

MINUTES AND MEMORANDA
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

April 21, 2021
Regular Meeting
ALL-VIRTUAL MEETING

Present at the Meeting:

St. Joseph County Board of Health Members:

Heidi Beidinger-Burnett, Ph.D., MPH	President - Zoom
Jason Marker, MD	Vice President - Zoom
Emily Dean	Member - Zoom
Ilana T. Kirsch, M.D., FACOG	Member - Zoom
Michelle Migliore, D.O.	Member - Zoom
John Linn	Member - Zoom

Also Present at the Meeting:

Robert M. Einterz, M.D.	Health Officer - Zoom
Mark D. Fox, M.D., Ph.D., MPH	Deputy Health Officer - Zoom
Jennifer S. Parcell	Executive Administrative Asst. - Zoom
Amy Ruppe	Administrator - Zoom
Mark Espich	Director, Environmental Health - Zoom
Robin Vida	Health Outreach, Promotion and Education (HOPE) - Zoom
Brett Davis	Asst. Dir Environmental Services - Zoom
Carolyn Smith	Director, Food Services - Zoom
Cassy White	Director, Health Equity, Epidemiology and Data (HEED) - Zoom
Marcellus Lebbin	Attorney for Board of Health - Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Board President, Dr. Beidinger-Burnett, called the April 21, 2021 regular Board of Health meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. All board members and members of the public participated via audio/visual Zoom with all members confirming they could hear each other.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On motion made by Dr. Marker, seconded by Dr. Migliore, and unanimously approved, the agenda for the April 21, 2021 regular meeting of the Board of Health was adopted.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion made by Dr. Marker, seconded by Mr. Linn, and unanimously approved, the minutes of the March 17, 2021 regular meeting of the Board of Health were approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. On a motion made by Mr. Linn, seconded by Dr. Migliore, and unanimously approved, the minutes of the March 24, 2021 Finance Committee's regular meeting were approved.

V. HEALTH OFFICER PRESENTATION AND REPORT

Discussion and Vote on January 2021 Health Officer's Report

The Board received reports from various units. Nothing out of normal routine was noted in the community except for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It was noted that there have been over 50,000 vaccinations in the County.

Mr. Espich responded to a question from Mr. Linn about the status of the Water Resources Advisory Board and the Onsite Wastewater Advisory Board stating that there have not yet been any meetings and that there is one open seat to be appointed by the Mayor of South Bend. A short discussion followed regarding filling the seat and setting regular meetings.

Ms. Vida responded to a question from Dr. Migliore regarding the increase of drug overdoses in the County stating that there are programs starting with community partners to address the problem. A short discussion followed between Dr. Marker and Ms. Vida on the frequency and accuracy of the data. Ms. Dean, Ms. Vida, and Dr. Einterz then discussed the work with community partners aimed at prevention.

Ms. Smith and Dr. Fox then responded to an inquiry from Dr. Marker about preparations for the SJC 4-H Fair indicating that information on the number and type of vendors was still being gathered, but the work on a safety plan was underway for the SJC 4-H Fair and other events.

VI. DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER PRESENTATION

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Fox gave a presentation on the status of COVID-19 in the County. The County is working on a plan for end of school year events, noting that CDC guidance was still evolving.

Dr. Marker and Dr. Fox then had a conversation about the CDC guidance being released.

Dr. Kirsch then inquired as to the feasibility and timeline for getting vaccines into local offices. Dr. Einterz outlined the plan developed by the Department of Health, which involves the Department of Health supporting local physician offices and noted the Counties are awaiting State approval to allow local physician offices to give the vaccine.

Dr. Fox noted that new cases had increased, but seem to have leveled off and the high infection rate and Notre Dame has subsided. A discussion followed with Dr. Fox, Dr. Marker, and Dr. Einterz discussing the level of herd immunity in the County. It seems to be over 70%, with the caveat that the County is not uniformly vaccinated and that the numbers are lower in the Southern parts of the County and among some ethnic groups.

Dr. Kirsch then questioned if identification and insurance requirements are a deterrent. Dr. Einterz stated that you do not need an identification card or insurance to get a vaccine from the Department of Health Immunization Center. A discussion followed on community outreach efforts.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Nursing Fees

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett opened a discussion on the nursing fees the Department of Health charges. After a discussion a motion was made by Dr. Marker, and seconded by Dr. Migliore to approve the proposed 2021 nursing fee schedule. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett noted that the technology refresh for the Department of Health was underway and Ms. Ruppe stated that would be carried out on a rolling basis throughout 2021.

Unit Spotlight – Finance

Ms. Ruppe gave a presentation on the Department of Health budget. Dr. Kirsch questioned the need for being recognized as a National Department of Health, noting the expense. A discussion followed on the cost and benefits of such a designation that concluded with Ms. Vida informing the Board that the State did not elect to enter the program.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Update

Dr. Einterz stated that as demand for vaccinations decrease the Department of Health will look to adjust hours at the vaccination clinic as appropriate to continue to meet demand.

The Department received a file from the State on individuals who received vaccines in St. Joseph County. The Department can now track those we have vaccinated. The Department has supplies to be able to vaccinate 1,100 people daily.

IX. BOARD NOTIFICATIONS

1. Hirings: Taylor Martin, HEED Social Worker – 04/19/21
2. Resignations: Allison Zandarski, Environmental Health Specialist – 04/23/21

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

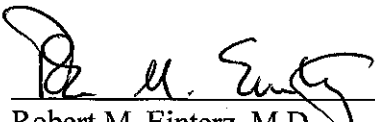
XI. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Board of Health is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 4:30 p.m., at the St. Joseph County Department of Health, 8th Floor Board Room.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

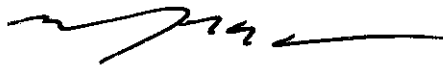
The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

ATTEST:



Robert M. Einterz, M.D.
St. Joseph County Health Officer

Respectfully submitted,



Marcellus Lebbin, Esq.
Department of Health Attorney