

**Ingham County Board of Health (BoH) Meeting
Mason Community Church – 1000 E Columbia – Mason, Michigan
Tuesday, November 5, 2013**

Minutes

In attendance for meeting: Molly Polverento, Martha Adams, Dr. Christina Dokter, Dr. Maurice Reizen, Denae Friedheim, Mark Kieselbach, Dr. Nino Rodriguez, Garry Rowe, Dr. Renee Canady, Dr. Sugandha Lowhim, Nancy Hayward, Chris Klawuhn, Veronica McNally, Dutch Dockter, Kim Dockter, 4 Mason Community News Student Reporter Interns, Channel 6 News, Debbie Edokpolo and Wendy Duke-Littlejohn

The meeting was called to order by Board Chairperson, Molly Polverento who called for review of October 2013 meeting minutes, any changes, corrections and/or edits and a motion to approve minutes. **Dr. Maurice Reizen moved that minutes be accepted with minor edits, submitted prior to the meeting in writing. Martha Adams seconded the motion to approve minutes with submitted edits. Motion passed unanimously, October 2013 minutes accepted with edits.**

Historically the BoH routinely meets at the Ingham County Health Department, but over the past few years, board members elected to get the community and public more involved in its Public Health. To accomplish this, the board has begun holding meetings at community sites around Ingham County and thus is holding this month's meeting in the rural community of Mason. Board members introduced themselves, and briefly identified their business and/or private sector affiliations. Guests and public attendees in turn introduced themselves.

Additions to agenda: None

Public Comment: None

Announcements:

- Dr. Maurice Reizen received the Roy Manty award for his dedicated and lifelong commitment to Public Health. He was honored at the Michigan Premier Public Health Conference in Bay City Michigan during October.
- Dr. George Rowan, former board member, who retired himself due to health reasons, was recently injured when hit by an automobile as a pedestrian last month. He remains hospitalized and in serious condition. Martha Adams will update on his health at next month's meeting and will send a get well card on behalf of members.

Overview: Board of Health and Ingham County Health Department – Molly Polverento and Dr. Renée Canady
Board Chair Molly Polverento gave an overview of the BoH, which consists of 10 members who are appointed to a 3 year term. Interested residents of Ingham County can be considered for appointment to the board by submitting an application to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners who, after convening interviews when a seat becomes vacant, select a candidate to fill the vacated seat. The BoH is charged with identifying health problems and concerns in our community and works closely with the County Health Department and Board of Commissioners to establish public health priorities. The BoH also serves as the County Sanitary Code Appeals Board.

Health Department Health Officer, Dr. Renée Canady gave a brief welcome and gave an overview of ICHD's mission and role as administrator of programs to prevent and control environmental hazards, prevent and control disease and prevent and control health problems in vulnerable populations. Currently immunizations are a forefront of ICHD concern. ICHD's Immunization Clinic Supervisor, Wendy Ridenour, recently presented at the legislature on immunizations and the effects on the community and what the department is doing to increase the rates of immunizations not only in children but also in adults.

Public Health Update – Dr. Renée Canady

Mclaren Building – ICHD has been looking to expand its operations and has just successfully negotiated the acquisition of the former Health Central site on Cedar St.

Accreditation – The WIC program has just completed a site visit for their programs accreditation which went well. The MIHP program is currently going through an audit for their program as well.

Mercury Event – The Poison Control Center recently diagnosed a child exhibiting symptoms of mercury poisoning. The Bureau of Environmental Health (BEH) conducted an investigation and found that mercury had been in the child's home and also transported and spilled in the Williamston High School parking lot. The DEQ and EPA were contacted and they were able to do full clean of the child's home and the school. BEH will continue to monitor the home to assist in keeping the levels under control.

MI Public Health Conference – Many staff from ICHD and the BoH attended the annual conference in October which had a very good turnout.

Franny Strong Foundation Presentation – Veronica McNally

Veronica McNally began her presentation by sharing a video clip (video is on website, Frannystrong.org, under parent resources). Veronica is a mother who lost her child, Francesca, to Pertussis (Whooping Cough). After the clip she shared her story and how she learned that she had Pertussis and was the one who gave it to her daughter. Several trips to the pediatrician and the emergency room did not immediately find Pertussis, in fact the original concern was that her daughter may have RSV. By the time she was properly diagnosed it was too late and within a few days Francesca died.

The foundation goal is education first and then prevention. A challenge has been that because some vaccine preventable diseases have not been seen in some time it causes a delay in diagnosis. There are many levels of misinformation, and/or no information about Pertussis. She explained the immunization process that can and should begin with the mom during pregnancy (beginning at 27 weeks) and then directly to the child when born. The other important factor is to have anyone over the age of 11 years to get a Tdap (Pertussis) booster, as the original vaccines given earlier in life do wear off, usually after 5-10 years. Pertussis is 100% preventable through vaccination.

Current recommendations are, as of February 2013, that women should get vaccinated every pregnancy to protect their unborn child who cannot be fully vaccinated until 15-18 months. This is why it is important for moms and those around infants receive the vaccination. She gave statistics for Michigan of how low those who have been vaccinated based on or compared to outbreaks. The challenge is the previously immunized adults whose coverage has lapsed.

There was some discussion on immunization requirements in Michigan, who is still one of few states that allow or still have a check box of other as to why a family may opt out of vaccinations. One thing that is being addressed and lobbied for is that if the 'opt out' box is checked that it requires more reasons and/or proof or requires the parent to participate in an education session on vaccinations.

The presentation ended with thanks and an invitation to come back in the future.

Martha Adams moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Nino Rodriguez seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting Adjourned.

Next Board of Health meeting – 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 3, 2013 in Conference Room C at the **Ingham County Health Department** located at 5303 S Cedar Street in Lansing