

**Ingham County Board of Health (BOH)**  
***Ingham County Health Department (ICHD) – Conference Room C***  
**Tuesday, February 7, 2017**

**Minutes**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR MARCH:** Molly Polverento will provide Steph Strickling with an RSVP for the “Being Mortal” screening at Studio C so it can be forwarded on to the BOH. Linda Vail will provide Steph with a link to the immigrant rights/access to health action document so it can be forwarded on to the BOH.

**In attendance for meeting:** Martha Adams, Commissioner Teri Banas, Carol Callaghan, Debbie Edokpolo, Dr. Sugandha Lowhim, Tim Morgan, Molly Polverento, Garry Rowe, Derrell Slaughter, Lynne Stauff, Steph Strickling, Linda Vail

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 by Chairperson Molly Polverento. Molly called for a review of the January 2017 minutes. The January 2017 minutes were moved for approval by Carol Callaghan and supported by Derrell Slaughter; the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

**Additions to Agenda:** None.

**Limited Public Comment:** None.

**Announcements:** Lynne Stauff noted that positions at the Tobacco Section at MDHHS should be opening up. She will send an announcement to the group when that happens. Molly Polverento noted that Studio C would be holding a screening of the PBS documentary “Being Mortal”, based on the book by Dr. Atul Gawande, at their theater next month. Molly will send an RSVP for this screening to Steph Strickling to forward on to the BOH. Dr. Sugandha Lowhim stated that Dr. Gawande recently had an article in The New Yorker that BOH members might find interesting. Derrell Slaughter informed the group that he would be having lunch with Senator Stabenow’s health policy assistant in Washington next week, he asked anyone that had an issue they’d like discussed to email him.

**1. Ingham County Parks Strategic Plan - Tim Morgan (Ingham County Parks Department Director)**

The group welcomed Tim Morgan, Director of the Ingham County Parks Department to the meeting. A copy of his department’s mission statement and draft master plan was distributed and reviewed with the BOH. Tim reviewed the eight goals the Parks Department will be working to meet:

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| 1. Maintain/improve existing park land, facilities, and features.   | 5. Provide diverse activities and public events.   |
| 2. Ensure parks remain safe, clean, and available.  | 6. Increase resident awareness of parks, activities, accomplishments, and opportunities. |
| 3. Work to improve accessibility.   | 7. Enhance educational opportunities within Ingham County parks.                         |
| 4. Enhance existing trailways and blueways and develop new ones that connect parks with locations throughout Ingham County. | 8. Consider more sustainable park management practices.                                  |

Derrell Slaughter asked about water usage in the park as it relates to sustainability. Tim stated that he’d like to look deeper into opportunities to implement this; last year during the drought they did a great deal of watering to keep their grass green. Derrell also asked about how easy reservations were to make in relation to Goal #5; Tim said feedback from the community indicates that it is easy, but that they are looking to upgrade their reservation system to make it even easier and more efficient. Garry Rowe asked if they had partnered with the Ingham County Conservation District; Tim stated they do collaborate with this group and many others throughout the community. Carol Callaghan asked for clarification on what a “blueway” was;

Tim explained that this meant water such as rivers and streams. The State of Michigan is working on a strategic plan related to blueways. Tim noted that while some blueways in Ingham County had physical obstacles blocking them from being useful, they could easily be cleaned up to provide access. He stated that the Parks Department does have a canoe livery at one of their parks and they just received a grant to install an accessible ramp at it for those with limited mobility. Lynne Stauff asked what the annual park usage was; Tim stated that they had over a half a million visitors to Hawk Island Park alone. Lynne also asked if Tim had seen any pushbacks to the parks going tobacco free; he stated that he had not seen any major issues and that his department was also now looking to ban the use of e-cigarettes.

Tim informed the group that the full plan was available on the Parks Department website; it will be going before the BOC for approval soon but he considers it to be a living document that will be updated periodically. Molly Polverento asked if there was any room for partnership between the Parks Department and ICHD; Tim stated that while he wasn't sure what that would include, he'd like to look for something regarding it to be added the next time they update their plan. Teri Banas suggested this could be a goal related to how the parks benefit/improve health for county residents. She also suggested looking to see what other Parks Departments have done to build their relationships with their local health departments. The BOH thanked Tim for his presentation.

