

**Ingham County Board of Health (BOH)**  
***Ingham County Health Department (ICHD) – VIA ZOOM***  
**Tuesday, May 4, 2021**

**Minutes**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR MAY:**

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

**The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm by Board Chair- Alexander Woods**

**Additions to Agenda:** None

**Limited Public Comment:**

None

**Approval of April Minutes-** April Minutes approved

**Announcements:** None

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

Alexander welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. ICHD Update- Joel Murr**

Joel shared that ICHD is still focused on vaccinating and have hit a wall in terms of numbers of people who want to be vaccinated and are currently only giving 300-400 people their first doses per day. Most people at the mass vaccination sites are there to receive their second dose. In order to reach more people ICHD is pivoting to do more community based events to capture those who did not want to attend one of the other locations. Joel stated that May 15 will be the last mass vaccination event at the Ingham County Fairgrounds. ICHD finally received the vaccination van and this week ICHD will be focused on vaccinating schools. The schools will be sending busses of students to the MSU Pavilion where they will receive their vaccine. ICHD has also been sending out strike teams to out-county areas and some larger school districts. Lansing Public Schools will be providing school nurses to help vaccinate those folks. It is anticipated that early next week the FDA will approve Pfizer for use on children 12 and up. At that point ICHD will go back to the schools to vaccinate middle school students. ICHD is also using strike teams to reach long-term care facilities. We are also doing outreach to address vaccine hesitancy and trying to do walk-in times and remove barriers to those needing vaccinations. J&J has been reinstated and that works well for international students and college students so that they can be vaccinated before they return home for the summer. ICHD has received another grant that will allow ICHD to do more community events throughout the summer including outreach in the community. Joel stated that Ingham County's positive COVID-19 numbers are dropping slowly. We continue to hope that with folks getting vaccinated and continue to socially distance and mask we will see those numbers drop. Joel explained that Ingham County is currently at about 51-52% vaccinated with a goal of 55% before we can open business again and have folks return to work. Nino thanked Joel for the information. Nino asked Joel about vaccination rates in Eaton and Clinton Counties. Joel stated that Eaton and Clinton have a higher

percentage vaccinated than we do. Barbara stated that John Oliver did a segment on vaccine hesitancy and went through myths regarding vaccines.

Barbara shared that she was watching the Aspen seminar last week and one of the presentations talked about Amplifier.org whose purpose was to create art that speaks to social justice issues. They put out a call for art this year to address vaccinations and other pandemic issues. They take the artwork and make it downloadable and free.

Alexander stated that vaccination has slowed to certain parts of the community. Alexander asked if there is a way to use the van to pass out information to community members to address vaccine hesitancy. Joel shared that the last community based vaccination event that ICHD hosted included staff going door to door. In total they reached about 7,500 folks. Joel shared that ICHD also has a partnership with St. Vincent Catholic Charities and Refugee Development Center to help us reach refugee populations to help distribute information about the vaccine and help folks register for the vaccine. This summer we will be giving money to organizations to enable them to do this type of outreach. It is better to get information from trusted folks as opposed to the government. There is a weekly meeting between ICHD and the advisory group and the faith based community to focus on those efforts. Alexander asked if there is a way to measure how the roll out is going for these communities? Joel shared that the van project and targeted outreach all of the demographic information is tracked and we can compare that to ICHD's other vaccination efforts. Our numbers show that targeted community events have been more successful than mass vaccination sites at reaching these communities. Joel explained that ICHD has to use MCIR to track vaccine information and we are not able to capture as much information as we want but we need to partner with the State of Michigan to change their data collection practices. Garry asked if a people are able to choose which vaccine they receive, for example if someone wants to receive J&J how do they do that. Joel stated that we try to let people know what they will be receiving when they register. Garry asked if ICHD had any information regarding the vaccination passport idea. Joel stated that he has not heard much talk about it in Michigan. Nationally, a company called Clear has been pushing to create a national vaccine passport. For now Joel suggested that folks hang onto their vaccination cards. Denise asked if we still need volunteers for vaccination efforts. Joel stated that we do need volunteers because we are going to move into community events and will need folks to help with registration and door screening. We need volunteers for the rest of the summer and we don't want to lose the energy and willingness to volunteer. Denise will forward volunteer info to BOH. Denise has been reading about vaccine hesitancy and suggested This American \_\_\_\_\_ the first half of the episode addresses abuse of Health Officers. What is the projection for provider offices having access to vaccines. Joel stated that has changed and most providers have the ability to receive vaccine from the State or ICHD. We also send vaccine to Lansing Urgent care and Pharmacies. Most physician groups have access to vaccine.

