

MINUTES AND MEMORANDA  
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

August 14, 2019  
Regular Meeting

Present at the Meeting:

Dale Deardoff, M.D.	President
Heidi Beidinger-Burnett, Ph.D, MPH	Vice President
Jason Marker, M.D.	Member
Ilana Kirsch, M.D., FACOG	Member
Sharon Imes, RN, MSN	Member
Emily Dean	Member

Also Present at the Meeting:

Mark Fox, M.D.	Deputy Health Officer
Bret Davis	Environmental
Mark Espich	Environmental Director
Betsy McCue	Epidemiologist
Jennifer S. Parcell	Executive Admin. Assistant
J. David Keckley	Attorney for Department of Health

**I. AGENDA AND MINUTES:**

On motion made by Dr. Burnett, seconded by Sharon Imes, and unanimously approved, the Agenda for the August 14, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was adopted as presented.

Upon motion made by Dr. Marker, seconded by Emily Dean, and unanimously approved, the Minutes of the July 10, 2019 regular meeting of the Board of Health were approved.

**II. HEALTH OFFICER ORAL REPORT:**

Dr. Galup was not present at this meeting.

**III. DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER ORAL REPORT:**

Dr. Fox presented an update with regard to the following areas:

1. Lead Action Report.

Year to date testing to the end of June shows an increase of 37%. The challenge continues to be obtaining confirmatory tests. One strategy is to obtain more venous draws, eliminating the need for a confirmatory test. As a pilot project, we need to identify the right venue and right partner to

consider venous draws in the community. Another consideration is the cost associated with venous draws vs capillary, with respect to supplies, processing, and compensation.

Related to this issue, the news that the South Bend Medical Foundation is transitioning their clinical diagnostics (lab testing) to Lab Corp could have implications for the Department of Health's lead testing efforts. It is unknown whether LabCorp will continue to provide the same level of pro bono testing without charging the Department of Health.

Another issue relates to how the Department of Health is enrolled with Indiana Medicaid. Currently, the Department is enrolled as a billing provider, which means we get paid for services we offer (IZs, etc), but our orders for other services (e.g., sent to the Med Foundation) are not covered. Dr. Fox is working with a contact at Medicaid to ensure that we are enrolled appropriately for the services we provide and to ensure there are no disincentives limiting payment to the lab.

Dr. Fox will keep the Board informed as the South Bend Medical Foundation transitions to Lab Core and whether this will impact the screening process. He will also continue to consider whether the Department of Health should be registered as a provider group/credentialed in order to provide patient focused services.

There were two more school-based lead testing events at back-to-school events coordinated by the Mayor's office. The volume was disappointing, but there are new personnel in the Mayor's office coordinating the final three events as part of the Mayor's initiative. These are scheduled for October, leading up to the National Lead Poisoning Prevention week.

Board Members continue to discuss with Dr. Fox the likelihood that the threshold lead level in children will be lowered so that case management services will be provided to children with a lead level of 5 mcg.dl or higher. This has been an on-going topic of discussion.

Dr. Kirsch noted that a universal eye exam is required at age six. Why couldn't a mandatory lead testing blood draw be required? Dr. Fox explained that the test is much more invasive and the target population is one and two year olds. There would be considerable difficulty in mandating lead testing. Efforts to convince parents and providers that lead testing should be a priority during the annual check-up of young children will continue.

Dr. Burnett noted that the East Chicago School Board has recently determined that they could in fact mandate all children in kindergarten to undergo lead screening. They were "working the problem" similar to required immunizations. Dr. Marker suggested that in the event a daycare requires a state or county license, perhaps lead screening could be required in order to keep the license in good standing. It was noted that agencies applying to the United Way for funding with regard to early childhood programs are required to incorporate lead screening in their program. Perhaps this could be extended to daycare centers seeking funding from the United Way.