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

Teri Banas, Lynne Stauff, and Derrell Slaughter (Group #1, Advocate for Policies/Programs to Reduce Preventable Perinatal Deaths) provided copies of a draft letter of support for the ICHD breastfeeding initiatives. This letter is intended to encourage other Ingham County departments to be as supportive of breastfeeding as ICHD has been by posting "Get Real About Breastfeeding" stickers and posters, and ensuring women have a comfortable place to breastfeed. Lynne stated that they would continue to look for other opportunities to be supportive. Dr. Sugandha Lowhim noted that clarification was needed in the second paragraph of the letter where infant mortality rates were discussed. Teri asked if there was better supporting information that could be used in place of these rates. Debbie Edokpolo stated that the main point is that breastfeeding provides better nutrition and protection for infants, so is therefore better for infants and their mothers. Teri asked if anyone could remember what the driving force originally was for the Ingham County Board of Commissioners (BOC) to pass their resolution in support of breastfeeding; Debbie stated that she believed this was done to help improve low breastfeeding rates in the community and to normalize it for women who wanted to do so. Molly Polverento asked if this could go out to any of the community or neighborhood organizations; Lynne and Derrell stated that they would discuss the possibility of a broader audience with Regina Traylor. Molly also suggested adding contact information for Regina in case someone wanted to follow-up. Teri, Lynne, and Derrell will redraft the letter and provide the BOH with an updated copy once one is complete.

Molly noted that her group (#2, Support ICHD Efforts to Improve Maternal/Infant Immunization Rates) was working to determine who from her group will attend the upcoming Immunizations meeting. Dr. Lowhim stated that the Ingham Immunizations group met last Thursday and discussed barriers to increasing immunization rates and how those barriers can be addressed. They have identified a contact in Dansville who works for MSU Extension; they may be helpful in raising rates in that area as they are particularly low. Carol Callaghan stated that she'd heard there wasn't enough staff available to handle large immunization events, she asked if ICHD was working collaboratively with other organizations to account for this. Linda Vail stated that this was already happening while Debbie noted that ICHD partners with Lansing Community College and Michigan State University; Debbie requested more clarification on what specifically Carol was referring to. Carol said that she believed it was Immunizations that said they did not have enough staff to do all the outreach they wanted to.

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

Linda Vail stated that the BOC had approved the ICHD strategic plan at their last meeting. ICHD staff are currently preparing for State accreditation which will take place the first full week of March. The BOC's

Human Services Committee recently passed an updated policy that now says smoking is banned within 50 feet of building entrances for Ingham County offices. Linda believes this is still too close to the entrances so she will be working to address that. She noted that discussions on the Tobacco 21 initiative have begun to take place, but the Michigan Attorney General just issued an opinion stating that the Ann Arbor Tobacco 21 ordinance is preempted by State law and therefore not valid. The issue will be on hold in Ingham County until a legal decision is made. The Opioid Task Force continues to meet regularly with new stakeholders from the community joining on a regular basis. They are currently discussing the possibility of implementing a needle exchange program within Ingham County. Linda stated that she'd recently appeared on WILX's morning talk show to discuss Capital Counties Commit, an organization focused on safe disposal of prescription drugs and ending abuse of those drugs. Derrell Slaughter asked when the Opioid Task Force meetings were held; Linda stated that it is the third Wednesday of each month.

Linda noted that the City Pulse had recently done an issue focused on women's health; she asked if ICHD could have a regular spot on their Newsmakers show and Berl Schwartz countered by asking her to write an article for the issue. Linda's article was titled "Speak up for Women's Health", it focused on women's access to healthcare and the role that the Affordable Care Act had on improving that access. Linda noted to the group that she had received a public health action document that focused on protecting immigrant rights and access to healthcare. It contains concrete actions that advocates can take; she will have Steph Strickling send that out to the BOH. Teri Banas asked if ICHD has had any discussions with the Ingham Health Plan regarding this issue as many of their members are undocumented; Linda stated that she has not.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:00.**

**Next Board of Health Meeting:** 12:00 pm on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 in Conference Room C at the Ingham County Health Department, located at 5303 S Cedar Street in Lansing.