

MINUTES AND MEMORANDA
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

September 16, 2020
Regular Meeting

Present at the Meeting:

Heidi Beidinger-Burnett, PhD, MPH	President - Zoom
Jason Marker, M.D.	Vice President - Zoom
Emily Dean	Member - Zoom
Ilana T. Kirsch, M.D., FACOG	Member - Zoom
Michelle Migliore, D.O.	Member - Zoom
Amy Murray, MSN, RNC	Member - Zoom
John Linn	Member - Zoom

Also Present at the Meeting:

Robert M. Einterz, M.D.	Health Officer
Mark Fox, MD, PhD, MPH	Deputy Health Officer - Zoom
Jennifer S. Parcell	Executive Administrative Asst.
Brett Davis	Asst. Director Environmental Health - Zoom
Robin Vida	Director Health Outreach Promotion and Education - Zoom
Carolyn Smith	Director Food Services - Zoom
Amy Ruppe	Finance Manager - Zoom
Neiko Rust	Director of Nursing – Immunizations - Zoom
Erica Tijerina	Director Vital Records - Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Dr. Beidinger-Burnett called the September 16, 2020 Regular Board of Health Meeting to Order at 4:31 p.m. The meeting was held at the Department of Health, 8th Floor Board Room. All board members, members of the public, and press, participated via audio/visual Zoom. Necessary precautions and directives were recognized as it relates to the number of persons present for the meeting and social distancing.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Board President Dr. Beidinger-Burnett asked the board to add an item under new business to the agenda which would be the discussion of the Department of Health Strategic Plan.

On motion made by Dr. Marker, seconded by Emily Dean, and unanimously approved, the agenda for the September 16, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Health was adopted.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion made by Dr. Marker, seconded by Dr. Migliore, and unanimously approved, the minutes of the July 15, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Health were approved as presented.

Dr. Einterz noted a need to amend the May meeting minutes because a comment was incorrectly attributed to Ms. Spaulding. Dr. Einterz reported that per Mr. Keckley, the Board attorney, documenting that incorrect attribution in the minutes of today's meeting would effectively correct the minutes from May.

IV. BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

20-40 Resignation of Board Member Amy Murray, MSN, RNC

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett announced the resignation of Board Member Amy Murray. Although a short time on the Board of Health she has been an active member and very active in our strategic plan. Amy is pursuing a new position in California and we want to thank her for all her service and wish her well in her new adventure.

V. HEALTH OFFICER PRESENTATION AND REPORT

20-41 Discussion and Vote on July and August 2020 Health Officer's Report

Dr. Einterz discussed mosquito surveillance because of concerns regarding West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). There was a case of EEE in a human in LaPorte County. There was a pretty significant uptick of EEE last year in the Michiana area. This is concerning for our area that we have a case now. We haven't found any EEE in St. Joseph County so far. Brett Davis has done a fantastic job with restarting the surveillance program. The mosquito that causes EEE is found primarily in swampy areas.

We have plans to start implicit bias training within the Department of Health. We have hired a couple of new individuals, both minorities. We are working on hiring Community Health Workers.

St. Joseph County through the Department of Health has contracted with South Bend Clinic using CARES dollars for testing sites at St. Adalbert's and WUBS. These testing sites serve all citizens and are located in predominantly Hispanic and Black communities. The incidence of COVID in those communities are higher than in the general population.

Department of Health is working with City and County leaders in response to the homelessness in the community.

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett explained that members of the Board are also looking into the implicit bias training as well. As we look for a replacement for Amy Murray, we will keep in mind the racial and ethnic composition of our board.

Dr. Kirsch thanked Dr. Einterz and the Department of Health for taking the steps already.

Dr. Einterz stated that we are working with Oaklawn and the Police Department in looking at ways the Health Department can be more engaged in crisis intervention.

Emily Dean asked if that type of program would need staffing or is it something that could be launched with the staff we have now?

Dr. Einterz stated one of our new hires is a social worker and is the very first social worker that we have had in the department. Her initial focus will be on lead, but she will also be involved in community outreach activities.

Emily Dean asked how lead testing and immunizations are coming along.

Dr. Einterz responded that testing and immunizations are starting to pick-up again during the month of September. Testing and immunizations were slow in June, July.

Dr. Fox stated lead testing is down from last year.

VI. DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER PRESENTATION

20-30 COVID-19 Update

Dr. Fox's written report was submitted to Board Members regarding the COVID response. That report, together with the most recent COVID-19 data summary for St. Joseph County will be attached and made a part of these minutes.

Dr. Fox explained much of the focus was return to school. We are working with several sites to set up additional sites for COVID testing for weekend and evening hours. Testing availability drops on the weekends. Dr. Fox explained that the University of Notre Dame has ramped up diagnostic testing, implementing surveillance testing, isolation and quarantine facilities, and contact tracing.

Dr. Einterz stated our environmental and food services staff have been going out to bars on the weekends from 11:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. inspecting bars and nightclubs. During most times there are pretty good adherence during the day but at night and this last weekend which was a football weekend the adherence had gone very poorly. We made the decision to amend the ordinance. We withdrew the power to fine individuals, but we kept the ability to issue citations and fines to businesses. We will shine a spotlight on those businesses doing a good job and we are looking at ways to notify the public of establishments that are doing a poor job adhering to the ordinance. It was at the decision to inspect bars and nightclubs was made in part due in response to a request from elected officials.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

20-46 Discussion of the St. Joseph County Department of Health Strategic Plan

Dr. Einterz explained a few of the objectives 1) stronger information system to collect and analyze data and monitor and evaluate programs that we are implementing. 2) develop the Health Equity, Epidemiology and Data unit. 3) address social determinants of health that contribute to health disparities and inequities and poor health outcomes. 4) meet all statutory requirements. 5) control the spread respiratory illnesses such as influenza and SARS-CoV-2. A draft will be attached and made a part of these minutes.

