

Ingham County Board of Health (BOH)
Ingham County Health Department (ICHD) – VIA ZOOM
Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Minutes

ACTION ITEMS FOR APRIL: Ask Amanda to share BOH opening, Alexander to create survey

In attendance for meeting: Denise Chrysler, Jenn Granning, Joel Murr, Nino Rodriguez, Garry Rowe, Abby Schwartz, Dr. Adenike Shoyinka, Alexander Woods, Barbara Worgess

The meeting was called to order at 12:07pm by Board Chair- Alexander Woods

Additions to Agenda: BOH recruitment

Limited Public Comment:

None

Approval of March Minutes- March Minutes approved

Announcements: None

1. Introductions/Opening Comments – Alexander Woods

Alexander welcomed everyone to the meeting. Alexander stated that he is looking forward to implementing their goals for 2021.

2. BOH 2021 Goals- Alexander

Alexander shared that he had a discussion with Joel regarding BOH goals for 2021 and felt that the BOH should gather information from BOH members to determine 2021 goals. Alexander wants to put something on the table and in the framework that the Commissioners want to see changed and help them with those goals. Alexander opened the floor for discussion. Garry stated that it is a good idea to get background information from each of the BOH members. Garry noted that the BOH has experience so much turn over that it is hard to keep track. Alexander stated that he wants to do a refresher on what people are hearing from the community. Denise asked if Alexander is thinking about a survey asking each BOH member what their priorities are and what can each person contribute based on their backgrounds and expertise. Alexander felt that Survey Monkey would be a great tool to garner that information. Denise stated that the BOH members all have a strong background in public health and knowing what they can do as a BOH and what the Health Department does. Denise noted that she has expertise that could be useful but ICHD is probably already prioritizing those areas. Nino stated that in the past they have always trusted the ICHD administration to direct the BOH in ways that will help ICHD meet their goals. Nino noted that the BOH goals and objectives should align with ICHD. Garry asked who would develop and send the survey out. Alexander agreed with Nino and Denise that BOH should align behind ICHD and lift up those goals. Nino stated that there are 3-4 goals that the BOH agreed to work on. Denise stated that since the BOH will be growing and will have new members joining. It is important to remember that the BOH has a strategic plan and have passed several important resolutions in the past and that the BOH set priorities at the BOH retreat. These priorities were sidelined due to the COVID-19 pandemic and personal circumstances. Alexander felt that they needed to revisit a lot of things from the retreat noting that the BOH lost sight of those goals as members left and COVID. Denise stated that when looking

at BOH recruitment, the BOH does not have any business representatives, but we need to think about the messaging that happened during the COVID-19 pandemic and the business perspective. Many Ingham County businesses were supportive of COVID-19 measures and public health measures. Denise was not sure how that would go given the current political playing field and perspectives that involve removing power from local public health agencies. Garry asked Denise if they looked for someone with a business perspective, would it be beneficial to look for someone from the restaurant perspective. Joel noted that our local Chamber of Commerce has been very helpful and supportive of our public health measures and have been helping with phone calls, connecting us with various associations and helping us connect with larger businesses. Joel stated that we may be able to reach out to them in regards to finding a BOH member. Nino stated that as a member of the Chamber of Commerce he felt that they would provide as much help as they could, including helping assign a member to the BOH. Barbara noted that the BOH needs to look at who is missing from the board and perhaps after this survey they may be able to determine where the gaps are and who should be at the table. Barbara noted that when new members come on board there is an orientation for new members. Alexander agreed that they should have an orientation. Denise asked if it would be better to wait to have an orientation until they have a full board. Barbara stated that it should wait until new members come onboard. Alexander stated that they could possibly do another board retreat via zoom.

