

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

Minutes

ACTION ITEMS FOR MAY:

In attendance for meeting: Jan Bidwell, Denise Chrysler, Dilhara Muthukuda, 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 12:03pm by Board Chair Lynne Stauff.

Additions to Agenda:
Derrell- BOC update

Limited Public Comment:
None

Announcements:

Lynne announced that NALBOH has canceled the 2020 summer/fall conference. They have opted to provide webinars instead for 2020 with the first webinar taking place this week. Lynne stated that they will have the 2021 conference in Grand Rapids, MI.

Molly had a conference call with APHA they will be holding a virtual conference this year. Molly noted that a virtual conference will allow for more attendees. Molly will share registration info with Jenn when she receives it.

1. Introductions/Opening Comments – Lynne

Lynne thanked everyone for their interest in their first virtual meeting and the opportunity to hear from the health department regarding COVID-19. Lynne thanked Linda for her clear messages. Stating that she is the right Health Officer to have during this time. Lynne welcomed Ryan Rowe HESJ coordinator who will be talking about his work with special populations and how COVID-19 is affecting those populations. Linda asked Lynne to also touch base with Debbie regarding special populations noting that Debbie is the lead for that group.

2. COVID-19 Update- Linda Vail

Linda stated that the Health Department is doing lots of things and have been focusing on testing, contact tracing, working with partners, protecting jail populations, refugee populations, researching the virus and trying to incorporate new strategies.

Dilhara asked about challenges that ICHD has seen and if there were some successes that Linda could share. Linda stated that testing and media coverage have been difficult. Linda noted that media coverage has been especially difficult because coverage is slanted in both directions. Linda explained that there are articles that quote studies that have not been peer reviewed. Linda stated that even NPR has had misleading headlines.

Linda stated that antibody testing is challenging because the antibody tests being used have not been tested in a controlled study. Linda explained that the antibody tests have very little meaning to public health. Garry asked how reliable the data regarding deaths and number of cases is. Linda stated that those numbers were reliable. Garry asked how they are collecting that data. Linda stated that it is part of Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS). Linda stated that she felt that the death numbers are accurate. When it comes to testing, that number will improve as we test more people. Linda explained that the guidance has changed as to who can be tested. Linda explained that there was a higher chance that we have undercounted cases more than we have undercounted deaths. Anytime someone has COVID-19, it is considered a related cause of death.

Nino asked if he can sort the data by gender, age and race. Linda stated that he could and shared how to locate ICHD's dashboard and provided an overview on how to use the data. Nino asked if the BOH could have the names of the Special Populations' team. Linda stated that Debbie is leading the Special Populations' team. Lynne stated that she loves the dashboard and encouraged BOH members to explore that data.

Linda stated that we have to look at multiple metrics to determine the data and trends. Linda shared a 7 day incidence curve for Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties. Linda explained that the curve represented data on a 7 day rolling average for cases per day. Linda stated that the last couple of days the State hasn't been reporting so they are expecting a dump of cases shortly. They are doing a lot of testing at Sparrow which as a result has Ingham County in the top for number of tests. Linda explained that you also have to look at the number of tests and compare it to the percent of positive tests per day. Linda shared that we are also collecting data on hospitalizations and how many are in ICU and how many are in the regular hospital noting that fewer of those hospitalized need ventilators, noting that our hospitalization numbers are decreasing. Linda noted that the daily case counts are the ones that are reported that day. Linda explained that the cases are then placed on the incidence curve for the date that the patient had symptom onset or they were referred to the system. Linda noted that in some cases we have seen test results take 14 days.

Derrell asked about guidance for Ingham County companies after the Stay at Home Order ends. Linda stated that we have to wait for the state to release guidance. Once that is released we can implement more precautions if necessary but cannot be more lenient. If the governor does not require employee screening Linda stated that we would implement that. If they don't reduce capacity in restaurants we will do that as well. Linda stated that she expects guidance around bringing people back to the office shortly.

