

**Ingham County Board of Health (BOH)**  
***Ingham County Health Department (ICHD) – VIA ZOOM***  
**Tuesday, August 4, 2020**

**Minutes**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR AUGUST: Dilhara to share links with Jenn, Jenn to share with BOH**

**In attendance for meeting:** Denise Chrysler, Dilhara Muthukuda, Debbie Edokpolo, Jenn Granning, Molly Poleverento, Nino Rodriguez, Garry Rowe, Abby Schwartz, Derrell Slaughter, Lynne Stauff, Alexander Woods

**The meeting was called to order at 12:02 by Board Chair Lynne Stauff.**

**Additions to Agenda:** August agenda approved

**Limited Public Comment:**

None

**Approval of July Minutes-** July minutes approved as written

**Announcements:**

- Garry stated the Drinking Water Survey team is working on the final 2 townships for the county, White Oak and Stockbridge. The lab was previously closed and they did not have access which resulted in delays. They hope to complete sampling by September and have a complete report by February. The Ground Water management Board at the TriCounty Regional Planning office wants to extend the project into Eaton and Clinton counties. The project has gained a lot of attention, particularly at the Water Quality Association and they are thinking about funding the project in both Eaton and Clinton counties. Garry explained that the townships set up the appointments and then when they are doing the testing they utilize the outdoor tap.
- Dilhara stated that she has been working on a group called Public Health Awakened. It started shortly after the presidential election. It was a national network of Public Health professionals as a way to organize around HESJ in public health. Dilhara has been participating with the Michigan chapter. Dilhara will share the resources that they have developed with the BOH. Dilhara stated that they have developed a one pager on divesting police funding and investing the funds into public health. They have also created a handout about how important it is to elect public prosecutors and how it relates to public health.
- Lynne reminded everyone to vote in the August primary election.

**1. Introductions/Opening Comments – Lynne**

Molly stated that this is the final year of her 4<sup>th</sup> term. BOH will need to find a new member. Nino thanked Molly for all of her service and her ideas and handling of issues. Nino stated that he will be applying to renew his BOH membership. Denise stated that the person who replaces Molly will have large shoes to fill. Lynne thanked Molly for being a wonderful leader and collaborator. Lynne stated that she would welcome any applicants that Molly

could suggest. Nino stated that Molly brought the BOH into the future. Derrell thanked Molly for all of her help and support.

## 2. COVID-19 Update- Debbie Edokpolo & Dr. Shoyinka

Debbie shared that Ingham County has 1436 cases in Ingham County, with 30 deaths and 2 people are currently hospitalized, with 343 outpatient cases. Ingham County has 1061 people who have recovered and has a 2.4% mortality rate. Debbie noted that Communicable Disease (CD) is currently monitoring 74 cases and the TraceForce initiative is monitoring 412 cases. Debbie shared that Ingham County has some minor outbreaks and some of which will be closing soon. Most recently, ICHD's COVID response has been focused around school reopening and determining how we can work with the area schools. Debbie has been meeting with school administrators as a consultant. She is hoping to have a meeting with the Ingham County Administrators to answer questions with Linda and Dr. Shoyinka. Debbie announced that ICHD is working with MSU to develop plans for when students return to campus. Debbie shared that Anne Scott Deputy Health Officer and Executive Director of the Community Health Centers (CHC) has resigned her position effective July 24, noting that Joel Murr will serve as the interim for that position. Debbie announced that the CHCs hired Dr. Charles as the new CHC medical director. Dr. Shoyinka stated that we are continuing to respond to COVID noting that ICHD is getting more support and resources for that response and we are getting a better idea as to how to structure things. ICHD is looking for additional resources to help build additional capacity. Dr. Shoyinka stated that testing is continuing and as schools resume at different levels, we are trying to make sure everyone is prepared.

Nino asked if ICHD receives reports from Sparrow regarding their testing results. Nino asked how the testing is going or if we need to do more. Dr. Shoyinka stated that it has been an ebb and flow thing. Sparrow has been a leader in terms of testing capacity and starting up testing sites but they are strained right now noting that the Harper's outbreak stressed their capacity. They are also receiving limited supplies and some of the testing is being done manually. They have been hiring people to try and catch up. Sparrow has been averaging 1500-2000 tests/day depending on the daily surge. Sparrow was able to provide test results within 24 hours but now results are taking about 48 hours. We have people driving in from Grand Rapids to have tests done because they could not find testing sites elsewhere.

Nino asked about testing in minority populations. Debbie stated that we do keep records on those who we test. One thing we realized is that we had to ask people about ethnicity and race differently. We had to make sure to ask what people's ethnicity is so that we can capture how folks identify themselves. We have a lot of people getting tested and sometimes those demographics have not been captured. We have prioritized the collection of that data.