3. ICHD Update- Joel Murr

Joel invited Dr. Shoyinka to jump in as needed. Joel stated that Ingham County's COVID-19 case count has been increasing and have been pretty high. Dr. Shoyinka stated that Ingham County's positivity rate is around 15.4% which is the highest Ingham County has been. Joel stated that there are fewer tools in place as well. Joel further explained that last time numbers were this high Ingham County had a lot of people who were restricted in movement, restaurants were closed etc. Joel noted that Ingham County is seeing cases in younger folks as many of our older folks have been vaccinated. Currently ICHD has been able to vaccinate about 9,000 people per week, but Joel noted that supply continues to be an issue and ICHD could distribute more doses we could receive more vaccine. ICHD is hoping to receive more J&J vaccine and distribute those doses to college students with the goal of getting them vaccinated before they go home. Yesterday was the first day the vaccine was available to anyone 16+ in the State. Joel stated that it is good that more people are eligible but ICHD does have a huge demand. ICHD is currently holding vaccination clinics 5 days a week at the MSU pavilion and are still using the National Guard and staff from Lansing Urgent Care but they have had to pull back and ICHD is looking for vaccinators. The Ingham County Fairgrounds are open on Saturday to distribute Johnson and Johnson. ICHD is also hosting vaccination clinics at Dwight Rich School and ICHD has been successful in reaching people at that location. ICHD has also been doing outreach activities in the community and received an additional 1500 doses towards that effort. To utilize those doses ICHD has partnered with local churches, Peckham and other neighborhood organizations to target the high risk zip codes and were able to push all 1500 doses within the 2 week window. ICHD is still waiting for the vaccination van from Gorno Ford. Our team is going out and doing events without the van but we anticipate delivery this week. ICHD received an additional grant from NACCHO to do community events which goes through July. Joel shared his screen to highlight where Ingham County is with Vaccines. Explain that ICHD has given 70,433 doses. 83,000 folks have received their first dose and of that 83% is seniors. We are at 49% of total goal of the 70% vaccination rate. Joel shared that ICHD helped host a Spanish town hall on the March 31st to answer questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and in hopes of decreasing vaccine hesitancy. There is another panel on the 26th with local pastors, Dr. Shoyinka, the Medical Director of Public Health Services and Dr. Charles, the Medical Director of Ingham Community Health Centers. ICHD continues to work with community groups and have PSAs going out that discuss the importance of vaccines. ICHD is trying to recruit additional contact tracers and continue to bring people on board to support that. Joel shared that ICHD also continues to provide Isolation and Quarantine to those who cannot Isolate and Quarantine. ICHD has also partnered with City of Lansing and were able to go out to some homeless encampments. Michigan State University has allowed some of their full time staff to work at Ingham County vaccination sites and get paid. Garry asked if there is a vaccine waiting period for people who have COVID now or had it a few months ago. Dr. Shoyinka stated that as long as they have finished their quarantine they should get the vaccine. Nino stated that he is impressed with the organization and the number of vaccines that have been distributed. Nino shared that several people have told him that ICHD is doing a great job communicating with the community. Nino stated that they are working hard to support the work of the administration. Nino has been helping people make appointments at Cristo Rey and Dwight Rich and next week he will be working with families who are nervous to receive the vaccine. Nino asked that Linda be congratulated on the work that has already

been done. Joel thanked Nino for the support from the schools. Denise asked about vaccinations in the jail. Joel shared that we have been vaccinating the folks in the jail if they want it.

4. Future Presentation Ideas- Alexander

Alexander stated that Garry is nearly done with this ground water survey and will be giving that presentation to the BOH upon completion. Alexander suggested having a presentation by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission on their assessment of resources and their communication around what services are available for people to use. Alexander stated that he knows someone from that commission and he will contact them regarding a presentation. Alexander noted that an email was received regarding an anti-transgender bill that was introduced and Alexander felt that this should be discussed at the next meeting. The email will be shared with the BOH. Joel asked if it was the bill that was introduced to make kids participate in sport groups making them play on teams based on gender assigned at birth. Garry asked if that was a public health concern and if it should be addressed by this board. Abby stated that it is a mental health concern. Joel stated that it is also an equity concern. Alexander agreed that it would relate to Health in all policies. Nino stated that they would read through the issue and then discuss.

**5. BOC Update- Derrell
Not in attendance.**

6. Racial Equity Taskforce Update- Alexander

Alexander stated that they will be working on contacting individuals who have a more in depth knowledge of research and re-homing projects. They have contacted a professor at MSU and there are deeds where there are stamps saying that they can only sell to whites or this property can be sold to people of color dating from the 1950's. Alexander asked if there were any other comments or concerns. Nino moved for adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 1:01pm

Next Board of Health Meeting: 12:00 pm on Tuesday, May 4, 2021