

Ingham County Board of Health (BOH)
Ingham County Health Department (ICHHD) – Conference Room C
Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Minutes

ACTION ITEMS FOR JUNE: Molly Polverento and Debbie Edokpolo will have a discussion regarding updates to the bylaws. Steph Strickling will send out a copy of the “Choices, Not Chances” campaign materials to the BOH. Molly will send out questions to the BOH regarding their strategic goals and interest in workgroup assignments.

In attendance for meeting: Martha Adams, Jan Bidwell, Denise Chrysler, Christina Dokter, Debbie Edokpolo, Sugandha Lowhim, Joel Murr, Molly Polverento, Nino Rodriguez, Garry Rowe, Steph Strickling, Linda Vail.

The meeting was called to order at 12:08 by Chairperson Molly Polverento. Molly called for a review of the April 2017 minutes. Christina Dokter noted that the dates listed for the NALBOH conference were incorrect; the conference is taking place in 8/2/17-8/4/17. With that correction, the April 2017 minutes were moved for approval by Jan Bidwell and supported by Nino Rodriguez; the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Additions to Agenda: None.

Limited Public Comment: None.

Announcements: Christina Dokter recently attended the Michigan State University (MSU) Health Policy Forum. An overview of the current state of the Affordable Care Act was given, but with so many details unknown about its future, not much detail was provided. Molly noted that the Health Policy Forum is a free event held twice a year by MSU. Garry Rowe recently spoke at All Saints Episcopal Church regarding access to healthy food for their “Walking in my Neighbor’s Shoes: A Spiritual Exploration of the Nature of Poverty” initiative. He also noted that Tri-County Regional Planning is looking to start up a board to address groundwater management; Garry believed they were interested in having an ICHD representative participate. Linda Vail noted that ICHD has not received a request for this from them yet. Garry stated that the new board would be using data from his groundwater sampling project. He is now working with two new interns to gather this data from different townships. He would like to have his interns present their findings at a future BOH meeting.

1. BOH Leadership/Elections - Molly Polverento

Two BOH members have volunteered for the Vice Chairperson position. Molly Polverento stated that this item will be tabled until the next meeting at which point the BOH will vote. A full election will be held in December.

2. Strategic Plan Workgroups Discussion - Molly Polverento

Molly Polverento distributed copies of the BOH Strategic Plan and stated that the BOH would be reevaluating the current workgroups. At minimum, now that some members have left and new members have joined, the group assignments need to be revisited. When looking at Workgroup #2 (Support ICHD efforts to improve maternal & infant immunization rates) Denise Chrysler asked if anyone had heard about the State bills that would undermine the vaccine education requirements in Michigan, Molly stated that as of now, these bills have not come up for a hearing. Molly also noted that the Michigan Department of Health & Humans Services and Governor Snyder had both expressed their opposition to these bills. Denise suggested looking for ways at the local level to protect the health of residents, rather than relying on state and federal agencies to take the lead. Debbie Edokpolo requested clarification on this; Denise stated that depending on the language, even if bills like this are passed, local health departments may still have some power. Molly agreed this is a still a relevant issue.

Garry Rowe stated that the scope for Group #3 (Promote health literacy events to their community connections) is very broad. He noted that there seemed to be a lack of knowledge for homeowners regarding some of their home maintenance that could negatively impact the environment. Christina Dokter agreed that this would fall under health literacy. Linda Vail reminded the group that the BOH's role was to help with policy, not to create new programs within themselves. A program that worked with homeowners to increase their knowledge on issues like this would be a function of Environmental Health (EH) to design and implement as it is very programmatic/service-oriented. Debbie Edokpolo stated EH has begun to look into working with homeowners on these issues; Linda offered to keep the BOH in the loop on their efforts. Molly clarified that intent of this workgroup was that BOH members could use their connections within the community to increase health literacy.

Nino Rodriguez brought up the issue of decreased quality/availability of school lunches. Molly stated that this would fall under the umbrella of food access and vulnerability. Nino also brought up the issue of access to quality primary care; Christina Dokter agreed this is a major issue as some doctors are opting for early retirement. Molly stated that this issue is being evaluated/covered by the Community Health Assessment. Garry asked about the availability of health literacy information for seniors; Debbie stated that the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and Tri-County Office on Aging (TCOA) are already good sources for this. Molly suggested having someone from TCOA present to the BOH in the future, as well as Peter Graham from Physicians Health Plan (PHP). Nino brought up working on ways to talk with Millennials about the importance of healthcare; Linda and Joel Murr gave a brief overview on ICHD's "Choices, Not Chances" campaign which focused on this demographic. Nino stated that the Lansing School District is looking to do more health education so information on good techniques for communicating their students would be welcome. Joel noted that all of ICHD's marketing campaigns now include a social media component. Jan Bidwell asked if a copy of this campaign could be distributed; Steph Strickling will send it out to the BOH. Denise asked if ICHD had an employee who focused on this, Joel stated that yes, Amanda Darce is ICHD's Health Communications Specialist. Molly will send the group some questions regarding their strategic goals and what workgroup they'd be interested in serving on; further discussion will be had at next month's meeting.

3. Public Health Update - Linda Vail (ICHD)

Linda Vail stated that the site visit for the Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health Award had recently taken place. ICHD should know in July if they will receive one of the awards. As part of their Emerging Leaders in Public Health award, Linda and Sarah Bryant are looking to implement practices related to trauma informed care into practices within ICHD. Linda and Sarah also recently attended the National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit in Atlanta, GA. ICHD is currently preparing the FY 2018 budget. The county has asked ICHD to meet a target reduction in general fund spending of 5%. Nino Rodriguez stated that this reduction would impact the health of Ingham County residents; he stressed the importance that the Board of Commissioners be aware of the impact the reduction will have.

Meeting adjourned at 12:57.

Next Board of Health Meeting: 12:00 pm on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 in Conference Room C at the Ingham County Health Department, located at 5303 S Cedar Street in Lansing.