

Ingham County Board of Health
Ingham County Health Department – Conference Room C
Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Minutes

ACTION ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY: Steph Strickling will email the epi update provided by Carly Adams and the CDC's public health threats document to the BOH members following the January meeting so those not in attendance at the meeting can review them.

In attendance for meeting: Carly Adams (MDHHS), Carol Callaghan, Debbie Edokpolo, Rona Harris, Dr. Sugandha Lowhim, Joel Murr, Dr. Nigel Paneth, Molly Polverento, Garry Rowe, Steph Strickling, Linda Vail.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Molly Polverento. Approval of the December minutes was tabled until the February meeting due to the lack of a quorum. Molly noted that the board is currently down two members; this is due to the retirement of Dr. Maury Reizen and the end of Denae Friedheim's term. Applications for potential board members are submitted online and run through the Board of Commissioners' office.

Additions to Agenda: A review of the CDC publication "CDC's 6 Public Health Threats in Focus for 2016" was added to the agenda via email by Dr. Christina Dokter. The BOH Website Update was removed from the agenda as Rich Estill was not in attendance at the meeting.

Limited Public Comment: None.

Announcements: None.

1. Epi Update - Carly Adams

Carly Adams, a Region 1 Epidemiologist from MDHHS who regularly works with ICHD gave a presentation to the group on current epidemiology issues, both in Michigan and worldwide. Carly provided updates on many different epi issues, including seasonal influenza, chicken pox, mumps, Zika virus, and Ebola. She also provided a handout summarizing her presentation; this handout included a listing of upcoming epi meetings and events throughout the area. Molly Polverento noted that the annual Michigan Epidemiology Conference would likely be held in early April; she will provide attendance information to the group once it becomes available.

2. Strategic Plan - Molly Polverento

Molly Polverento noted to the group that she had sent them the text of the letter she'll be sending with the strategic plan. She asked that board members review the letter by the end of the week and let her know if they had any changes or notes.

3. Vaccine Waiver Legislation - Molly Polverento

Molly Polverento informed the board that two bills (HB 5126 and HB 5127) had been introduced to the legislature in an attempt to eliminate the requirement that parents attend a short counseling session at their local health department prior to receiving a vaccination waiver for their child. The bills would prevent local health officers from removing unvaccinated children from schools when there's the threat of a contagious illness (except in cases of a pandemic). These two bills are tie-barred and therefore must be passed together in order to take effect. There will be a hearing on this legislation, but there might not be much notice prior. It is possible to sign up for alerts from the Michigan Legislature in order to stay up to date on any new information. It does not appear Governor Snyder is in favor of the bills, so even if they are passed he may not sign them into law. Molly reminded the group that it was important to contact politicians and express opposition to these bills.

Linda Vail noted that health officers throughout the area are signing on to an op-ed regarding their opposition to these pieces of legislation; Denise Chrysler may be contacted by the group for assistance in preparing this document.

4. CDC's 6 Public Health Threats - Molly Polverento

This document summarizing the six public health threats the CDC would be focusing on in 2016 was sent to the group by Dr. Christina Dokter. The focus areas include Ebola, antibiotic resistance, global health security, smoking and tobacco use, prescription drug overdoses, and lab safety. Molly Polverento noted that Hawaii has moved the age to purchase tobacco to 21; other areas, including some in Michigan are also discussing this. Dr. Nigel Paneth expressed surprise that traditional health issues such as heart disease, cancer, and lack of exercise were not included on the list.

5. Public Health Update - Linda Vail

Debbie Edokpolo informed the group that due to Rona Harris' increasing responsibilities at ICHD, she would no longer be serving as the recording secretary for the BOH. Debbie recognized the many contributions Rona had made over the years towards the Board; the BOH members thanked Rona for her service. Steph Strickling will serve as the recording secretary moving forward.

Linda Vail noted that ICHD had many contacts with the media recently; this past Monday she gave interviews on opioid abuse, Norovirus, and urgent care. The urgent care interview was related to an expansion of Lansing Urgent Care's hours. Linda reminded the public in her interview that while urgent care does fill a niche, people should not be using it a replacement for a regular doctor's office/medical home. The opioid abuse interview was done in response a public awareness campaign being started by ICHD and various other public safety and health organizations in Ingham County. The CDC has declared opioid abuse in the USA an epidemic. In order to track and determine the magnitude of the issue in Ingham County, several agencies including law enforcement, EMTs, McLaren's ER, and the Medical Examiner are voluntarily sharing information/statistics with ICHD. Linda hopes to be able to identify demographic and geographic information from this data in order to better target prevention and recovery efforts. An official press conference about the issue is scheduled for Thursday, January 7th. Many local leaders including Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, Representative Andy Schor, and Ingham County Judge Don Allen will be speaking at the press conference; Linda and Judge Allen will follow the event by doing an interview with the City Pulse. There will also be several billboards on the issue posted throughout Lansing. Linda noted that several law enforcement agencies are starting to carry Narcan (a medication used for treating a narcotic overdose). The Lansing Police Department reported 283 uses of Narcan in 2015 compared to 68 uses during a six month period in 2014.

Linda also updated the group on State Innovation Models (SIM) grant funding; the second round of funding has begun. Six to ten regions throughout the state will be picked in two separate waves to be involved in the program. Linda has met with MDHHS and Sparrow to discuss the Community Health Innovation Region (CHIR) proposal. Regions should be notified within the next few months if they have been picked.

Molly Polverento noted that the Healthy Michigan waiver had been accepted. She also informed the group that two petitions were being circulated to legalize small amounts of recreational marijuana; some bills designed to do the same are also being proposed in the legislature.

The proposed January BOH orientation meeting has been postponed pending the addition of new board members.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Board of Health meeting – 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 2, 2016 in Conference Room C at the Ingham County Health Department located at 5303 S Cedar Street in Lansing.