

**Ingham County Board of Health (BOH)**  
***Ingham County Health Department (ICHD) – Conference Room C***  
**Tuesday, January 7, 2020**

**Minutes**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR DECEMBER:**

**In attendance for meeting:** Jan Bidwell, Denise Chrysler, Nickell Dixon, Debbie Edokpolo, Jenn Granning, Joel Murr, Molly Poleverento, Nino Rodriquez, Garry Rowe, Abby Schwartz, Derrell Slaughter, Lynne Stauff, Alexander Woods

**The meeting was called to order at 12:02pm by Board Chair Lynne Stauff.**

**December Minutes-** approved with edits

**Additions to Agenda:** None

**Limited Public Comment:** None

**Announcements:**

- Lynne announced that Tobacco 21 passed on the Federal level. It is in effect immediately but may take some time before it is enforced. Linda noted that Ingham County Health Department (ICHD) already performs tobacco checks. Rod stated that the FDA has not amended their site to reflect the changes. Denise explained that the FDA has 6 months to update their policies.

**1. Introductions/Opening Comments - Lynne**

Lynne welcomed the board and introduced Rod McNeill from ICHD's Environmental Health Division.

**2. Sanitary Code update/Environmental Health Update- Rod McNeill**

Rod explained that 120.2 of the Sanitary Code explains what the appeals board is and where the board comes from. Sanitary Appeals are handled by the Ingham County BOH. After an appeal is completed a written report must be issued to the appellant explaining its findings and decisions. Rod explained that Environmental Health has not had a sanitary appeal since he started at ICHD. Generally, issues are resolved before the issue gets to the point of appeal. Rod explained the conditions that must be met in order for the BOH to issue a variance, 1. That no substantial health hazard or nuisance is likely to occur there from; 2. That strict compliance with Code requirements would result in unnecessary or unreasonable hardship; 3. That no state statute or other applicable laws would be violated by such variance; 4. That the proposed variance would provide essentially equivalent protection for the public health and would be in the public interest. Rod explained that if the conditions are not met then the BOH should not issue a variance. Rod stated that most appeals will come from chapter 2 of the sanitary code which addresses septic systems, although, appeals could also be in regards to wells.

Garry explained that well appeals can happen when the sanitary code requires people to connect to public water when they would rather fix their current well.

Denise asked if the BOH is the final decision maker regarding appeals. Rod explained that it was. He further explained that the majority of people will bring a proposal to the Board which will offer an alternative solution.

Denise stated that Tim Perrone was at the last appeal that she was at. The person asking for the appeal brought their commissioner.

Lynne asked for some pushbacks that Environmental Health faces currently regarding possible sanitary appeals.

Rod explained that they recently had a builder who proposed an unusual build and that there was a lack of evidence that the design would work. When the builder found out that they needed to do an appeal for each property they changed their mind. Rod explained that Environmental Health is usually able to work through the issue and find an agreed upon solution. Rod explained that they are able to make some exceptions.

Lynne stated that it reflects a good relationship with the contractors.

Rod agreed that having good relationships was the goal.

Rod announced that as of the prior week they had finished the final draft of the sanitary code. Rod explained that sanitation and the way that sewage is treated has changed in the last 40 years and the new code allows for those advancements but still holds people to a standard. Rod stated that he has spoken to Tim Perrone regarding the requirements of adopting the changes to the amended regulation. Rod explained that there must be 10 days' notice before the public hearing. Rod noted that these were minimums and ICHD would most likely do more. Linda stated that the last public hearing they held took place at a full Board of Commissioner meeting. Rod noted that there will be a public hearing process. Rod explained that they had many people involved in the revision process to represent a broad spectrum of people. Rod stated that copies of the revised draft code is available upon request.

Lynne asked what the plan was for public hearings.

Rod stated that they believe they will begin within the next couple of months.

Lynne asked if the updated code would mean they would be hiring additional staff.

Rod stated that they will not need to do that currently and that they had originally included a 10 year inspection plan but that had been removed as there were other ideas for that process.

Rod explained that Environmental Health has been exploring a program called FETCH which would give them the capability to catalog septic systems and allow sanitarians to GPS where drain fields, tanks and wells are. He further explained that when you map a property the program can pull up flood plains and FETCH allows for isolation distances and for layers which include sewer mains, distances to water ways etc. The program allows you to review historical data for properties as well. Rod noted that the program also incorporates a scheduling program and the ability for pictures of final septic inspections to be stored. Rod explained that the program allows you to build an information set for individual properties.

Lynne asked if the software had been purchased

Rod stated that they had not purchased the software yet but that it is being considered. Rod further stated that they are looking to pursue some grant funds to help with the cost. Rod explained that Ingham County has about 14,500 Septic systems and that only 1/3 of the systems have been inspected since the implementation of the Point of Sale Program.

Lynne stated that it may allow for a savings on staff cost.

Rod stated that he wasn't sure about staff cost savings but that it will provide a tool to maintain and manage long-term data.

Abby asked if this was a one-time subscription or if it was on going.

Rod stated that it was ongoing and that there were additional modules that they could possibly add.

Rod noted that the state wide sanitary code may be picked up by Representative Hammoud, but, further noted that it had not happened yet. Rod stated that it there were so many challenges and changes that support eroded for the last Statewide Sanitary Code effort. Rod noted that he is hoping that the process will be more inclusive the next time. Rod explained that the Michigan Association of Local Environmental Administrators (MALEHA) is being more proactive this round.