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett thanked Dr. Einterz and the Department for creating this document during the time of COVID-19.

20-43 Board of Health Roles and Responsibilities

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett read the roles and responsibilities of Board members. They will be attached and made part of these minutes.

On motion made by Dr. Marker, seconded by John Linn, and unanimously approved. The Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Health were approved and adopted as presented.

20-44 Update on FY 2021 Budget

Amy Ruppe, Finance Manager updated the board stating the Council Committee Meeting is set for Tuesday, September 22 and Public Hearing and final vote will take place October 13.

20-45 Unit Spotlight: Vital Records, Ericka Tijerina

Ericka Tijerina, Director of Vital Records, gave a power point presentation regarding the responsibilities and the scope of work of the Vital Records Unit. St. Joseph County began documenting birth and deaths in 1882. Will be completely digitized by end of 2020. The 5-member staff was identified, and it was noted that they issue and maintain the following:

- Birth and death records
- Establish Paternity and Paternity by Marriage through signed affidavits and marriage certificates
- Correction Affidavit and Correction by Notification
- Court Orders
- Genealogy
- Notary

Power point presentation will be attached and made part of these minutes

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

19-48 Harm Reduction strategies to reduce HIV Outbreak risk and relationship to opioid epidemic.

Dr. Marker explained he had some discussion with Erica Chapman, the ISDH Harm Reduction manager. She had been working in some other parts of the state in harm reduction strategies and she has asked whether it is ready to be back on our docket again.

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett stated the time is right to engage in those conversations.

Dr. Einterz explained needle exchange saves lives and taxpayer dollars, reduces the incidence of HIV and Hepatitis C, and does not promote substance abuse. He acknowledged the need for community support for needle exchange.

20-26 Board of Health Strategic Plan

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett presented the Board of Health Strategic Plan. Goals are Advocacy, Funding, Partnerships and Accountability.

On motion made by Dr. Kirsch, seconded by Emily Dean, and unanimously approved. The Board of Health Strategic Plan opened the discussion portion of the Plan.

Board members approved the St. Joseph County Board of Health Strategic Plan.

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett acknowledged Amy Murray's good work as a member of the Board and thanked her for her dedication and service.

Amy Murray expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve the citizens of St. Joseph County. It has been a great experience.

IX. BOARD NOTIFICATIONS

The Board noted the hiring of Frank Spesia, Notre Dame Public Health Fellow, 09/02/2020; Juan Esteban Baus, Notre Dame Public Health Fellow, 09/16/2020; Mary Mumbi Wachira, Notre Dame Public Health Fellow, 09/16/2020 and the promotion of Jessica Dilling, Environmental Health Specialist, 07/27/2020

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett stated the Notre Dame Public Health Fellows are on board for at least one year and there will be an opportunity to renew for two years. They are going to focus on Advanced Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and health disparities. They will report to Cassy White in HEED.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following St. Joseph County residents utilized their three-minute public comment opportunity to voice their opinion with regards to items on the Board's agenda:

1. John Goetz, South Bend: Voiced his concern over the legality of the mask ordinance based on his interpretation of the Codes. He also feels it may be unconstitutional and requests that the mask ordinance be withdrawn.
2. Amy Drake, Granger: Spoke in opposition to the mask requirements. Feels that the emergency is exaggerated and overblown.
3. Alexandra Grove, South Bend: Also expressed her opposition to the mask wearing requirement.
4. Justin Grove, South Bend: Feels that face coverings do not preserve life. He feels the proposed ordinance is immoral. He feels that the Board of Health is making moral decisions and not medical decisions.
5. Eric Harris, South Bend: Spoke in opposition of the mask order. He feels it should be an individual choice. Feels it could hurt the economy and continue to force businesses out of business.

6. Maureen Goetz, South Bend: Spoke in opposition to the ordinance. Feels the Department of Health should spend more time educating and less time enforcing.
7. Mike Hufhand, Mishawaka: Believes the Department of Health should scrap or delay the mask order until we have more science or data to back up the information.
8. Professor Jamie O'Brien, Granger: Spoke in opposition to the mask order. Believes the mask order is vindictive and excessive. Thinks there should be a religious belief exemption in the order.
9. Jen Towers, Granger: Concerned about the mental health of the county and those who have been restricted during the pandemic.

XI. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Health Board is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 4:30 p.m., at the St. Joseph County Department of Health, 8th Floor Board Room.

XII. ADJOURMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

ATTEST:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Robert M. Einterz, MD
Secretary of the Board

J. David Keckley
Attorney for St Joseph County Dept. Of
Health Board

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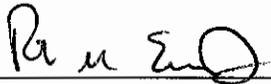
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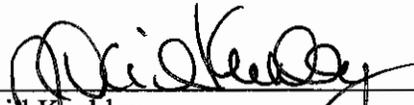
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J. David Keckley
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