### **3. SB-218 Legislation- Alexander**

Alexander stated that the BOH had received an email regarding legislation SB-218 which would limit transgender kids from participating in sports of their identified gender. Alexander noted that Garry had sent him an email regarding this legislation and he feels that they need a more professional touch regarding this. Alexander would like to have someone speak on their knowledge regarding transgender issues especially in high schools. Garry asked if everyone had a chance to read what he had shared. Garry stated that he has a lot of mixed feelings regarding this. Garry finds the senate bill narrow and restrictive. Having been involved in sports we have had females want to participate in men's sports and they have been given them an opportunity to participate in that. If this bill passes those types of allowances will not be allowed anymore. In regards to the transgender issues it gets more complicated. Garry stated that NCAA has created policies to address that and it includes testosterone suppression treatment for a year prior to participation. Garry stated that he spoke to some female athletes and they felt that there could be an edge there if they have not underwent any suppression treatment. Garry asked if Alexander wanted to bring someone in with more information on this and maybe someone with another perspective. Alexander agreed that the legislation does not feel fully flushed out. Alexander stated that it should be reconsidered to address more things. Derrell stated that the BOH has a history on weighing in on legislative issues and as they move forward considering some type of response things that this bill addresses things that ICHD

does not have a role in. Derrell recommended taking more time on it and getting some context information regarding this bill and possibly partnering with the EOC. Before discussion goes forward the BOH should determine where the bill is at. Ed stated that politically addressing it would be reaching out to MALPH and their lobby team. It would be helpful to reach out to them and see what efforts they have made to get information to sponsors and committee members. Ed stated that we need to ask the department to see what their information is. Joel stated that he will reach out. Garry asked what leaning MALPH might have on this. Ed stated that they have been fairly progressive on these types of issues. The issue is how do you effectively oppose it given the mindset of the sponsors. Also, to take a look at the overall committee and judge what we could do there. Garry stated that having a bill like this would affect a large amount of students around the state. Garry stated that he would like input from people being affected by this. Ed stated that he would hope that we could reach out the educational community and try to construct a more in depth picture of how this is affecting them. Garry spoke to an educational psychologist about this and when Garry showed her the bill she stated that the state should not be dictating this type of policy and it should be up to the school system. Garry stated that there is a lack of knowledge about the existence of this bill. Alexander stated that they do not have enough information and asked if the BOH wants to tackle this issue. Garry stated that they should get more information before they decide whether or not to take this on as an issue. Garry stated that he wants to hear both sides of the argument. If they do want to do this then they need to gather information. Garry stated that he is willing to take a further look at this, but he cannot imagine this bill passing the way it is written. Garry stated that if the BOH wants to go into this or set up a subcommittee to dig into this. Alexander asked if there was a motion to create a subcommittee to dig into this. Derrell stated that it's more sending information out to folks and asking the person who submitted the request to come and speak about this. Ed stated that a recommendation might be made to the BOC regarding if they want to take a position on this. Derrell stated that he agreed that the BOH could do a resolution but we need to get more information. Derrell stated that he will help draft a letter to oppose this legislation. Alexander stated that this topic would be continued the next meeting.

#### **4. BOH Survey- Alexander**

To be discussed at 6/1/21 meeting.

#### **5. BOC Update-Derrell**

Derrell stated the American rescue plan was passed in March which allocated funds to local governments. Ingham County will receive 27.6 million dollars and will come in 2 waves. The first wave will come this month and the next wave will be in 2022. The BOC has been deliberating the best way to use that money. Businesses have been affected, essential workers have been affected and they are waiting for guidance around those funds. Some of the funds will provide LEAP to administer grants to businesses up to 11 million dollars in grant with a focus on equity and black and brown businesses. They have allocated dollars to hospitality industry and dollars to the convention bureau and lastly funds will be used to create a health facility in ANC. This plan has been in the works for a few years but they are still trying to figure out some budget shortfalls and help cover some lost wages. Garry asked how the county looks budget wise. Derrell shared that they projected a much gloomier budget outcome but things were not as bad but there are still some short comings. We are in a better place than anticipated. These dollars will help fill in some lost revenue dollars. There have not been any recommended cut backs.

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

The consultants will be conducting listening sessions and listening session subcommittees to get more information to help inform the work they will do. That report will be received later this month.

Garry asked if Alexander can forward the email regarding Legislation 218 to staff.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:01pm**

**Next Board of Health Meeting:** 12:00 pm on Tuesday, June 1, 2021