Denise asked if MALEHA was supportive of a statewide sanitary code.

Linda explained that MALEHA and Michigan Association of Local Public Health (MALPH) are not in favor of a state wide sanitary code, especially in rural counties.

Rod agreed that it is fairly inconsistent noting that EH directors were excluded from the process in the last round.

Rod announced that the Food program received capital improvement funds to allow for the purchase of surface pros for the food staff to increase efficiency. Rod explained that the printers that they currently have are not working properly and that the Sanitarians are having to enter the same data more than once. With the Surface Pro they will be able to get the signatures right on the screen and email the reports directly from the Surface Pro. Rod further stated that the Food law update process at the state level has begun but that is a long process so he does not anticipate anything for months.

Rod announced that Mike Allen is retiring from the Prevention and Response program and that will be a loss for the department.

Rod noted that the HHW contract is up for bid this summer. He reported an increase for pounds collected but the cost of disposal initially went down. The current agreement ends the end of July.

Denise asked if this was where people could bring fertilizers etc.

Rod stated that it was and further noted that they get 3-4 pick-ups a month.

Rod stated that PFAS has been in the news lately and noted that none of the test sites in Ingham County came back positive.

Rod announced that there are new body art rules being proposed and noted that marijuana is up in the air and the role of public health. He suspects that if it is determined that public health has a role he thinks it will around inspections. Rod asked if there were any questions.

Nino asked how ICHD communicates with Board of Water and Light (BWL).

Rod explained that ICHD does not work BWL too much because they are a type I water supply and that is primarily a State of Michigan responsibility. Garry explained that they do have a water quality committee that he serves on that helps with the community. Rod stated that the only time ICHD gets involved with Type I water supplies is if things go wrong. Linda stated that we do not have any regulatory oversight over BWL. Linda further

stated that ICHD will help with public announcements sometimes, but ultimately the announcement belongs to BWL.

### **3. NALBOH**

Lynne thanked Molly for writing an abstract for the NALBOH conference. Molly thanked Denise for putting her in contact with Peter Jacobson who was one of the founding members of the Washtenaw County Board of Health. Molly stated that she was able to get in contact with Calhoun County Health Officer. Those three counties put together an abstract to discuss the role of advisory boards of health. The abstract is broad so that everyone can talk about what their board of health does and the opportunities that boards of health have to be advocates within the community. Molly stated that the abstract was submitted on December 30th, which was ahead of the timeline. Lynne noted that Molly agreed to present but asked if anyone else would be interested in presenting. Nino asked if they could have a copy of the abstract. Molly stated she would share the abstract.

### **4. Survey Update**

Lynne stated that in response to the survey that the BOH held a retreat. After reviewing the open meetings act they determined that it was appropriate for them to hold a retreat. Lynne stated that the retreat offered an opportunity to form connections with each other and they discussed the survey and opportunities to improve the BOH

Lynne explained that the members discussed how the BOH wants to move forward and that they decided to form work groups. The first work group will be the Operations work group of which includes Molly, Abby and Denise. Every month the work groups will give updates. Abby asked what the operations work involved. Lynne stated that there are seven operational items on the list but they will choose one to focus on for the year. Molly read off the operations work group options.

The second work group is Board of Commissioners communications. Lynne stated that they wanted to have more interactions with the BOC and to strengthen that relationship this group is comprised of Jan, Derrell and Nino.

The third is the community relationship work group which is comprised of Dilhara, Alexander, and Nickell and will focus on how to work with the community, establishing the BOH role in the community, and how the BOH can help with the community. Work groups will choose one tangible and work on that throughout the year.

Jan stated that the retreat helped build connections for her. She explained that if you have a relationship with fellow board members it adds to the work. Jan noted that policy initiatives were not discussed but they spoke to what they wanted to get out of the BOH. Jan shared that she felt more motivated to connect after the retreat.

### **5. Public Health Update- Joel Murr**

Joel announced that ICHD launched a new campaign for people in the community who are living with HIV and noted that there are billboards around town and that there is some additional funding for Medical Marijuana education.

Linda noted that the HiAP resolution is on its way to the BOC today. Ryan Rowe, the Health Equity and Social Justice Coordinator, drafted the resolution and asked for feedback from ICHD staff, Tim Dolehanty and Sue Graham have been asked to provide feedback as well. Linda stated that it should

just go before the board. Linda noted that she added a deadline of May 18<sup>th</sup> for implementation process laid out for the BOC.

Lynne stated that the BOH would be willing to help with this process.

Linda explained that it will go before County Services Tuesday, January 21 and human services January 27 and then the BOC will vote on it January 28. Linda stated that the controller came up with a memo template for all resolutions and HiAP will be added as a required component. Linda noted that they are going to develop a tool to assist with its implementation and that Kent County has developed a good one.

Nino asked what they expect to happen in the community after enacting the HIV stigma campaign. Joel noted that the campaign was developed after a community survey.

Denise asked about HiAP and if it was going to be a discussion item. Joel stated that it will probably be pulled for discussion. Denise asked if they should come to that meeting to show support and inquired if it would be good to attend Human services and the full board. Joel noted that it would be good for them to come to Human Services and County Services.

Lynne noted that several BOH members were involved with HiAP a few years ago.

### **Meeting adjourned 1:00 pm**

**Next Board of Health Meeting:** 12:00 pm on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 in Conference Room C at the Ingham County Health Department, located at 5303 S. Cedar Street in Lansing.