

**Ingham County Board of Health (BOH)**  
*Ingham County Health Department (ICHD) – Conference Room D/E*  
**Tuesday, July 6, 2021**

**Minutes**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR JULY:**

**In attendance for meeting:** Denise Chrysler, Ed Dore, Barbara Worgess, Jenn Granning, Joel Murr, Garry Rowe, Abby Schwartz, Alexander Woods, A'Lynne Dukes, Heather Dover

**The meeting was called to order at 12:06pm by Board Chair- Alexander Woods**

**Additions to Agenda:** None

**Limited Public Comment:**

None

**Approval of June Minutes-** June Minutes approved

**Announcements:** None

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

Alexander welcomed everyone to the meeting

**2. New Member Introductions**

A'Lynne and Heather introduced themselves to the BOH.

**3. ICHD Update-Joel Murr- Deputy Health Officer**

Joel stated that Ingham County's COVID-19 numbers have been improving and there were 0 new cases reported this week. Ingham County's percent positive rate is currently 2-5%. Joel stated that people are still getting vaccinated, but not as rapidly as the initial push. Currently, Michigan has a 61% vaccination rate and Ingham County is at 57.62%, Eaton County is reporting 57.9% vaccination rate and Clinton County is reporting a 60.69% vaccination rate. Joel explained that more affluent counties have been seeing larger percentages of vaccinations.

Currently, Ingham County has one confirmed case of the Delta variant. A'Lynne asked how recent that case was. Joel shared that the case was reported at the end of June. As of last Thursday, Ingham County did not have any active outbreaks. ICHD is continuing to push people to get vaccinated and the State of Michigan has rolled out there Michigan Shot to Win lottery. Joel explained that ICHD does not know if that means people have been vaccinated are registering for the lottery or if it is reaching people who weren't going to get vaccinated. Meijer and United Way are providing the funds for the lottery.

ICHD has closed down the mass vaccination sites and have started prioritizing the COVID-19 vaccination van to host COVID-19 vaccination events at churches and other areas in the community. Joel stated that ICHD is averaging 9-10 vaccination events a week. ICHD has also been using the van to go to out-county locations as well. A'Lynne asked how people reach out to express interest in holding a vaccination event. Joel explained that people are reaching out to ICHD to have events and there is a focus on the BiPOC population.

A'Lynne asked about vaccinations in the homeless community, Joel explained that we have partnerships with our area homeless shelters and encampments. ICHD has partnered with the Ingham County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to help vaccinate people out in the community. Denise asked about using Johnson and Johnson in the homeless community. Joel stated that when people are exiting ICHD's Isolation and Quarantine program they are connected with a Public Health Nurse in regards to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine and then connected with a care provider to receive their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. Denise asked about breakthrough cases of COVID-19 Joel stated that the State of Michigan monitors the breakthrough cases. Denise asked if the effectiveness of the vaccine is holding at 90%. Joel confirmed it is holding and remains effective against the Delta variant.

Garry asked if there is still hesitancy about the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine. Joel stated that ICHD has encountered people with varying opinions about the J&J vaccine. Joel explained that some people only want the J&J vaccine and others specifically do not want to receive the J&J vaccine. Joel explained that some younger folks in the 12-17 age group had some side effects associated with the J&J vaccine. The CDC is reviewing those cases and working to determine the safety of the J&J vaccine. Any COVID-19 vaccine related incidents are reported up to the federal government. Joel stated that ICHD mostly has the Pfizer vaccine. If people have concerns about which vaccine to receive ICHD encourages people to speak to their provider.

Alexander asked if there are currently any other COVID-19 variants in Lansing or if the focus is on the Delta variant. Joel explained that as people remain unvaccinated the chances of additional variants popping up increases. Alexander asked if there is any extra planning regarding the Delta variant. Joel explained that the Delta variant does not change our approach. Joel explained that MIOSHA and CDC guidelines still require masks in some settings. Everywhere else, mask requirements have been rescinded. Alexander stated that he has noticed that the number younger people receiving the vaccine has slowed down.

Alexander asked if most people show up for their second shot. Joel shared that 91-92% of people receive their second shot. A'Lynne asked if we have any aggregate data for which age groups have been the most successful receiving the vaccine. Joel stated that younger people are the least likely to be vaccinated. Joel stated that ICHD is trying to partner with back to school events, vision and hearing events and other vaccination events to offer the COVID-19 vaccine. Denise asked if we have vaccinators at the back to school events. Joel stated that the COVID-19 vaccination van has been attending those events. Abby asked if the percent vaccinated represented 12+. Joel explained that the State of Michigan has not adjusted their metrics yet so the numbers still only represent 16+. Joel explained that there is a dashboard that will go live in the next month, it will show geographically where people are vaccinated and where they are not and can be sorted by census track.

