

ALLEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Executive Health Board Meeting – Special Session
May 28, 2020

The special session of the Board of Directors of the Allen County Department of Health was called to order in the Harrison Rooms D and E at the Grand Wayne Center located at 120 W. Jefferson, Fort Wayne, IN, at 5:45 p.m. pursuant to the notice sent to all Directors in accordance with the bylaws.

The following Directors were present: William Pond, Patti Hays, Tom Dykstra, Ted Sobol, Mary Hess, Debra Lambert, and James Cameron.

Dr. Pond presided over the meeting. Jennifer Miller took notes for the proceedings.

Summary of Motions Passed at this Meeting:

- Motion was made by Dr. Cameron give a due pass recommendation for the appointment of Dr. Mathew Sutter as next Allen County Health Commissioner. Dr. Dykstra seconded the motion. (MPU)

Dr. Pond called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Health Commissioner Appointment Discussion:

- Mindy Waldron thanked the board for coming and also thanked Bart Shaw and the Grand Wayne staff for offering to host the meeting and make all the meeting preparations. She said, “The sole purpose of this meeting is to discuss the appointment selection of the new health commissioner. We are looking for a due pass vote and then will seek signatures from our board president and Commissioner. We are also looking to solidify a start day.”
- Patti Hays described the selection process of the new health commissioner. She said the search committee started pre COVID and discussed at great lengths how to post this job. She said, “The potential was raised at that time of dividing the position into two jobs. One clinical, one administrative, or keeping the job description as is. Mindy refined the job descriptions.” She continued, “By May we had two qualified applicants. One for part-time position and one for the full time position. We reviewed references and CVs. Dr. Pond, Dr. Cameron and I along with Commissioner Peters conducted Zoom meetings. After the Zoom interview one candidate was preferred. A second face to face interview was conducted with the preferred candidate and the decision was made to make an offer- contingent on board approval.”
- Dr. Cameron made a motion to accept the nomination of Dr. Mathew Sutter as next Allen County Health Commissioner. Dr. Dykstra seconded the motion.

- Mary Hess said, “I felt grateful for the opportunity to talk with Dr. Sutter. I feel he is a good choice. “
- Deb Lambert said although her schedule did not allow her to talk directly with Dr. Sutter, she felt comfortable with decision. “I trust the decision of the search committee.”
- Dr. Dykstra said, “Dr. Sutter is a great choice. He is consistently impressive. He has done so many things. Everything he has been associated with has been top notch. I can’t think of a better candidate.”
- Ted Sobol said, “Able to leap tall building in a single bound comes to mind when I read his qualifications.”
- Dr. Cameron said, “Dr. Sutter has consistently excelled when he is given opportunity to lead. We have all had the opportunity to see him work. He has very excellent qualifications and is ready to lead.”
- Patti Hays said, “I have known him for decades. He is compassionate and a great leader. His first responder experience and clinical experience is great. A commitment to knowing what you don’t know – is really important in this role. Dr. Sutter’s Clinical and leadership experience is outstanding. He is willing to work with Mindy and staff.”
- Dr. Pond said, “Dr. Sutter is highly and duly qualified for a role as Health Commissioner. He is well respected. And very well positioned to carry on tradition left by Dr. McMahan.”

A roll call vote was taken to give a due pass recommendation to appoint Dr. Matthew Sutter as the next Allen County Health Commissioner. (MPU)

New Business

Dr. Cameron commented on the process of selecting Dr. Sutter, “As we were identifying people we felt would do well, we reached out to many potential candidates. We made multiple calls and inquiries to many individuals who were qualified for this role. This is a unique and challenging role – coming in the middle of a pandemic, and there were a lot of time constraints. We are grateful we had two candidates to consider,” he said.

Mindy Waldron said, “Dr. Sutter wants to learn everything that the department does, including all clinical tasks, then at a later time we may hire a part time person to take over in the clinic. He feels this is the best way for him to adequately consult as Medical Director. He wants to do this in his first 90 days – this is an aggressive schedule to take on. We are excited to have him on board. Dr. McMahan is not an easy person to replace. I don’t want to miss the opportunity

acknowledge over 20 years of issues she tackled. She started pre 9-11, then tackled H191, and the opiate crisis. Dr. Sutter will do a great job, because of the foundation she has laid.”

Dr. Pond said, “Dr. McMahan has been a true blessing to everyone in our community.”

Mindy said, “She is hard act to follow. She worked hard on process improvement – she has taken a lot of things and built them up and improved them. She is one of the most generous people I know. We will all miss her.”

Mindy thanked the board for their time.

Dr. Pond adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Sutter, MD
Health Commissioner

William Pond, MD
Board President