Molly asked about taking a regional response and asked how we were working with Barry-Eaton and Mid-Michigan. Linda stated that regionally it is difficult because our partners are split across regions. The Health Officers meet on a call every day at 2:00pm. Linda noted that as we move forward we will do more collaboration. Linda explained that it is challenging because we have not received any guidance from the State in regards to reopening.

3. Special Populations Group- Ryan Rowe, Debbie

Debbie stated that we have an incident command set up. Joel is the planning chief and we have several things under that. There has been a lot of press around COVID and people who are disproportionately dying. We have been working on the outbreak within the refugee populations and we are looking at doing specific testing and education within that population led by Jessica Yorke. Ryan is working with the black and brown folks around COVID outreach to those populations.

Ryan stated that they are putting together resources and facilitating different teams to do harm reduction in black, brown and indigenous communities. We are looking to move through existing networks to provide accurate information and build trust. Through that communication we are collecting qualitative data on what people need and what the secondary barriers are. Doing that allows us to deepen the work and do additional support. As we move forward, we are looking to partner with as many organizations as we can so that we can amplify what they are doing. We started with the focus in the black community and we formed congregations against COVID-19 which pulled in black church leaders. They are using social media and existing tools to reach their folks. We are

looking at different sectors to make sure that we are covering their individual communities. Ryan stated that Derrell Slaughter and Lynne Stauff are on the Special Populations team. We have folks from SSHS and Ryan is leading the community organizing and outreach efforts.

Ryan stated that they could use help gathering additional leaders especially in the Latinx community and see if we can identify some gaps. Nino stated that he could get Ryan's info to share some names of leaders in the Latinx community. Nino stated that he has several excellent contacts and has special knowledge regarding disparities.

Linda stated that the race prevalence is also showing that the Asian community is also experiencing a disparity. Nickell asked if they had spoken to Healthy Asian Population (HAP) Nickell stated that she can share the contact info. Nickell asked what the BOH can do to be a part of the special populations committee. Debbie asked BOH members to let us know if they were interested in joining Special Populations. Debbie stated that we do have a large Burmese population that has been affected and could reflect some of our Asian numbers as well. Nickell stated that she would like to be a part as did Alexander.

Derrell stated that he appreciates all of the work Debbie and Ryan have done on this. Derrell stated that Representative Sarah Anthony has also been instrumental in this process as has Dr. Renee Canady.

Alexander stated that he read an article that the Gier Center has opened its doors for the homeless population and asked if any other organizations had opened their doors. Debbie stated that our homeless shelters have done an amazing job sheltering in place their people. The Choice Shelter was created with the City of Lansing. It is an open shelter and people can come and go. They send people who can't be welcomed into the shelter until they have had a test. The shelters determined that they have been sheltered for 6 weeks but asked how to test new people coming into the shelters. Debbie stated that she could share that information with Alexander.

Molly asked about how we were supporting older adult needs. Debbie stated that we are working with Tri-County office on aging, noting that we have partners that have done an outstanding job preparing for emergencies in the populations that they serve. Lynne stated that Jenn and Lynne can connect people with Ryan if they are interested.

4. BOC Update- Derrell

Derrell stated that the human services have suspended meeting for the last month or so. They recently had a virtual meeting to approve resolutions. Derrell stated that they have moved to virtual committee meetings and the EO that allows them to do that expires on May 12. Last night's meeting was very short and they are following the HD lead. The Human Services committee authorized from the tax revolving fund to take \$100,000 and give it to the Greater Lansing Food Bank. Nickell asked if commissioners get direct information from the Statewide Special Populations task force. Derrell stated that Dr. Canady is a member of that task force and she is a member on our task force. Derrell stated that he was unsure what that looks like in other counties.

Nino stated that the Lansing school district is doing a great job distributing food to people in the community. They are also providing iPads for education.

Meeting adjourned 12:45 pm

Next Board of Health Meeting: 12:00 pm on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 via ZOOM at the Ingham County Health Department, located at 5303 S. Cedar Street in Lansing.

