange rate is 98% among return clients. Dr. Pond said that number is, “Far exceeding our expectations.” Patti Hays said she would like to see some trending data on repeat visits. She said as an example: “Are more people seeking treatment?”
- Dr. McMahan mentioned that she is working with staff on a way that some of the narratives of SSP clients could be shared with the board. The challenge is that the patient anonymity has to be preserved. She said, “The decision-making ability of these patients is something I have never seen and it is truly telling to hear what they have been through.”

New Business

- **CBD Oil Discussion (Summary of Comments)**

Dr. Rudy Kachmann – Dr. Kachmann said Indiana passed a law making CBD oil legal but has not passed any laws regulating CBD, and this is very concerning. He said the public is generally unaware the CBD oil interacts with a large number of medications. As a result, the effect could be harmful or even deadly. Dr. Kachmann also shared an article he wrote for the Winter 2018 Fort Wayne Medical Quarterly that points out the other potential effects of CBD oil. Dr. Kachmann said the Board should embrace the opportunity to educate the public about the harmful effects.

- Dr. Daniel Roth, Summit Pain Management, thanked Dr. Kachmann for highlighting the fact that when CBD was legalized, no regulations were established. Dr. Roth shared information about his pain practice and said he has some patients using CBD Oil. Many of his patients have an improved lifestyle because of this. Many have been able to stop taking other medications because the CBD oil helps their pain, anxiety or sleeping issues. However, he only uses a CBD product from one reliable source that has been able to verify by a third party the contents of the product. He added that this company only allows physicians or other medical professionals to order their product. He said that although there are problems with CBD oil, he thinks there are viable uses for it in a clinical setting. Patients must be monitored by a physician. Dr. Roth provided a copy of his article in the Fall 2018 Fort Wayne Medicine Quarterly about the use of CBD oil in his practice to the board.
- Bryan Meriwether, pharmacist, applauded Dr. Roth for his work in helping clarify how CBD should be used by patients. He said this is a public health issue and there needs to be more professionals other than just Dr. Roth in this conversation. He said pharmacists are well positioned to help in this discussion.

- Dr. Brian Henriksen, Ph. D., Fort Wayne Medical Education Program, and residents from his program assisted with the patient study at Dr. Roth’s practice. He said there are a number of things to keep in mind when it comes to CBD Oil:
 - There are some adverse reactions to CBD oil when taken with certain medications. This can also happen when certain foods and medications are taken together.
 - The product used has to be reputable.
 - Patients are not treated at gas stations.

Dr. Henriksen said the study at Dr. Roth’s practice needs to be expanded to include more than one organization and more than one practice. He said that pharmacists and physicians need to be involved in the research. He said, “We have to understand how the whole person is impacted.” Finally, he recommended caution when discussing both the problems and successes with CBD oil. He said the product needs more research.

- Dr. Dykstra said that this is a complex issue and we need to educate people how to seek the right product. Dr. McMahan said that the hope is that we can reach a consensus on how to use this product safely. The medical community has been trying to develop a statement on how to do this. The Medical Segment of the Regional Mental Health Coalition is working with many health professionals to reach a consensus and issue a statement. Dr. Roth and Dr. Henriksen have been very helpful in this process and Dr. McMahan said she would share that statement when it is issued.

Adjournment: 7:31 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: October 15, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah A. McMahan, MD
Health Commissioner

William Pond, MD
Board President