

**Ingham County Board of Health (BOH)**  
*Ingham County Health Department (ICHD) – Conference Room D/E*  
**Tuesday, April 5, 2022**

**Minutes**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR APRIL:**

**In attendance for meeting:** Denise Chrysler, Barbara Worgess, Garry Rowe, Alexander Woods, Felicia Eshragh, Jenn Granning, Abby Schwartz, A'Lynne Dukes, Linda Vail (virtual), Dr. Adenike Shoyinka (virtual), Brittany Moore (virtual)

**The meeting was called to order at 12:09 pm by Board Chair- Alexander Woods**

**Additions to Agenda:** None

**Limited Public Comment:**

None

**Approval of February Minutes-** February minutes approved with edits.

**Announcements:** Nino asked if the Board of Commissioners receive a copy of the Board of Health (BOH) Agenda and Minutes. A'Lynne explained that Derrell receives the minutes and agenda and he then reports to his colleagues. Nino stated that the Board of Commissioners should be aware of the BOH.

**1. Introductions/Opening Comments – Alexander Woods**

Alexander welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. ICHD Public Health Update- Cristin Larder**

Cristin shared that there were 156 new COVID cases since last week and 4 new deaths since last Tuesday. Cristin shared that there were higher case rates in the Lansing area noting that there were some hot spots on Michigan State University's campus. The State of Michigan has asked that contact tracing efforts shift away from individual cases and focus on congregate settings. Cristin stated that staff are working to fill in the missing demographic data caused by that shift. Cristin shared that there were 84 deaths in December, 81 deaths in January and 17 deaths in March. Cristin explained that unvaccinated individuals have higher COVID-19 case rates than vaccinated individuals. A'Lynne asked if the 65+ population has a higher vaccination rate because the vaccine was given in long term living facilities or offered where they live. Cristin stated that increased vaccination rates for that age group were helped because the 65+ population were one of the first groups who were eligible to receive the vaccine and generally have more contact with providers. A'lynnne asked what direction Ingham County is heading in regards to allowing folks who live in congregate settings to unmask and allow volunteers and families back into buildings. Cristin stated that Linda would be a better resource for that question. Garry asked if Cristin could say if the pandemic is

starting to burn its self out. Cristin stated that it is hard to say due to the new co-variant of the virus. Alexander asked if we are anticipating an increase in cases between April and May like we saw in 2021. Cristin stated that scientists are trying to avoid labeling things as a seasonal virus but COVID-19 is increasing in spread Cristin explained that it depends on the immunity that folks have and whether or not that immunity will protect against the new variant. Nino asked if there is a thought about creating a department regarding future pandemics. Cristin stated that she does not think a new department will be created. The responsibility of the COVID-19 falls under the jurisdiction of Communicable Disease. The CDC foundation has also provided staff to assist with these efforts and they will work with the health department for some time. In terms of preventing the next pandemic or new waves, Cristin stated that she does not have an answer regarding what future response planning looks like. Cristin stated that Anne Barna will be coming on board as a Deputy Health Officer for administration and discussing future pandemic plans will be a priority. Cristin stated that vaccination interest has increased with the announcement that people aged 50+ are eligible for an additional booster. Barbara stated that the presentation was helpful and it might be helpful to have the visual data presented at future meetings. Abby and Denise shared that the Covid-19 information is available on the ICHD website.

### **3. Healthy! Capital Counties- Cristin Larder**

Cristin shared that Healthy! Capital Counties is in its 4<sup>th</sup> cycle and in its 10<sup>th</sup> year. Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties partnered with Sparrow and McLaren hospitals to work together on this project. Cristin explained that quantitative and qualitative data is collected to establish what the priorities are in regards to the community's health. Cristin noted that this process was slightly abbreviated this cycle due to COVID-19. Since January, the focus has pivoted to the CHIP. It is during this process that local partners are reviewed and information is gathered on what projects they are currently working on. From that a list of objectives and measures are compiled around the priority areas. They then look to identify areas that can be improved and determine what new partnerships can be developed to build community capacity.

