

**Ingham County Board of Health (BOH)**  
***Ingham County Health Department (ICHD) – VIA ZOOM***  
**Tuesday, October 6, 2020**

**Minutes**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR OCTOBER:**

**In attendance for meeting:** Denise Chrysler, Dilhara Muthukuda, Debbie Edokpolo, Jenn Granning, Molly Poleverento, Nino Rodriguez, Garry Rowe, Abby Schwartz, Derrell Slaughter, Alexander Woods

**The meeting was called to order at 12:02 by Vice Chair Jan Bidwell.**

**Additions to Agenda:** October agenda approved

**Limited Public Comment:**

None

**Approval of** August Minutes- August minutes approved as written

**Announcements:** Nino and Denise have been appointed for an additional 4 years. Jan thanked everyone for their continued service. Dilhara and Molly will both be leaving in December. Jan thanked Molly and Dilhara for their service.

Nino asked if the BOH would be meeting in November, Jan shared that they will not be and the next meeting will be in December.

Gary shared that the sampling for the ground water drinking water for Ingham County has been completed. They are now creating a report for Bunker Hill, White Oak and Stockbridge townships and they hope to have a complete report for the County by February. The Board of Water and Light wants to extend the project into Clinton County starting with Bath and Dewitt Townships next spring. Jan asked if they had any preliminary findings. Gary stated that the salt has increased but Arsenic levels have dropped. They theorize that Well Drillers are using bentonite clay as a lubricant which has quite a bit of arsenic. When they clean it out its not perfect and some of the sediment stays in the well for years. They are finding that when you have a brand new well they have to flush the well adequately before you test it. There are a lot of wells that are not being capped off and are just sitting there as open conduits into the groundwater.

**1. Introductions/Opening Comments – Jan**

Jan stated that these are stressful times; and she has been talking to her interns about violence.

**2. Public Health Services Update- Linda Vail & Debbie Edokpolo**

Linda shared that the Ingham County surge of cases has been at MSU and that has started to slow down. The Michigan Supreme Court has removed the Governor's orders and it is still unclear whether or not those will remain effect for 21 more days. The attorney general announced that she was not going to enforce the orders. Linda stated that it became necessary for Ingham County to issue a face covering order, gathering order, and a

revised restaurant and bar order and institute an employee screening order to help fill those gaps. Linda stated that the Governor's team is quickly working to fill those gaps. Director Gordon issued an order yesterday, Linda noted that the order was carefully written so that it would not be challenged. Linda stated that the health code allows them to do more than what they did. Linda stated that anything that allows transmission to get so high that contact tracers cannot do their job is something that leads us to not being able to continue essential public health services. Linda explained that the order was specifically focused on gatherings, defined as, where people from multiple households with two or more in any space. There is a face covering requirement at gatherings, making it extremely important that we agree on the definition of gatherings. This order is in effect in all areas except for schools in region 6 as that term was defined in EO 2020-176. Linda noted that this exception could be an issue due to the fact that those executive orders are no longer in effect.

Food service establishments must close where people can congregate, dance or otherwise mingle, further more, this order prohibits indoor gatherings where alcoholic beverages are sold on site except where people are separated by tables or barriers by 6 feet. It does not address capacity of restaurants and bars. Linda stated that they will be keeping Ingham County Emergency Orders in place.

Denise stated that she had received a request from another Health Officer regarding the same problems that Linda raised and she is working on this. Denise reminded the Board about the imminent danger (2451) and if there is a nuisance (2355). Linda stated that she has always found imminent danger to be restrictive and stringent. Denise asked how Linda is handling threats that Linda has received personally. Linda stated that she does receive them but it hasn't been too bad. Jan thanked Linda for her strength and service during this time.

Molly stated that schools were specifically excluded in these orders and everyone is trying to figure out where the balance is. Molly thanked Linda for her continued communication with schools and superintendents. Linda stated that the Safe Start plan was a policy of MDE level procedure so as long as MDE stands behind that plan they should be good in schools.

Nino stated that he supports what Molly said and in their meeting tomorrow Linda will explain how this affects schools. Linda stated that there is a good chance that the public health code will be challenged in coming weeks. Public Health Codes are similar across the nation because Health Officers must be able to act quickly to save lives now.

Dilhara asked about other services at the Health Department in regards to COVID-19, Linda stated that she is very fortunate to have amazing Deputy Health Officers and she has left operations to the Deputy Health Officers. But Joel, Debbie and Anne have been amazing and are Health Officers in their own rights. Debbie stated that Immunizations is open and they continue to provide immunizations. ICHD has received funding to provide additional support around the flu shot. Most of our units are working from home but are continuing to work. Denise thanked whoever made arrangements for flu shots. Nino stated that more than 70 people from Cristo-Rey received their flu shot.

### **3. BOC Update- Derrell**

Derrell stated that the taskforce has appointed 13 people from the community, they had interviewed 40 people for the taskforce and it was extremely difficult to choose. Derrell stated that he can share the membership list but they have a few more appointments to make. The first meeting will either be at the end of October or beginning of November. They have been working with Adrienne, Ryan and Adrianna on the creation of the taskforce.

The county is working on finalizing the budget and they took a conservative approach because they were not sure how much State funding Ingham County would be receiving. We have received more funds than expected and they are looking at bringing back things that have been tabled. This will be something that we are dealing with for years to come. The Supreme Court struck down the Governor's Orders and they are grateful to Linda for stepping up and instituting our own. Digital meetings may need to be re-evaluated because that was a part of the Governor's executive orders. There is a bill that will allow local governments to do virtual meetings. Our attorneys have determined that we can continue with virtual meetings for the next 21 days.

#### 4. Racial Equity Taskforce Update- Alexander Woods

Alexander thanked everyone. He has been looking into redlining. Some people from MSU did a project on how redlining affected certain neighborhoods in Lansing. Alexander has been working with Derrell regarding the taskforce. This is an issue that is very important to him.

Denise asked if Alexander knew about a book called the "Color of Law" noting that, it is about laws and policies that keep racism in place. Alexander shared that the last couple chapters are about resolutions to end problems and policies that have affected people of color.

Garry stated that in chapter 6 of our sanitary code it deals with houses and housing but it may need to be reviewed.

#### 5. Self-Care Check in- Jan

Jan shared that Self-care is essential during this time. She has been teaching her interns box breathing, during which an individual inhales and holds their breath for 4 seconds, exhales and holds for 4 seconds. It slows the heart down and lowers your blood pressure; breaths should be taken from the diaphragm.

Denise shared that she takes a break from the news and listens to music.

Alexander goes for a ride.

Dilhara goes for walks.

Molly spends time outside with her kids.

Dilhara stated that she is nervous about how to survive the winter and asked for ideas, Abby and Garry suggested going for walks.

Derrell stated that last night they passed a resolution supporting the emergency orders that Linda had put into place.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:57pm**

**Next Board of Health Meeting:** 12:00 pm on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 (December meeting not held, January 5, 2021 meeting will be held via ZOOM.