It was decided that Dr. Marker, with assistance from Dr. Burnett, would prepare a draft resolution to be adopted by the Health Board which would be directed to school corporations and school boards within St. Joseph County to encourage the mandating of lead screening at the kindergarten level. A plan of action for the adoption and dissemination of this resolution will

be an item on next month's agenda.

2. Immunizations.

There has been a marked increase of visits (up 92%) and patients (up 98%) together with more activity with the mobile unit.

Dr. Fox is considering offering immunizations at Notre Dame basketball games and other community events. He believes the Department of Health could be more productive provided he clears the credentialing hurdles that would provide more billing options for the Department of Health.

3. Health Education.

Staff member Elizabeth Wolff is leaving to pursue her Masters in Public Health.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

**19-30 Discussion and Vote on June, 2019 Health Officer's Report**

Board members reviewed and approved the 2019 Health Officer's Report. Board members questioned whether more lead inspection staff is needed in environmental. Mark Espich, Environmental Director, indicated they are able to handle lead assessment requests with the current staff. He intends to hire a community health worker which is provided in the 2020 budget to focus on Mishawaka. The approach will be to target areas and encourage parents and providers to complete lead screening. The plan is to create a sense of urgency to prioritize lead screening.

**19-31 Discussion on Format of 2019 SJCHD Annual Report**

Betsy McCue reviewed with Board Members the current format of the annual report. It primarily contains charts, tables, numbers and statistics. It does not contain the story of what the Department of Health does.

She has researched the types of reports that are presented by other health departments, and she presented a type of report that contained a narrative, pictures and an annual snapshot of the work performed by a health department. Data is included, but the focus is on the services provided and the activities performed.

The Board is in favor of this new format and gave their approval for Betsy McCue to continue to work on this project.

**19-32 Personnel Committee Report**

The Personnel Committee, consisting of Dr. Deardorff, Dr. Beideinger-Burnett, Emily Dean, John Linn and Sharon Imes indicated that they have selected a candidate and will make an offer of employment prior to the next meeting. It is anticipated that the candidate will accept the offer and be identified at the next meeting.

**19-33 Finance Committee Report**

The Finance Committee consisting of Dr. Deardorff, Dr. Burnett, Dr. Marker and Dr. Kirsch, provided an update with regard to their meeting with Commissioners/Council/Auditor Budget Committee. The key topic was the lead program. It was a good meeting and Dr. Deardorff continues to be optimistic that the proposed budget will be approved.

**19-34 Policy for Lead Fund**

It was decided by Board Members that staff members may spend up to \$100.00 for items relating to the lead program, without Dr. Fox's approval. Any expenditure above \$100.00 will need Dr. Fox's approval. On motion made by Sharon Imes, seconded by Dr. Marker, and unanimously adopted, this policy was approved.

**19-35 Employee Recognition**

Cassy White, staff member in Environmental, recently graduated with a Masters degree in Public Health. She has also obtained several certificates regarding various aspects of her work in the Environmental Health Division and is recognized for her extraordinary work.

**V. OLD BUSINESS:**

No old business was conducted at this meeting.

**VI. BOARD NOTIFICATIONS:**

The Board noted the resignation of Elizabeth Wolff, Health Educator, who left to pursue a Masters degree in Public Health.

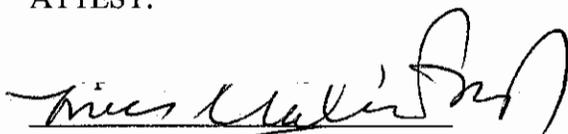
**VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There was no public comment at this meeting.

**VIII. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

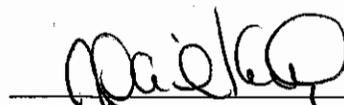
The next regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Health Board is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., at the St. Joseph County Department of Health, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room.

ATTEST:



Luis N. Galup, MD  
St. Joseph County Health Officer

Respectfully submitted,



J. David Keckley  
Attorney for St. Joseph County Board of Health