

Ingham County Board of Health (BOH)
Ingham County Health Department (ICHD) – Conference Room C
Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Minutes

ACTION ITEMS FOR MAY: Steph Strickling will send out information to the BOH regarding the Health Policy Champion award Debbie Edokpolo is receiving. Steph will send out a nomination request email after receiving the BOH job descriptions from Molly Polverento. Steph will send out the dates for the Opioid Task Force meetings. Molly will send Steph information regarding the Michigan House vaccination bills for distribution to the BOH.

In attendance for meeting: Martha Adams, Carol Callaghan, Denise Chrysler, Christina Dokter, Debbie Edokpolo, Trisha Kopulos, Sugandha Lowhim, Joel Murr, Molly Polverento, Nino Rodriguez, Garry Rowe, Derrell Slaughter, Lynne Stauff, Steph Strickling, Linda Vail

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 by Chairperson Molly Polverento. Molly called for a review of the March 2017 minutes. The March 2017 minutes were moved for approval by Nino Rodriguez and supported by Derrell Slaughter; the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Additions to Agenda: None.

Limited Public Comment: Christina Dokter reminded the group that the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) would be having their annual conference in Cleveland 8/2/17-8/4/17; there are scholarships for attendance available. She noted that were currently two board members needed for the NALBOH board. Finally, Christina notified the group that NALBOH had developed a Governance in Action for Public Health online training that could be accessed on their website. She encouraged everyone to review the training if they were interested.

Announcements: Molly Polverento informed the group that Debbie Edokpolo would be receiving the Jean Chabut Health Policy Champion award for her work advancing health equity and social justice at ICHD. The formal award ceremony will take place on 4/19 at the Capitol Building; this is the same day as the 2017 Day at the Capitol & County Health Rankings event. Steph Strickling will send the BOH details regarding this event.

1. New BOH Members - Molly Polverento

Molly Polverento noted that two new BOH members had joined the group, Jan Bidwell and Abby Schwartz. Everyone introduced themselves to and welcomed Jan and Abby.

2. BOH Leadership - Molly Polverento

Molly Polverento noted that since Christina Dokter was no longer on the BOH, the Vice Chairperson role was vacant. She would like to take nominations to fill this position through the end of the year; she will then step down from the Chairperson position in December with another election being held at that time. Molly will send a description of this position to Steph Strickling who will send via email a formal request for nominations.

3. Immunization Presentation - Dr. Sugandha Lowhim & Wendy Ridenour (ICHD)

Dr. Sugandha Lowhim and Wendy Ridenour gave a PowerPoint presentation on adult immunizations. Copies of the presentation were distributed to the group. Sugandha stated that flu, pneumonia, shingles, and pertussis are the most costly vaccine preventable illnesses in adults. She also noted that less than half of adults are up to date on the majority of their vaccinations. Many adults are unaware of the vaccines they need because their providers allow acute and/or chronic illnesses to take priority during medical appointments without discussing vaccines. Sugandha stated that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has

introduced standards for adult vaccinations in an effort to improve the rate of adult vaccinations. Nino Rodriguez asked why physicians don't make this a priority; Sugandha said when a doctor is in an appointment, it's easy to just focus on the issue at hand, bringing up vaccinations may not be on their mind. Garry Rowe asked if this is a result of doctors who are against vaccinations; Sugandha said she does not believe this is a major contributing factor as adult immunizations are simply a lower priority for many doctors. Wendy noted that highlighting the importance of immunizations needed to be part of an office's culture so patients were getting consistent messages.

Wendy discussed the use of the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR), a database that collects vaccination information for people throughout the state. Wendy explained that MCIR now functions in a bidirectional way, capable of interfacing with electronic health record (EHR) systems. As of now, MCIR use is required for vaccines given to children but not for vaccines given to adults. Denise Chrysler asked if there was a way to encourage more participation in MCIR; Wendy stated that educating them on the benefits is the best way until it is mandatory. Jan Bidwell asked if there had been any movement to mandate MCIR entry for adult vaccinations. Wendy stated that as of now, there has not been a push for this. Finally, Wendy reviewed Ingham County's quarterly MDHHS immunization report card.

4. Immunization Court Decision - Denise Chrysler

Denise Chrysler stated that a court case regarding Michigan's waiver requirements had recently been decided. Currently, parents wishing to obtain vaccine waivers must visit their local health department for an education session in order to be granted the waiver. A lawsuit was filed by someone who felt the way the law had been implemented violated freedom of religion statutes and that they were being coerced based on their interaction with their local health department. The court found that there was coercion or violation of their freedom of religion; in fact, they were granted a waiver by their local health department. She noted that the State has made available a variety of resources that explain the views on vaccinations held by different religions; these can be used to more effectively communicate with families during the education sessions. Molly Polverento stated that two bills had been introduced in the Michigan House that attempt to undercut the waiver requirements and the school exclusion provision that allows local health officers to keep unvaccinated children home from school during an outbreak. She will send information regarding this legislation to Steph Strickling for distribution.

5. Updates on Strategic Plan Workgroups - Molly Polverento

Molly Polverento stated that the current workgroup structure will be reviewed at the next meeting; changes will also be discussed. Molly also noted that the BOH Bylaws needed to be updated if anyone was interested in volunteering. Jan Bidwell expressed interest; Garry Rowe noted he would be interested in working on updating the sanitary code. Molly asked anyone else who was interested to let Steph Strickling know.

6. Public Health Updates - Joel Murr (ICHD)

Joel Murr informed the group that ICHD had recently completed an accreditation visit by the State. Everything went well; the final report should be available in the summer. Linda Vail and Sarah Bryant have been named "Emerging Leaders in Public Health" by the Kresge Foundation. They will receive grant funding to develop and implement a new program within the community, likely something related to opioid abuse. Joel stated that ICHD would be applying for accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) in August. He also noted that the Community Health Centers had recently been awarded "Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare" status by the Human Rights Campaign. Dr. Erik Wert was instrumental in obtaining this designation. The site visit for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health prize will be taking place at the end of the month. A variety of programs, locations, and community organizations will be included on this tour to show the range of Ingham County's commitment to health. Joel stated that a budget blueprint from the Federal government is showing major funding cuts being proposed that could have a far-reaching impact on the services ICHD provides if they are implemented. He reminded the group that it was currently National Public Health Week and encouraged them to stop by the lobby to see the healthy activities tree put up to highlight the week.

Meeting adjourned at 1:06.

Next Board of Health Meeting: 12:00 pm on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 in Conference Room C at the Ingham County Health Department, located at 5303 S Cedar Street in Lansing.