

Ingham County Board of Health (BOH)
Ingham County Health Department (ICHD) – VIA ZOOM
Tuesday February 2, 2020

Minutes

ACTION ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY: Jenn to send out funding link

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

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

Additions to Agenda: Barbara requested an additional item regarding the East Lansing Places Project, Lynne stated that it would be better to add it to next month. Barbara stated that she would like a moment to talk about a funding issue. It was agreed that would go in the announcements. February agenda approved as written.

Limited Public Comment:

None

Approval of January Minutes- January minutes approved as written

Announcements:

Barbara shared that the city of East Lansing is looking at how they can impact economic issues during the pandemic and have started a project called Daytime, Nighttime, Anytime Places which utilizes under used places and converts them into usable spaces. Barbara noted that everyone is required to wear masks inside and outside these spaces. They are converting 5 areas in East Lansing that allow for social distancing and have opened an exhibit with art made by high school students. Next, the exhibit will highlight elementary school art. The project is also providing seating and heaters. Currently, there are 15 places that are set up to view art. A crowd sourcing campaign has been created and will continue through February 10 2021 with the goal of raising \$50,000. They are trying to get the word out to demonstrate public health and its place in the city. Barbara stated that she will share the crowd sourcing link with BOH members if they would like to donate.

Garry shared that the Land Use and Resource Team decided to review the Ingham County strategic plan and have developed several pages of comments regarding the plan. The Land Use and Resource Team asked Garry if they could share the comments regarding the strategic plan with BOH members. Garry stated that he would send the link to Jenn to distribute to the BOH.

Jan stated that Lynne has done an exceptional job as Board Chair and thanked her for leading the BOH through difficult times.

Nickell thanked Lynne for being a great board chair. Nickell announced that this will also be her last meeting and she will be moving to Atlanta to work for the CDC. Lynne thanked Nickell for her service to the BOH and thanked her for watching over Michigan in her new role.

1. Introductions/Opening Comments – Lynne

Lynne stated that she feels the need to move on and focus on new opportunities. This is an amazing community and ICHD is one of the top health departments in the state.

2. ICHD Update- Joel Murr

Joel shared that he is the new Deputy Health Officer for Public Health Services and he has been with ICHD for 6 ½ years. Joel stated that Debbie's last day was January 29th.

Joel asked if the BOH had been connected with the COVID-19 dashboard at hd.ingham.org. Joel shared that the dashboard shows Ingham County's current metrics and is updated daily. Joel explained the daily rolling averages chart, noting that Ingham County aims to be below 5% for positive cases.

Joel stated that Ingham County is currently operating a drive-thru at the MSU Pavilion and ICHD recently hit 10,000 doses given and Friday ICHD served the 10,000th patient. ICHD is able to accommodate approximately 1,000 people per day. Joel shared that MSU has provided medical waste removal, traffic control and other valuable services for the MSU Pavilion vaccination site. Lansing urgent care is managing a couple of lanes for vaccines and the National Guard has also been providing support. The City of Lansing has also been invaluable in this effort. ICHD is looking at ways to expand but are limited by the amount of vaccine that ICHD receives from the State of Michigan (SOM). The SOM is currently dictating that Ingham County focus on elderly populations with about 75% of our vaccinations go to the 65+ age group. The other 25% of vaccination doses are dedicated to occupational eligibility including teachers, childcare providers, emergency medical services personnel and public safety personnel. Joel stated that Ingham County cannot move past this group until the SOM opens up additional priority groups.

Denise asked if ICHD is actually providing shots for people who are 65+. Joel explained that 65+ are eligible but ICHD is focused on 70+. Joel stated that within one week ICHD had over 40,000 people register for the vaccine. ICHD has only had enough vaccine for 3,000/week. Joel noted that Pfizer and Moderna have been working on increasing their capacity to provide more vaccine to the State. Joel stated that McLaren and Sparrow are also able to provide vaccinations. Denise stated that she has been telling people to register at Meijer, Sparrow and McLaren.

Jan stated that MSU told its workers in the south complex to register with MSU and then they were told to register with Ingham County. Joel stated that part of the problem is how medical professionals are getting the vaccine. Lots of places have registered with the State to get the vaccine but the State does not have vaccine to give to them yet. Joel stated that we are doing our best to screen folks and work with employers to determine who is eligible but the system is not perfect. When the State distributes the vaccine to hospitals ICHD has to rely on the hospitals to properly screen people for appropriateness. McLaren has been sharing vaccine with Walgreens.

Nino asked what ICHD is doing to hold people accountable when they try and circumvent the rules. Joel stated that the SOM dictates who is eligible and they are the one's who are tasked to enforce it. Linda has also spoken about how to verify appropriateness of their vaccine. Joel stated that there are guidelines in place and the State is trying to work with places to ensure that these guidelines are followed.

