

**Ingham County Board of Health (BOH)**  
***Ingham County Health Department (ICHD) – Conference Room C***  
**Tuesday, November 1, 2016**

**Minutes**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR DECEMBER:** Stephanie Strickling will send out links to the videos regarding the opioid abuse epidemic Linda Vail discussed in her public health update. Molly Polverento and Denise Chrysler will follow-up on the status of the Immunization Coalition. Molly will send a completed copy of Tobacco 21 resolution to Tobacco-Free Michigan.

**In attendance for meeting:** Martha Adams, Denise Chrysler, Molly Cotant, Dr. Robert Schirmer, Debbie Edokpolo, Joel Murr, Dr. Nigel Paneth, Molly Polverento, Nino Rodriguez, Garry Rowe, Lynne Stauff, Steph Strickling, Linda Vail, Tina Weatherwas-Grant.

The meeting was called to order at 12:09 by Chairperson Molly Polverento. Molly called for a review of the October 2016 minutes. The October 2016 minutes were moved for approval by Lynne Stauff and supported by Martha Adams; the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

**Additions to Agenda:** None.

**Limited Public Comment:** Everyone introduced themselves as nursing students from U of M Flint were in attendance at the meeting.

**Announcements:** None.

**1. Tobacco 21 Presentation - Molly Cotant (MDHHS), Dr. Robert Schirmer (BEDHD) and Tina Weatherwax-Grant (Trinity Health)**

Dr. Robert Schirmer provided background information and several handouts regarding the purpose of the Tobacco 21 initiative. Tobacco use still remains the highest cause of preventable mortality with many adolescents under the age of 18 still gaining access to it despite laws prohibiting its sale to minors. Molly Cotant noted that a statewide taskforce had been convening the last few years to strategize on ways to combat this issue within Michigan. This strategy includes public education and action at both the state and local level. Ann Arbor residents recently worked with the task force to implement Tobacco 21 regulations within their city; the taskforce is now looking for other local partners interested in doing the same. In Ann Arbor, the taskforce provided support, developed resources and tools, coordinated testimony, assisted with payed and earned media, and provided draft language. They are willing to provide this support to other communities interested in pursuing Tobacco 21 regulations.

Tina provided background on Trinity Health and why Tobacco 21 is an important issue for them. She said that Trinity is trying to focus on the vast amount of actions that impact health outside of a medical setting. To support the Tobacco 21 initiative, Trinity can provide draft legislation and provide support for potential legal issues. Tina stated that while she was attending the meeting as a representative of Trinity Health, she is also a resident of Ingham County. She served as a County Commissioner in 2003, right after the Smoke Free Workplace Act was implemented. She noted that while people were worried the act would be a tough sell, implementation went much more smoothly than anyone anticipated. The Board of Health and leadership within Ingham County were critical to the success of this issue.

Ingham County is viewed as a leader in tobacco control efforts based on the licensing practices it has implemented over the years. It may also be easier to enforce any regulations that are passed within Ingham County as ICHD issues licenses for tobacco retailers. A handout summarizing the reasons for increasing the purchase of tobacco products was distributed; this handout also listed all the organizations that support

Tobacco 21 efforts. The question of whether or not Ingham County could legally implement Tobacco 21 regulations was raised; Tina stated that it could be done because it does not preempt any existing legislation. The restriction would be placed on retailers; it would not prohibit 18-20 year olds from possessing tobacco products. The BOH also raised the issue of economic arguments that could be made in opposition of the law; this could become a point of contention for some retailers as the City of Lansing straddles Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties. Working with Lansing will likely be important to the success of Tobacco 21 in Ingham County.

Linda Vail asked what prevents businesses from moving to vending machine sales to get around enforcing the regulation; Tina said they'd have to apply for a license and those are issued very stringently to discourage use. Denise Chrysler asked if there was a legal risk or potential downside to implementing Tobacco 21s; the presenters agreed that there is always the possibility of a legal challenge being brought or of the State legislature passing regulations that prohibit municipalities from implementing such regulations. Molly Polverento noted that SB 1066 had already been introduced in the Michigan Senate to do precisely this. Garry Rows asked if there were any benefits for tobacco retailers if this restriction was put in place or if it would be harmful; Molly Cotant stated that only 2% of their sales would fall within the restricted range so the impact should be minor. Denise asked what the impact would be 18-20 year olds traveling to outside Ingham County in order to purchase tobacco products; Molly Cotant noted that there is little evidence of travel for this reason in areas where Tobacco 21 has been implemented. Dr. Schirmer stated that in Needham, MA where this was put in place, they saw a much larger drop in the rates of smoking than in surrounding communities. This suggests that the majority of people are not traveling to outside of their community to acquire these products. Denise requested that this data be summarized for the BOH to use for bolstering the Tobacco 21 case. It was clarified that this regulation would include e-cigarettes. Dr. Nigel Paneth asked what the process would be for implementing the regulation; it was decided that the BOH would prepare and approve a resolution of support. Linda will use this resolution as well as the information provided by the Tobacco 21 taskforce to begin discussing the issue in 2017 with the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. As a draft resolution had been provided to the BOH by the presenters, Denise made a motion to approve that resolution. The motion was supported by Lynne Stauff and approved. Molly Polverento will fill out the draft resolution and send a copy to Tobacco-Free Michigan.

## **2. Updates on Strategic Plan Workgroups - Molly Polverento**

No updates at this time.

## **3. Public Health Update - Linda Vail (ICHD)**

Linda Vail stated that she'd given many presentations on behalf of ICHD in the past several weeks. She presented information about the opioid epidemic to both Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Michigan Association for Local Public Health, gave a presentation health equity and social justice to a group in New York City, and a presentation about lead to the City of Lansing. Dr. Nigel Paneth asked if the county had identified many cases of flu yet; Linda stated flu season had not really gotten momentum yet. She noted that heroin and opioid abuse continues to be a major issue within the local community and the overall country. Linda suggested that BOH members view a PBS special called "Chasing Heroin" as it draws a connection between the marketing of OxyContin and the current opioid epidemic. Steph Strickling will send out a link to view this. Molly Polverento asked about the prevalence of Fentanyl in the overdoses; Linda stated that she is now receiving updates from the Medical Examiner when it is found in a victim's system. Denise Chrysler asked if anyone had any information about the Immunization Coalition as their meeting was cancelled a few days before it was supposed to launch. Molly and Denise both agreed to follow-up on this as no one had any further information.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:07.**

**Next Board of Health Meeting:** 12:00 pm on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 in Conference Room C at the Ingham County Health Department, located at 5303 S Cedar Street in Lansing.