

MINUTES AND MEMORANDA
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

March 18, 2020
Regular Meeting

Present at the Meeting:

Heidi Beidinger-Burnett, Ph.D., MPH	President
Jason Marker, MD.	Vice President - Zoom
Emily Dean	Member - Zoom
Ilana T. Kirsch, M.D., FACOG	Member - Zoom
Michelle Migliore, M.D.	Member - Zoom
Amy Murray, MSN, RNC	Member – Zoom
John Linn	Member - Zoom

Also Present at the Meeting:

Robert M. Einterz, M.D.	Health Officer
Mark Fox, M.D., PhD, MPH	Deputy Health Officer
Jennifer S. Parcell	Executive Administrative Asst
Robin Vida	Director Health Outreach, Promotion and Education
Brett Davis	Asst. Director Environmental Health
Carolyn Smith	Director, Food Services - Zoom
Christine Hinz	Director of Nursing – Zoom
Karen Flannigan	Asst Director Food Services – Zoom
Tiffany Salameh	ABC 57 News – Zoom
Mary Beth Spalding	South Bend Tribune - Zoom
J. David Keckley	Attorney for Department of Health

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Dr. Beidinger-Burnett called the March 18, 2020 Regular Board of Health Meeting to Order at 4:31 p.m. The meeting was held at the IU School of Medicine, Harper Hall, in order to permit board members, staff and media representatives to participate via Zoom. Necessary precautions and directives were recognized as it relates to the number of persons present for the meeting and social distancing.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On motion made by Emily Dean, seconded by John Linn, and unanimously approved, the agenda for the March 18, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was adopted as presented.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion made by Dr. Kirsch, seconded by Emily Dean, and unanimously approved, the Minutes of the February 19, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health were approved as presented.

IV. BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENT: Department of Health Response to COVID-19

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett thanked Dr. Fox, Dr. Einterz, and the Department of Health staff for their leadership and response to the seriousness and uncertainty of this crisis. She noted that staff members Robin Vida, Christine Hinz, Nancy Pemberton and Paul Burrows have been working overtime to communicate and provide information to the community. Both she and board member John Linn have received positive feedback from St. Joseph County citizens.

V. HEALTH OFFICER PRESENTATION AND REPORT

20-11 COVID-19 Update

The press release prepared for today noted the County's total number of confirmed cases at 3. None of the individuals have required hospitalization, and they are recovering. Those that have been tested for the virus are recommended to remain in self-isolation until test results are back and they are no longer experiencing any symptoms.

Dr. Einterz and Dr. Fox invited questions from board members and spent the next hour answering those questions and concerns. The topics included:

- Results of testing – currently 3-5 day turnaround time but anticipate reducing that time as newer testing becomes available.
- Personal protective equipment supply – working with ISDH to revise guidelines and increase supplies.
- Contact tracing – as numbers increase it will be difficult to keep up – best advice to seek a test if have symptoms and self-quarantine until have results.
- Testing locations – the hospitals and South Bend Clinic have protocol in place – locations not made public – need referral from primary care physician or call 211 to seek referral.
- Number of tests outstanding – 124 results as of last Thursday with 3 positive - - waiting results from 600 tests.
- Recommendation to close churches and schools discussed.
- Social, mental, economic and health consequences related to the closing of businesses, churches and schools discussed.
- Concerns regarding the productivity and compacity of health care workers to respond to the number of people that may need hospitalization discussed – the Department of Health is participating as a unified command with the hospitals and clinics preparing for the possibilities that additional temporary facilities will have to be opened and staffed to meet the need. The uncertainty of that need is at issue at this time.

20-12 Discussion and Vote on February 2020 Health Officer's Report

Board Members acknowledge that they received and reviewed the report. The only revision necessary was to correct the couple of words in Spanish that were misspelled as noted by Dr. Kirsch. On motion made by Dr. Marker, seconded by Emily Dean, and unanimously adopted, the February 2020 Health Officer's Report was approved.

VI. DEPUTY HEATH OFFICER PRESENTATION

20-13 2019 Department of Health Annual Report

Board Members reviewed and approved the draft copy as presented by Dr. Fox. The Board also provided approval for Dr. Fox to complete the final editing, prepare the appendix and cover letter. This will be completed by April 1st and forwarded to ISDH as required. The Report references the increased productivity of the Department of Health, the stability of staff, increased inspections for food services and increased lead risk assessments. A motion to approve the Annual Report was made by Dr. Marker, seconded by Dr. Kirsch and unanimously adopted.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

20-14 COVID-19

This topic has been discussed.

20-15 Board of Health Goals and Discussion

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett led a discussion among Board Members regarding a timeline and framework to identify and implement Board of Health goals and objectives. This will include prioritizing health care needs of the community, ability to partner with other health care providers, identify the availability of resources needed to achieve the goals and the method to accomplish this task.

Board Members were encouraged to send to Dr. Beidinger-Burnett their respective points of emphasis that should be included in this project.

Past community needs assessments prepared by the hospitals should be reviewed and consideration should be given to a unified approach in recognizing the areas that need to be addressed and improved.

It was the consensus of the Board that a meeting should be held after the initial input is received by Dr. Beidinger-Burnett and an agenda can be prepared for the meeting.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS.

19-48 District 2 Harm Reduction Strategies to Reduce HIV Outbreak Risk and Relationship to Opioid Epidemic Update

Dr. Marker and Dr. Einterz are collaborating to determine how best to continue the efforts to coordinate among the nine (9) Boards of Health in the District 2 area the endeavor to implement a needle exchange program. Efforts will continue.

20-04 Establishment of a SJCDoH 501©3 Update

Dr. Einterz continues to work on a draft version of by-laws and articles of incorporation necessary for the implementation of a not-for-profit entity associated with the Department of Health.

20-08 Water Resources Advisory Board Update

John Linn continues to work with Mark Espich, Environmental Division Director, to staff and schedule a meeting for the Water Resources Advisory Board and the On-site Wastewater Advisory Board. Mr. Linn provided a handout to Board Members containing information regarding the history of these boards, their duties and membership.

Board Members were invited to make recommendations for referral to the appointing authorities as efforts continue to staff the boards. Dr. Beidinger-Burnett indicated she may have recommendations and will submit them to Mr. Linn.

The goal is to staff and schedule a meeting of these boards by August. Mr. Linn will continue his efforts to reconvene these boards.

IX. BOARD NOTIFICATIONS:

There were no Board notifications at this meeting.

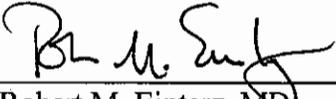
X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment at this meeting.

XI. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

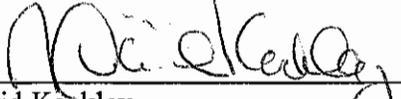
The next regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Board of Health is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2020, at 4:30 p.m., at the St. Joseph County Department of Health, 8th Floor Board Room.

ATTEST:



Robert M. Einterz, MD
Health Officer, St. Joseph County

Respectfully submitted,



J. David Keckley
Attorney for St Joseph County Board of
Health