

Ingham County Board of Health (BOH)
Ingham County Health Department (ICHHD) – Conference Room C
Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Minutes

ACTION ITEMS FOR JANUARY: None.

In attendance for meeting: Martha Adams, Carol Callaghan, Denise Chrysler, Adrienne DeFord, Debbie Edokpolo, Sugandha Lowhim, Joel Murr, Nigel Paneth, Molly Polverento, Nino Rodriguez, Garry Rowe, Derrell Slaughter, Steph Strickling

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 by Chairperson Molly Polverento. Molly called for a review of the November 2016 minutes. The November 2016 minutes were moved for approval by Nigel Paneth and supported by Nino Rodriguez; the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Additions to Agenda: None.

Limited Public Comment: None.

Announcements: Garry Rowe noted that he will have a new student this semester working with him on water testing throughout Ingham County. He plans to update the group on his progress later in the spring.

1. 2017 Meeting Schedule - Molly Polverento

A draft version of the 2017 BOH schedule was distributed for review. The group discussed cancelling the July meeting as it fell on the 4th of July. Nino Rodriguez moved to cancel the July meeting and approve the 2017 schedule; Garry Rowe supported the motion and the motion carried.

2. New Board Member - Molly Polverento

Derrell Slaughter introduced himself to the group; he was recently appointed as a new BOH member by the Ingham County Board of Commissioners (BOC). Derrell has a Bachelor's Degree in Public Policy from Michigan State University; he currently works as a Departmental Analyst for the Michigan Public Service Commission. The group introduced themselves and welcomed Derrell to the BOH.

3. Appointment to Public Health Advisory Commission - Denise Chrysler

Denise Chrysler stated that she had been appointed by Governor Snyder to the Public Health Advisory Commission (PHAC). Members have been tasked with examining issues of environmental justice throughout Michigan as well as examining how the public health system functions at and coordinates between the state and local levels. Formation of the group was triggered by the Flint water crisis; it was one of the recommendations of the Flint Water Task Force. Denise encouraged the BOH to provide her with any input they'd like share with group, particularly on how the balance of power between local and state control has shifted over the years. Nigel Paneth noted that PHAC presented an opportunity to advocate for the importance of public health and the major impact it has on the lives of everyone in our country. The situation in Flint shows the potential consequences when public health is not a priority. Molly Polverento stated that it will be important for PHAC to emphasize the power and ability to drive change that local control brings to the table; she hopes this will be an opportunity to strengthen local public health rather than diminish it. Carol Callaghan asked if there was a possibility for PHAC to be made permanent; Denise stated that she didn't know how long it would exist once their initial goal was met. Molly noted that she had heard a lot of negative feedback regarding the decentralization of public health functions at the state level; local health departments

must now interact with multiple state departments (such as DEQ, MDARD, and MDHHS) in order to meet all their functions.

4. Updates on Strategic Plan Workgroups - Molly Polverento

Molly Polverento gave a brief overview of the workgroups and their goals. She stated that Workgroup #2 (Support Efforts to Improve Maternal & Infant Immunization Rates) had met with Ruby Rodgers to discuss their area of focus. They've decided to look at the vaccination rates in Ingham County by zip code. They believe this will allow them to identify specific gap areas where additional outreach efforts and mobile health events could be held. She stated that they'd noticed a pattern in Hepatitis A vaccination rates across many parts of the county; this is a recommended but not mandated vaccine but they'd like to get a better understanding of why so many people opt out of receiving it. Garry Rowe asked about the benefit of identifying low vaccination rates by zip code rather than by household income; Debbie Edokpolo stated that using zip codes allows them to identify hot spots where the issue is most prevalent. Denise Chrysler noted that the Immunization Coalition would be meeting soon; Molly and Nino Rodriguez plan on attending.

Garry stated that Workgroup #3 (Promote ICHD Health Literacy Events to Community Connections) met before the main BOH meeting. They are discussing ways to reach people in the community who are not receiving healthcare through their employer or the Affordable Care Act. He asked for clarification about the scope of their workgroup's purpose and noted that they hadn't met with Sarah Bryant since their initial meeting. Debbie stated that there is currently a great deal of outreach already taking place to the community members in question as the open enrollment period had begun. Martha Adams stated that she has many opportunities to promote health and ICHD within her position; for example, General Motors will be holding a health fair this afternoon to celebrate their new employee gym. Garry discussed pursuing the issue of fetal alcohol syndrome as he recently read a book detailing an initiative to do so in Wisconsin which involved providing pregnancy tests in bars; that initiative has since expanded to Texas and Alaska. Nigel Paneth stated that while this program was interesting, fetal alcohol syndrome is an issue that already has broad awareness among the public and physicians so it might not be worth pursuing. Nigel also noted that there is no epidemiological evidence to indicate that light, occasional alcohol consumption during pregnancy (such as a glass of wine) is problematic.

5. Public Health Update - Debbie Edokpolo (ICHD)

Debbie Edokpolo informed the group that ICHD had developed a draft version of their strategic plan. Nino Rodriguez requested a summary of the strategic plan; Debbie stated that it has been posted on the website for thirty days so the public can comment on it. It will then be given to both the BOH and the BOC for their review. She highlighted the recent media campaigns developed by ICHD. The "Choices Not Chances" campaign promotes safe sex and the "Your Health Matters" campaign promotes women's health; there are billboards for both all over Lansing. The women featured in the "Your Health Matters" campaign are all women from the community who receive services from ICHD. Sugandha Lowhim noted that there had recently been a small shigella outbreak at a local school but it was now resolved. Nigel Paneth noted that this would be his last meeting as his term on the BOH ends 12/31/16. The group expressed their gratitude towards Nigel for his service to the BOH.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00.

Next Board of Health Meeting: 12:00 pm on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 in Conference Room C at the Ingham County Health Department, located at 5303 S Cedar Street in Lansing.