Barbara announced that the East Lansing art fair will be in August and noted that it would be good to have vaccinations at that event. Barbara shared a book called "The Premonition: A Pandemic Story" by Michael Lewis.

Joel asked if the BOH would like to have an orientation for the new BOH members. It was agreed that August or September would be a good time for that. Denise stated that she would present on public health law and public health powers.

#### **4. BOH Meeting Frequency- Alexander**

Alexander stated that he spoke to Derrell about having an additional BOH meeting every month. The second meeting would be used to help organize BOH efforts. Denise stated that once her travel starts kicking in it would be difficult to attend two meetings a month. It was discussed about having a hybrid meeting. A'Lynne shared that if people join virtually, they would be unable to vote. Denise asked why they needed a second meeting. Joel stated that typically the BOH has met 10 times a year with January and July being cancelled. A'Lynne asked if the work is getting done or if the BOH would just be adding a meeting for meeting's sake. Ed stated that he did not feel that that the BOH has enough work to warrant a second meeting. Alexander stated that he is not really in support of meeting more than once a month.

Alexander stated that ICHD needs to provide more information as to what they need assistance with. Garry stated that they used to vote on which concerns they wanted to address at the beginning of the year and BOH members were then assigned to a project. Garry explained that the Sub-committees would meet more than once a month to work on their assigned project.

Alexander stated that they had the meeting at Lynne's and with members leaving and the pandemic happening stopped that work. Barbara stated that she had attended a lot of BOH meetings. They met once a month but the meetings were longer. They prepared reports from each of the units so that the BOH was more aware of what was happening in the department. Barbara stated that she does not have a clue what is happening in the ICHD but would like something in writing about what is going on and they would like a report about legislation that they should be aware of. Barbara stated that the BOH can be helpful in those areas. Garry stated that when they had Sub-committees they would meet with an ICHD staff person to discuss those issues and division updates. Barbara stated that she thought they could be more valuable if they knew more about ICHD operations. Denise suggested that the BOH continue meeting once a month and have special meetings as needed. Alexander stated that it is imperative to have this orientation. A'Lynne asked Garry if it was truly a sub-committee or more like a liaison between the departments. Garry stated that it was a hybrid situation. One of his projects involved food deserts and the committee partnered with Environmental Health to do some GIS mapping. Garry stated that it was 2 people per committee but they would generate reports and share updates on what they had learned at the BOH meetings. Joel stated that folks would sometimes meet 30 min before the scheduled meeting to discuss and meet with their committees. Alexander stated that once they determine a time for the orientation in September or October, they can focus on breaking into committees and determine where they need to be at to do the work with the goal of having committees by November. Garry asked if they could get more information from departments to determine what to focus on. Joel stated that ICHD will be resuming work on the strategic plan and it could be a good time to align the two. There are areas of concern that ICHD can share out and that could be a starting point to illustrate our strategic direction. Alexander shared that there was a lot of money being sent places and Alexander stated it would be good to ask how that money is being broken down and where that money is going into the community.

**5. SB-218 Legislation Update-**

Alexander stated that SB-218 does not look like it's going anywhere but would like more information. Alexander further stated that he will continue monitor it just in case it suddenly moves forward. Ed stated that he shared an article with the BOH and he has seen several other states also discussing this issue. Ed explained that the national conservative organizations are pushing this type of legislation in 11 states. Ed stated that he is concerned that SB-218 could come to life in a hurry. Ed stated that if an opinion regarding SB-218 needs to be drafted the BOH needs to be ready. Garry stated that he was hoping Nino would bring in some coaches to share their opinions about this legislation. Abby stated that it would be nice to have that information mid-month as opposed to at the next meeting. Denise stated that there is a fact sheet regarding what kind of advocacy BOHs can do and suggested that they should talk about unlock Michigan and advocacy at the BOH orientation. Denise stated that the "Unlock Michigan" bill would limit the Health Officer's power after 28 days. Ed stated that he is not suggesting that it is the BOH who needs to take action, but would suggest sending a recommendation to the BOC. Ed agreed with Denise that public health is getting more complicated.

**6. BOC Update- Derrell**

Not in attendance.

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

The last meeting was cancelled due to people not being able to attend. The Communications Committee is trying to develop a work portal/education tool where people can learn about the black community. They were going to contact Michigan works and Fox 47 to help broadcast that information. They are also working with Jordan Davis from the Capital Area IT Council in hopes that this initiative will help folks build resumes and find employment.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:04pm**

**Next Board of Health Meeting:** 12:00 pm on Tuesday, August 3, 2021