

**Ingham County Board of Health (BOH)**  
*Ingham County Health Department (ICHD) – Conference Room C*  
Tuesday, March 5, 2019

**Minutes**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR APRIL:**

- **Amend By-Laws to reflect that the Commissioner Liaison will be a full board member as voted by the Board of Health-- Assigned to Debbie Edokpolo and Jenn Race**

**In attendance for meeting:** Jan Bidwell, Sarah Bragg, Debbie Edokpolo, Bill Haun, Sugandha Lowhim, Rod McNeill, Dilhara Muthukuda, Jenn Race, Garry Rowe, Abby Schwartz, Derrell Slaughter, Lynne Stauff, Linda Vail

**The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm by Board Chair Lynne Stauff.**

**Additions to Agenda:** Amending the By-Laws to make the Board of Commissioners Liaison a full Board of Health Member.

**Limited Public Comment:** None.

**Announcements:** None.

**1. Amending the By-Laws to make the Board of Commissioners Liaison a full Board of Health Member.- Linda Vail**

Linda Vail asked why the Board of Health (BOH) liaison representative (Derrell) from the Board of Commissioners (BOC) is not a full voting member. Linda explained, that when other boards (at Ingham County Health Department) ask a member of the BOC to join, they have full member rights and function as the liaison for the BOC as well. Linda further explained, that changing the role gives the role value. She suggested that the Board of Health make Derrell a full voting member of the BOH. Garry Rowe motioned to make the BOC liaison a full BOH member. Lynne Stauff called a vote, it was voted unanimously that the by-laws be amended to reflect that the BOC liaison will be a full member of the BOH.

**2. Introductions/opening comments -- Lynne Stauff**

Lynne introduced Sarah Bragg who is pursuing her Master's in Public Health. Sarah explained that she is a student at Benedictine University and one of her assignments is to attend a local BOH meeting to experience public health at a local level. She stated that she has experience at the State level and is excited to visit. Lynne gave an update that the doodle poll regarding a date for the BOH retreat was not conclusive. She suggested that instead of a four hour retreat, the BOH have a two hour potluck which would give

members a chance to get to know each other. Lynne indicated that one of the goals of the retreat was to discuss which priorities the BOH wanted to focus on. Lynne further stated that she has been working with Molly Polverento regarding a methodology for identifying areas of priority for the 2019 year.

### **3. Septic System 10- Year Inspection- Rod McNeill and Bill Haun**

Rod McNeill explained that several months ago the Environmental Health Department (EH) started reviewing the Ingham County sanitary code. They have recently finished draft language and have now assembled a committee with community stake holders to revise the draft.

Bill Haun explained that Ingham County has 8 chapters in their sanitary code and EH has been reviewing chapter 2 which focuses on septic systems. He further explained that they wanted to add language to implement a 10- year septic inspection plan for Ingham County. Bill stated that it is imperative that homes have functioning septic systems for proper sewage disposal as sewage can pose several health risks. Bill further stated that sewage is corrosive and will eventually erode the septic tank's wall and that the lids can collapse.

Bill explained that the current Point of sale program was instituted in 2006. Through the first 12 years 5400 point of sale inspections were completed. There were 3 categories that would require immediate attention; 1. Failing system, or no recognizable system. 2. Leaky septic tanks and 3. Illicit discharges coming to the surface, including laundry discharge.

EH estimates that Ingham County has between 14,000 and 15,000 septic tanks meaning that 8600 systems have not been inspected. Derrell asked what was in place before the point of sale program. Garry explained that there was a mortgage evaluation where realtors could hire either the health department or a private inspector to perform an inspection of the septic system. Bill estimated that ICHD inspected less than 5% of homes sold under the mortgage evaluation system. Bill further explained Septic systems are not designed to last forever, but the hope is that they will last 40-50 years.

Rod explained that the next step in the revision process is to hold public meetings. A big component of the 10-year inspection program would be to provide education for the homeowners regarding their septic and water systems. In 12 years of the point of sale program 30-35% of all septic systems were inspected, switching to a 10-year inspection program would enable a consistent inspection schedule. The 10 year program would look for failures so it is inherently less intrusive than the current Point of Sale program.

Rod further explained that EH is also looking at a plan that would enable the fee from the 10-year inspection to be applied to the cost of a permit, should the property need one. Access to the home would be optional, meaning that an inspection of the home's plumbing would be offered but not required.

Lynne asked about the 10 year inspection plan adding cost to ICHD through additional labor requirements. Rod explained that the fees would cover the cost, but, it is anticipated that EH would need 4 more sanitarians and possibly additional administrative staff as well. Garry reiterated that the education component to the program is vital since they will not be focusing on the water system and only offering water testing.

