

Ingham County Board of Health
Ingham County Health Department – Conference Room C
Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Minutes

ACTION ITEMS FOR APRIL: Randy Bell will provide a copy of his presentation to Steph Strickling for distribution to the BOH.

In attendance for meeting: Commissioner Teri Banas, Randy Bell, Carol Callaghan, Denise Chrysler, Debbie Edokpolo, Rich Estill, Commissioner Carol Koenig, Dr. Sugandha Lowhim, Linda Vail, Dr. Nigel Paneth, Molly Polverento, Nino Rodriguez, Garry Rowe, Janine Sinno, Steph Strickling.

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 by Chairperson Molly Polverento. Molly called for a review of the February 2016 minutes; no changes were required. The February 2016 minutes were moved for approval by Nino Rodriguez and supported by Nigel Paneth; the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Additions to Agenda: Denise Chrysler requested adding a discussion on the lead situation on Flint; it was added to the agenda after Item #3.

Limited Public Comment: Debbie Edokpolo noted that an updated contact list had been distributed; she requested members review their information and provide any updates to Steph Strickling.

Announcements: None.

1. Food Insecurity Presentation - Randy Bell, MSU Extension

Randy Bell gave a presentation to the group that focused on food insecurity in Ingham County. This presentation build off of the information provided by the Allen Neighborhood Center and the Greater Lansing Food Bank presentations given at last month's meeting. Randy explained the appropriate terminology to use when discussing food insecurity; he discouraged use of the word hunger as it refers to a physiological response, rather than a situation. Instead of hunger, Randy provided the following terminology. High food security is used to describe people who have no issues accessing quality, varied food on a regular basis. Marginal food security describes people who have some surrounding food but who aren't experiencing any real changes to their food intake. Low food security refers to people who experience reduced quality, variety, and/or desirability in the food they consume, but who still eat regular meals. Finally, very low food security is used to describe people who experience the same indicators as people with low food security, but who also experience regular disruptions to their normal eating patterns.

Randy provided statistics on Ingham County residents who fall into the very low food security group. Low and very low food security can lead to a variety of health issues, including increased hospitalization, higher levels of anemia and asthma, and poor oral health. It can also lead to behavioral issues in children, such as truancy, tardiness, aggression, and anxiety. While many local and national food organizations are working to address the issue of food insecurity, Randy noted that housing, transportation, public safety, and public health organizations also need to be involved in order for true progress to be made. Families can't be expected to cook healthy meals if they live in substandard housing where kitchen appliances like their stove or fridge don't work, if they don't have regular transportation to grocery stores with fresh foods, and if the stores in their community are unsafe. Randy directed the group to additional resources they could access in order to learn more about the issue, including specific demographics and information on interventions being made to address the issue. He also informed the group that that the Everybody Eats event conference would be held on Saturday, 3/19 at St. Casimir School; many of the issues surrounding food insecurity will be discussed at this conference.

Dr. Nigel Paneth asked about the prevalence of food insecurity among pregnant women in the community and about what efforts WIC is making to assist them. Linda noted that WIC does come into contact with/play a role in these situations, but that they are one of many programs that play a role. Nigel suggested that ICHD may want to implement questionnaires for clients to identify the prevalence of food insecurity among them. Teri Banas discussed a pilot program she was aware of that focused on helping women to become healthy before they get pregnant; Nigel noted that since such a large percentage of pregnancies are unplanned, women in that position are often difficult to identify. Teri stated that even as a conversation starter, program like this can be useful. Carol Koenig noted the value in identifying people who are experiencing food insecurity and connecting them to the programs and resources that already exist in the community, such as the EBT program.

2. BOH Website Update - Rich Estill

Rich Estill showed the group the updated ICHD website. It has been redeveloped and reorganized by Rich and Amanda Darche (ICHD Health Communications Specialist) to be much more user friendly than it previously was. The BOH page has been updated as part of this process. Carol Koenig and Teri Banas both noted how impressed they were with the progress made by Rich and ICHD to get the new website up and running. Rich stated that Ingham County used to have a web committee that encouraged individual departments to take more ownership and involvement over their own webpages. Carol noted that there could be benefit to reinstating this committee in the future.

3. Monthly Member Update Discussion - Molly Polverento

Molly Polverento stated that at the last BOH meeting, the group had discussed the possibility of no longer assigning member months throughout the year where they would be required to submit content for the website. Linda noted that if a BOH member had any content that they wanted to share with the community, they could send it to Rich at any time to have it featured on the front page of the ICHD website and on social media, rather than posting it directly to the BOH page where it may not be seen. The BOH members in attendance all agreed that this would be the process going forward.

4. Flint Lead Discussion - Denise Chrysler

Denise Chrysler discussed the current lead situation in Flint and noted that it highlighted the importance of having a policy like "Health in All" in place. When decisions are being made that have potential to impact the health of the residents in a community, that impact should be taken into consideration. Linda Vail noted the only issue with implementing a "Health in All" policy is defining what it means in practical terms and how a review process would work. Linda will be working with Jessica Yorke (ICHD Social Justice Coordinator) to come up with a procedural approach to present as a resolution to the Board of Commissioners.

5. Public Health Update - Linda Vail

Linda Vail noted that ICHD staff had recently been very busy addressing the norovirus outbreak at the Kellogg Center. Information on people affected by this outbreak was gathered through phone interviews and through an online survey. Linda stated that outbreaks like this are not uncommon in the restaurant industry because workers often don't have paid sick time, so they feel compelled to come to work even when they are ill. Linda stated that a press conference to discuss the prevalence of lead in Ingham County was held at ICHD last week; the first case of Zika virus in Michigan was also identified in Ingham County. Currently travelers returning home from Zika infected areas are being tested for the virus. Since no treatment currently exists, this testing is for surveillance purposes only.

The Forest Community Health Center held its grand opening on 2/19; it has been very well-received by the community. Barb Mastin, the previous Deputy Health Officer who oversaw the CHCs retired yesterday; her replacement Russ Kolski will be starting on 3/21. Nino Rodriguez requested an opportunity for the BOH to tour Forest; the group agreed that a future meeting could be held at the site. Renovation plans are still moving forward for the HSB. Initial bids came in higher than expected, so the planned renovations have been

somewhat scaled back and bid addendums have been requested. Once those addendums are received, the bid will be awarded and sent to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Meeting adjourned at 1:29.

Next Board of Health Meeting: 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, 2016 in Conference Room A at the Ingham County Health Department, located at 5303 S Cedar Street in Lansing.