Molly asked if we are looking at ways to promote the Flu vaccine. Debbie stated that we have been talking with Wendy Ridenour, Immunizations Supervisor, and trying to increase our vaccination rates. Generally, we are talking about how we can increase vaccination rates. The Flu vaccine is a part of that conversation. Debbie explained that the Immunization clinic was closed until May and people are still hesitant to come in. Dr. Shoyinka stated that this problem is not unique to Ingham County and since we have reopened the Immunization clinic our numbers have been improving. In regards to the Flu vaccine we are having a lot of discussions on how to include that. The CDC just released a test that would test for COVID and Flu. As we move into the flu season, as we have testing events we will be looking at how to include both vaccines in that event. We are still working on the structure.

Garry stated that he is working with graduate students in the engineering department and asked if there was any guidance available for people whose jobs involve fieldwork. Dr. Shoyinka asked Garry what that fieldwork looks like, stating that over all ICHD has been working with MSU leadership to determine what that would look like broadly. MSU is looking at how to do surveillance and contact tracing. There is a new program that will collect saliva to detect early infection. Dr. Shoyinka stated that we are happy to guide those conversations. Dr. Shoyinka stated that people can be directed to her if they have questions.

Lynne asked Dr. Shoyinka for the COVID positivity rate. Dr. Shoyinka stated that it is currently about 2%. Lynne asked if that was lower than the rest of the State. Dr. Shoyinka stated that we are in the middle and are about the same as Washtenaw, things rise a bit as you move up North, but their numbers are not as high as ours.

Denise stated that she is feeling despair around COVID. Dr. Shoyinka stated that we have a lot of personal responsibility. She stated that we have good answers when we do our individual part. Public Health measures work. Political factors can impact that, but if we can do these things individually it can have a positive effect. We have to amplify our own messages of positivity and responsibility. Debbie stated that Thomas Fuller stated that “It’s always darkest before the dawn.” and Francis Bacon stated that “In order for the light to shine so brightly the darkness must be present.” Debbie thanked everyone for being the light. Debbie stated that we have a great Health Officer who builds upon those relationships and she hopes that as we collectively work together we will see the change that we are hoping to see.

Derrell stated that Linda and the Health Department are doing a great job. He asked how we have been working with all of the municipalities outside of Ingham County in terms of coordinating efforts. Debbie stated that these efforts continue to be a big task and it continues to be a delicate balance trying to weigh out what is good for the economy and COVID. We are working on our relationships to ensure we are on the same page.

Molly thanked Debbie and Linda for all of their work with the schools.

### **3. BOC Update- Derrell**

Derrell announced that the RFP went out for the consultant to support the taskforce and that will be open for the next 2 weeks. Derrell will share the link with Jenn for people to share out. The taskforce is still on track to have their first meeting at the end of September or beginning of October. There is a new Policy Analyst position created to do research into deeper policies. Their top priority will be to provide staff support. Adrianna Leo and Ryan Rowe will be working on this. Derrell announced that this is a budgetary month and they will be meeting with all of the department heads to discuss the budget. The Controller will then make their recommendation. There will be a lot of tough decisions but they are not alone in this.

Derrell announced that the new Controller will start August 17. Derrell will be meeting with him on Friday to discuss his ideas for the county. They are still meeting virtually in alignment with the Governor’s Executive order.

Alexander asked what the requirements are for the **social justice taskforce**. Derrell stated that in the resolution, taskforce members must be a resident of Ingham County. The description will lay out the details. Derrell shared that of 21 members 15 are voting and 6 are non-voting members, 3 positions will be represented by: the board chair, a representative from the Humans Services Committee, and an Ingham County staff person. The remaining 12 spots are open to the public. Non-voting member positions are saved for a BOH representative, an Equal Opportunity Committee member, Woman’s Commission member, HIAP committee, and one more. The description will be sent out ASAP. Lynne stated that we want to vote on a member next month to meet Derrell’s timeline. The taskforce meetings will be open for the public.

Lynne asked about the new declaration regarding Climate Change as a Public Health Crisis. Derrell explained that was an initiative that a colleague of Derrell’s created. This was a resolution submitted by Commissioner Thomas Morgan. Derrell stated that he supports this effort and explained that it does not undermine the work that they had done regarding Racism as a Public Health Crisis noting that these issues go hand in hand. People of color are impacted by climate change and they are more susceptible to climate change. Lynne asked if they would also have a task force. Derrell stated he wasn’t sure if there would be noting that Commissioner Morgan had taken point on that initiative. Derrell stated that he will share information as it becomes available. Derrell announced that he had a conversation with Kelsey Murry who is the head of the East Lansing Human Rights Committee. Derrell stated that he will forward the BOH some information to support on how to support some of their work.

### **4. Next steps for BOH re: Racism as a Public Health Crisis – Open discussion**

Lynne stated that she wanted to have a discussion on how to support the taskforce and asked to table the discussion until the September meeting when more information is available.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:57pm**

**Next Board of Health Meeting:** 12:00 pm on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 via ZOOM.