

Ingham County Board of Health
Ingham County Health Department – Conference Room C
Tuesday, February 5, 2016

Minutes

ACTION ITEMS FOR MARCH: Steph Strickling will add an item to the next agenda for discussion and voting on how monthly updates from the BOH to the ICHD website will be handled.

In attendance for meeting: Martha Adams, Joan Nelson (ANC), Alex Bryan (GLFB), Carol Callaghan, Denise Chrysler, Dr. Christina Dokter, Debbie Edokpolo, Dr. Sugandha Lowhim, Joel Murr, Dr. Nigel Paneth, Nino Rodriguez, Garry Rowe, Steph Strickling, Linda Vail.

The meeting was called to order at 12:09 by Chairperson Pro Tem Martha Adams. Everyone introduced themselves to presenters. Martha called for a review of the December 2015 and the January 2016 minutes; no changes were required. The December 2016 and January 2016 minutes were moved for approval by Garry Rowe; the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Denise Chrysler moved that in the interest of time the food access presentations be given prior to addressing any other agenda items; Nino Rodriguez seconded this motion and the agenda was adjusted accordingly.

1. Community Food Access Programs - Joan Nelson, Allen Neighborhood Center & Alex Bryan, Greater Lansing Food Bank

Joan Nelson joined the group to provide an overview of Allen Neighborhood Center (ANC) and the various services it offers; her presentation focused primarily around food security and food access programs. ANC is a non-profit neighborhood organization operating on the east side of Lansing. The east side is very economically, racially, and ethnically diverse; it is also home to a large immigrant and refugee population. The programs at ANC have evolved to cover many different areas as a result of this diversity. ANC provides outreach teams to assist residents with access to food, insurance/healthcare, and housing resources. They operate a BreadBasket Food Pantry every Tuesday that offers free bread and produce. They also started a weekly farmers market on Wednesdays where people in the community who rely on public transportation and/or walking can come to get access to fresh produce. This market operates year-round; it also accepts EBT. Joan noted that ANC was the first non-profit farmers market in Michigan to be approved to accept EBT. ANC also operates the Hunter Park GardenHouse, a greenhouse open year-round that offers workshops on growing their own food to the community. Joan also highlighted programs offered by ANC to assist budding entrepreneurs such as their incubator community kitchen which can be rented and a web-based system that matches up local farmers/growers with businesses looking to purchase local produce. The board inquired how ANC receives funding for their operations; Joan stated that funding comes from multiple sources including partner community organizations, grants, and sponsors. Martha Adams thanked Joan for her presentation.

Alex Bryan then gave an overview of the Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB), with a special focus on efforts they are making to reduce the long-term need for food assistance in the area while still addressing the day to day needs of residents. GLFB operates in seven counties, including Ingham. GLFB collects food through donations and purchases; that food is then distributed to their partner organizations who distribute it to the community. These efforts help address the current, daily need for supplemental food in the community. Some of the other programs offered by GLFB focus on increasing food independence in the community. Their Garden Project teaches residents how to grow their own food at home and through community gardens. Their Lansing Roots program assists residents who want to become farmers with access to training, equipment, land, and other needed materials to get their operations started; they also market the resulting produce through their CSA, partner worksites, markets, and other organizations to ensure farmers have

customers for their product. Alex noted that in many cases, farmers working with Lansing Roots had worked as farmers prior to immigrating to the United States. Lansing Roots gives them an opportunity to adjust their existing skills to a new growing environment while providing them with a path to continue doing the work they were passionate about. Alex expressed enthusiasm at the growing connection between health care and fresh fruits and vegetables.

Denise thanked both Alex and Joan for providing the board information on their efforts to address poverty and food insecurity in the community. Martha also reminded the group that they were welcome to visit the mobile food pantry in Lansing if they were interested in seeing another organization working to address this issue. Alex and Joan both noted that they would be happy to provide tours of their organizations if board members are interested; both provided their contact information.

Additions to Agenda: None.

Limited Public Comment: Nino Rodriguez noted that he had copies of the latest edition of Adelante for anyone who would like one. Christina Dokter stated that NALBOH was looking to talk to someone with a connection to the Genesee County Board of Health; Linda Vail and Nigel Paneth both know people who serve on that board.

Announcements: None.

2. BOH Website Update - Rich Estill

Rich Estill noted that the ICHD website would be switched over to an updated version on Friday. He will show the new version at the next BOH meeting. Martha Adams asked about the status of monthly updates from BOH members. Steph Strickling stated that an updated 2016 schedule of the month(s) assigned to each BOH member was provided at the January meeting. Linda Vail asked board members if they wished to continue with the current updating process, or if they'd like ICHD staff to handle updates going forward. Board members could still provide any updates they wanted to see pushed out to the community to ICHD staff, but this would allow those updates to be shared in a more visible fashion (i.e. front page of website, social media). Members agreed to vote on this issue at the next meeting.

3. Public Health Update - Linda Vail

Linda Vail provided updates on many current ICHD issues and events to the board. She noted that MSU would be awarding their Community Engagement Scholarship Award to her on behalf of ICHD and Dr. Adesuwa Olomu for their partnership efforts to bridge the disparity gap in cardiovascular care for minority and low-income populations in Lansing. An application will be submitted to the national competition. Ingham County as a whole will be engaging in more strategic planning; this will be a focus area for ICHD specifically as well. The Women's Expo event is being held this weekend, if anyone is interested in volunteering to assist at a booth, Linda asked them to contact her. The new Forest Community Health Center will be holding an open house starting at 8am on Friday, 2/19; all board members are invited to attend. An updated map of the current health centers was provided. This Friday, 2/5 is National Wear Red Day to raise awareness for women's heart health.

Linda also noted that ICHD was working with Communities in Schools (CIS) Michigan to implement a local model at North School and Willow School in Lansing. CIS works to improve graduation rates by providing students and their families with school-based coordinators to connect them to the resources they need to be successful. A press conference on opioid abuse was held on 1/7; it was well-attended and received a lot of press coverage. This event also kicked off a public awareness campaign about the issue which includes billboards posted throughout Lansing. A press conference regarding immunizations was also recently held at ICHD, this was one of four same day press conferences coordinated by the State to address the immunization legislation discussed at the last board meeting. Linda gave a presentation to the Human Services Committee at their meeting last night regarding lead poisoning and lead in the community; she provided the board with a copy of the materials she used for that presentation. On a related note, Linda stated that due to concerns

regarding possible lead contamination of a single sink in Glencairn Elementary, ICHD would be offering lead testing at the school to ease the concerns of parents. She also noted that if a child is found to have elevated lead levels through this testing it would be important to establish where that lead is coming from; its possible lead contamination could be coming from their home. Nino Rodriguez noted that the Lansing School District was in the process of lead testing the water in all of their buildings.

Denise Chrysler inquired about the status of a "Health in All" policy within Ingham County. Linda stated that at this time, she did not have any additional updates. The information had been presented to the BOC and it was now up to them and county administration to put a resolution forward. The complexity of implementing this practice is likely causing it to be carefully examined prior to the BOC moving forward.

Meeting adjourned at 1:28.

Next Board of Health Meeting: 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, 2016 in Conference Room C at the Ingham County Health Department, located at 5303 S Cedar Street in Lansing.