Linda noted that there are two options for the current Point of Sale program. The first option being phasing out the point of sale program and the second option being to end it when the new program is instituted. Garry noted that even if a property has been inspected in the last 10 years and is therefore exempt from the inspection program, a realtor can still order an inspection of the well and septic system.

Lynne inquired about the sanitary appeals responsibilities of the BOH and whether that would change. Bill noted that the BOH's responsibility is determined in chapter 1 of the sanitary code and stated that they do not currently have plans to change that portion of the chapter.

Dilhara asked about the communication methods listed for community members, how are they going to market this to community members so that they are engaged. Debbie stated that this does not affect people who live in the city of Lansing. Debbie further explained that people who live in rural area will have interest in the changes that the EH staff would be presenting. Rod noted that Bill's staff is working on the communication component of the plan. Derrell recommended that EH inform area commissioners when they begin holding town halls. Rod agreed that they need to get out there and engage the people that are most affected by these changes. Linda clarified that they should notify the commissioner who heads each particular township of their efforts.

Dilhara inquired if they had any champions at the state level that would help with the State-wide code? Rod explained that Representative Julie Brixie may have interest in the State-wide sanitary code. Senator Lauwers may also bring it back up. Rod explained some of the positives and negatives regarding the state sanitary code that did not pass. Derrell asked if they had reached out to local environmental groups including Clean Water Action. Rod stated that they do have some groups that are aware of the proposed changes, and that they do plan on reaching out to them.

#### **4. Public Health Update - Linda Vail**

- The PHAB site visit has been scheduled for July 23 and July 24, 2019.
- Linda announced that Dr. Lowhim will be retiring in April of 2019.
- Linda announced that ICHD is working toward a smoke free campus that would include Community Mental Health, MSU Extension, Tri-County Office on Aging, Human Resources, the Youth Center, and the 911 Center. It is possible that this would be a pilot program for all of Ingham County. The policy would include cars in the parking lot, and would be smoke free and tobacco free.
- Day at the Capital will take place April 10, 2019 at 8:00am. This year will be the 9th year that includes the release the Public Health ratings. Linda asked BOH members to let her know if they were interested in attending the event.
- ICHD will be working with the Michigan Public Health Institute regarding the use of the My Health Button which is a patient portal for those enrolled in Medicaid. ICHD has agreed to host and participate in the pilot training for this program.
- MPHA will be hold a Public Health summit for their 100th anniversary on April 3rd which will be hosted by ICHD. Linda noted that the agenda for the event should be released soon.

Linda explained that there has been work regarding the upcoming census and the public's attitude surrounding it. Linda stated that there is a lot of fear regarding the census especially in immigrant communities and their fear of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Linda explained that ICHD's funding usually has a population component. It is important that people get counted, but it is also important to respect people's fear around the census. This means that ICHD needs to do some outreach and education around the census. Linda has reached out to Carole Sieman and they have connected with Ingham Refugee Resource Collaborative (IRRC) to help in this effort. Lynne asked Linda to let the BOH know how they can help in these efforts.

Linda stated that ICHD is trying to accept funding for Medical Marijuana research. Linda explained that for many counties this is controversial, but she feels that there is an opportunity for ICHD to use these funds for education and outreach regarding the benefits and risks of marijuana usage. Linda further explained that the acceptance of these grant funds does not mean that ICHD has to come out in support of marijuana use. If the BOC accepts that funding we will move forward with accepting the grant funds.

Linda is working on a Medication Assisted Treatment grant in the Ingham County jail. Linda noted that it is a planning grant and not an implementation grant. There has been a lot of conversation in the last 6

months about how to run Jail medical. The BOC has decided against privatizing the health services in the jail. Linda explained that the clinic runs into staffing issues and so there has been a reorganization submitted to the BOC. If the reorganization passes there will be a jail manager installed to help alleviate some of those issues. Linda further explained that there would also be a nurse practitioner added. Currently, the jail is partially staffed by ICHD and partially staffed by contracted employees. Linda explained that MSU asked to be released from their contract in August, 2018 and March 31, 2019 will be their last day. Linda noted that the nurse practitioner is above and beyond, and generally speaking jails do not offer that level of care.

Dilhara suggested that if a topic had not been chosen for April, that the BOH add an agenda item for a Health Equity and Social Justice presentation.

**Meeting adjourned 1:10 pm**

**Next Board of Health Meeting:** 12:00 pm on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 in Conference Room C at the Ingham County Health Department, located at 5303 S. Cedar Street in Lansing.