

Ingham County Board of Health (BOH)
Ingham County Health Department (ICHD) – VIA ZOOM
Tuesday January 5, 2020

Minutes

ACTION ITEMS FOR JANUARY:

In attendance for meeting: Jan Bidwell, Denise Chrysler, Ed Dore, Debbie Edokpolo, Jen Fischer, Jenn Granning, Emillia McConnell, Garry Rowe, Abby Schwartz, Lynne Stauff, Alexander Woods, Barbara Worgess

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

Additions to Agenda: January agenda approved- Remove agenda item BOH Resigning

Limited Public Comment:

None

Approval of October Minutes- Garry noted a correction in the announcements section, amendment made, October minutes approved with amendment.

Announcements:

None

1. Introductions/Opening Comments – Lynne

Lynne asked BOH members to introduce themselves and welcomed the two new members Barbara Worgess and Ed Dore. Debbie announced her retirement.

2. ICHD Update- Debbie Edokpolo

Lynne thanked Debbie for everything that she has done for the BOH. Debbie stated that 32 years is a long time and she is grateful for the opportunities she has had with the Health Department and working with the BOH. Debbie noted that her passion has been around Health Equity and Social Justice and she has opportunities that will allow her to continue that work full time.

Debbie shared that much of ICHD's attention has been dedicated to COVID-19 vaccinations. ICHD is holding vaccination events at the MSU pavilion and are currently vaccinating priority group 1A, which includes medical professionals and some front line staff at medical facilities. Ingham County Health Center staff (IHC) will be receiving the Moderna vaccine in the next few days. Debbie stated that urgent cares across Ingham County, Sparrow, MSU and McLaren have been helpful in carrying out these efforts. Our Public Health Services staff are still largely at home and IHCs continue to provide services as well as tele-health. ICHD has continued testing out in the community but are planning for the vaccine to be available broadly. Debbie stated that Linda is doing a great job with the continued COVID efforts. Debbie's position has been posted and she anticipates a replacement or interim person shortly. The IHCs hired a new director and they begin next week.

Debbie welcomed to the new BOH members. Ed thanked Debbie and congratulated her on her retirement. Jan thanked Debbie for being a great role model and help. Jan and the detention staff are getting vaccinated on a voluntary basis. Jan asked if there has been push back on getting vaccinated. Debbie stated that it is not mandatory, those who choose not to do not receive the vaccine. Derrell thanked Debbie for being his mentor. Derrell stated that we are vaccinating our medical staff but Derrell wanted to know if there is a target vaccination rate. Debbie stated that she had not heard about there being a target rate for Ingham County. Debbie stated that she will follow up on that question.

3. BOC Update- Derrell

Derrell welcomed the new BOH members. The Board of Commissioners (BOC) had their organizational meeting yesterday. Bryan Crenshaw has been invited to come back as the Board Chair. Derrell was selected as Vice Chair Pro Tem. Human Services will be chaired by Todd Tennis and Ryan Seabolt has been appointed as the Human Services Vice Chair. Derrell announced that he will be joining the Human Services Committee. Derrell shared that the Racial Equity Taskforce had their first meeting in November to discuss the goals and tasks. Derrell stated that they will be developing recommendations for the County. Telise Murry has been chosen as Chair for the task force. The taskforce had a training to develop common language. Next they will be working on training members how to lead listening sessions in the community. Derrell stated that Dilhara was instrumental in drafting the resolution that authorized the creation of the Racial Equity Taskforce, noting that they want to ensure that the community has the opportunity to chime in and help prioritize issues.

Lynne asked what the budget is looking like and funds for vaccinations. Derrell stated that Ingham County doing a lot better than they thought they would. Derrell stated that he can provide some concrete numbers and will follow up. Derrell noted that Ingham County is still struggling but there is a positive outlook. Denise stated that Ingham County received a Robert Wood-Johnson award to look at disparities and social determinants of health.

Ed asked for a listing of members of the Task Force. Derrell stated that he would share that with Jenn to share with the members.

Lynne asked if the listening session would be open to the general public. Derrell explained that the consultant is designing the sessions. Derrell will share more information when they are ready to launch the listening sessions.

4. Racial Equity Taskforce Update- Alexander Woods

Alexander shared that they are in the beginning stages but feels that all of the members are up to the task of determining where the inequities lie within Ingham County. There will be training sessions on how to handle the tasks at hand. Debbie shared that she has enjoyed being a part of the Racial Equity Taskforce and watching the community come together. Debbie thanked Derrell for the fantastic job he has done leading and developing the group. Derrell stated that the leadership has been a team effort. Derrell stated that he thinks Ingham County is the first governmental entity to build a taskforce like this. Alexander stated that they are on the cusp of real effective change.

Alexander asked if there could be an update regarding the Ingham County homeless populations. Lynne stated that she is sure that the Health Department has a relationship with homeless service populations. Jan stated that she can have her interns reach out and determine if the homeless shelters need anything for their populations. Debbie asked Alexander to be more specific, Debbie stated that the shelters are managing really well. ICHD is helping to isolate and quarantine individuals. Holy Cross is looking at opening another shelter for the winter to allow those living behind holy cross to shelter safely. Debbie stated that the shelter would most likely use Gier Community Center as a shelter. Debbie stated that we do not have the tools to provide services. Jan stated that at the end of January they do a massive head count of all of the homeless. Jan stated that she would send that information to Jenn to share out with BOH. Jan stated that she is unsure what that would look like with COVID but thought that Alexander might want to be included.

Denise asked where the homeless population ended up in the priority list for homeless populations. Debbie explained that workers in shelters are included in 1B but were not specifically addressed in the priority list.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm

Next Board of Health Meeting: 1:00 pm on Tuesday, February 2, 2021