Lynne stated that ICHD is in a difficult position trying to navigate between the politics and the public. Joel explained that it is difficult but no system is perfect and we are trying our best to ensure that only the appropriate people are receiving the vaccine. ICHD is looking to open another site that is walkable and in the 48911 zip code. ICHD has identified a school as a possible vaccination site and there is a walkthrough scheduled for today to determine if the site will work.

Lynne asked how the State is determining how much vaccine to send. Joel explained that the SOM has an algorithm that they are using to determine how many doses to send out. Denise stated that there are employers and individuals that are trying to jump the line and get to Linda and try to make that happen. Linda has been no-nonsense and has not allowed that to happen. Denise stated that Linda has been going to city council meetings and the council has

passed legislation that allows law enforcement to fine people for violating the orders. Denise stated that Linda has been a state leader if not a national leader in this effort. Jan asked if people who volunteer one day can get vaccinated. Joel stated that we are asking for 8 shifts to encourage continuity in the vaccination team. Joel stated that we do have volunteers doing registration, traffic control and monitoring. Joel stated that ICHD will need more volunteers.

Joel stated that we received a grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to purchase a mobile unit that will be retrofitted for vaccinations. This mobile unit will be used to reach minority populations and allow ICHD to go into the community and do targeted vaccination clinics. The van should be completed in early March.

3. Ground Water Survey Update- Garry

Garry shared that the Ground Water Survey is a follow up project to a past project that took place 30 years ago and tested over 300 wells. The idea was that every 10 years there would be a survey conducted that would revisit the same wells and re-test them. Garry stated that this newest survey were finally able to re-test those wells. Garry stated that White Oak Township was the final township in this survey and they were able to test most of the wells that were tested 30 years ago. The team is still working on generating the final report and have collected tons of data noting that it will take some time to run the statistical analysis. The wells that are represented by yellow dots have increased chloride levels. There are also some wells in the Northeast corner that showed increased Fluoride, Boron and Sodium levels. Garry thanked Ingham County Drain Commissioner, US Geological Survey, Culligan, BWL, Wolverine and the townships for their contributions to the survey. Garry noted that there have been several students working on this project as well and this project has provided them with real life experience testing wells. Garry shared that students from Williamston High School helped developed a slide showing the two major types of wells found in Ingham County. The Northeast part of the county has more shale and the water chemistry changes with testing showing less hardness with an increase in Fluoride, Sodium Boron and PH. Garry noted that the shale bedrock was working as a natural water softener. Garry explained that Boron can create some health concerns for pregnant woman and has some benefit for post-menopausal women. Garry stated that they are hoping to have this project completed by March. Currently, they are working with BWL to expand the survey into Clinton County this spring.

Nino asked if Garry has studied any of the water in Lansing. Garry stated that several BWL wells were sampled and they were included in the project. There were over 40 parameters that were sampled and one of the largest changes found was the increase of Chloride levels. The survey also tested for Bromide. Garry stated that they determined that this increase is the result of road salting. There were over 20 wells included in this sample. They also tested the city of Mason and the city of East Lansing. Nino asked who was going to follow up on these these findings and what asked what the next steps are ensure that people are drinking safe water. Garry stated that when they finish a township they develop a presentation and report for the township alerting them to the changes and explaining the survey findings. These reports are also shared with the SOM. Garry explained that there are 3 types of wells, Type I wells are managed by the SOM whereas, the county is responsible for Type 2 and Type 3 wells. Garry noted that a few wells tested positive for e-coli and bacteria and the county worked with well owners to resolve those issues.

4. BOC Update- Derrell

Derrell thanked Lynne for her leadership as Board Chair. Derrell thanked Nickell and Lynne for all of the work they did regarding the Racism Equity Taskforce.

Derrell stated that the Board of Commissioners are just starting to meet and are currently working on the budget.

The racial equity task force is establishing sub-committees that will build the groundwork for the taskforce. The taskforce is also determining the resources they have to determine if they have what they need to do the work. The taskforce has also been reviewing research and data for work that has already been done to help leverage their

efforts. The taskforce is also creating a listening session subcommittee that will be going into the community to determine what issues they should address first.

5. Racial Equity Taskforce Update- Alexander Woods

Alexander shared that they were creating sub-committees and they will be scheduling sub-committee meetings shortly.

Alexander thanked Lynne for everything that she has done.

Alexander asked to connect with Garry regarding road salt and asked for Joel's email address.

Meeting adjourned at 1:01pm

Next Board of Health Meeting: 12:00 pm on Tuesday, March 2, 2021