Cristin stated that the 2021 data can be found at <https://www.healthycapitalcounties.org/>. At the end of last year, after the needs assessment was completed, they brought the partners together and began to prioritize the findings using 4 criteria:

1. How serious the health issue is
2. How much control we have over the health issue
3. What our capacity is to address the issue
4. How catalytic the issue is, does it set off a chain of events that would lead to other health issues

Cristin shared that they determined that Access to Quality Healthcare, Community Safety, Behavioral and Mental health and Safe and Affordable Housing were the highest priorities. Both Access to Quality Healthcare and Behavioral and Mental Health were priorities during the last cycle. Community Safety and Affordable Housing were new priorities, they are currently in the process of bringing those partners together.

Cristin noted that Ingham County experiences higher rates of violence than the average in the State of Michigan.

Cristin explained that Behavioral and Mental Health need is determined by the Behavioral Health Risk factor survey in the capital area. In Ingham County, 1 in 5 adults said they experience poor mental health, Cristin noted that this data is from 2019 which is pre-pandemic. In terms of safe and affordable housing

about 1/3 of Ingham County residents spend more than 30% of their income on their living space which is not much higher than the State of Michigan.

Cristin explained that the CHIP outlines the response to the priority areas identified in the needs assessment. There are many different sectors working on housing and they have been working to develop partnerships in the housing space. A'Lynne asked if they have been including the agencies working with refugees. Cristin stated that they have not pulled those partners into that space yet. Cristin Thanked A'Lynne for the suggestion.

ICHD is working on strengthening community partnerships after the last 2 years being dedicated to the COVID-19 response. It is a very important step to publish and share the CHIP with the community. Cristin stated that there will be another meeting in May to draft goals and objectives and then work will continue with priority partners into the fall when they will generate the final report. Janine Sinno is the point person at ICHD for this project.

Garry stated that a copy of the 2021 data had been shared with the BOH and the data was split into 4 areas. The opportunity measures highlighted income inequality. Garry asked if the biggest factor affecting the community was income inequality. Cristin stated that income is a huge catalyst for other things. She cannot speak to why that was not prioritized other than it is not a very controllable factor for public health.

Denise stated that when you have a priority like housing, you can more easily visualize a solution, further stating that there are a lot of behavioral and mental health opportunities as well. Cristin stated that they want to focus on safe and affordable housing. Garry asked if housing costs need to be lowered and based on income. Cristin stated that there are some subsidized options but she is not sure if the answer is to add more subsidies or not. Garry stated that the Health Department used to inspect mobile home parks and his frustration was that he often had to inspect and fail the properties. Garry explained that these failures would displace the residents. Garry stated that people would generally move into another dilapidated mobile home park.

Abby asked what role Cristin saw for the BOH. Cristin stated that if they are interested in working on any of the 4 priority areas individually that would be something that they could do. Felicia stated that the CHA/CHIP is a 3 year process. Cristin agreed stating that the process is designed to work continuously on improving the community. Felicia stated that the plan will have sub priorities and the BOH can work within that, noting that the action plans could have parts that the BOH could partake in. Garry stated that in the past, the health department would give them projects to work on and they would split into work groups and they are trying to determine what project to focus on for this year. Barbara stated that they are trying to determine what area they should focus on. Barbara stated that there is a lot of data in the CHA, and asked if there is a way the BOH should look at the data to determine what the BOH should focus on. Cristin stated that from what she understands, there are the 17 different areas and then there are the 4 different criteria that the stake holders used to determine the priority areas. The prioritization process determines what the community wanted to work on.

Garry stated that in the past the BOH looked at food deserts and they generated a report regarding that. Garry stated that they could follow up on some of the work that they have already done. Denise suggested that the Racial equity taskforce be moved to the next meeting and be the first item agenda. Denise stated that they might want to discuss NALBOH has its national meeting August 1-3 in Grand Rapids noting that they provide in-services on BOH responsibilities and that should be on the next agenda and determine if ICHD has the budget to send members.

**4. BOC update- Derrell**

Not in attendance

**6. Racial Equity Taskforce Update- Alexander**

Matter not discussed due to time.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm**

**Next Board of Health Meeting: May 3, 2022**