

MINUTES AND MEMORANDA
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

January 9, 2019
Regular Meeting

Present at the Meeting:

Dale Deardorff, M.D.	President
Heidi Beidinger-Burnett, PhD., MPH	Vice President
John Linn	Member
Jason Marker, M.D.	Member
Emily Dean	Member

Also Present at the Meeting:

Dr. Luis Galup	Health Officer
Mark Fox, M.D.	Deputy Health Officer
Elizabeth McCue	Epidemiologist
Robin Vida	Health Education Director
Brett Davis	Environmental
Mark Espich	Environmental Asst. Director
J. David Keckley	Attorney for Health Department

I. AGENDA AND MINUTES:

On motion made by John Linn, seconded by Dr. Marker, and unanimously approved, the agenda for the January 9, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Health Board was adopted.

On motion made by John Linn, seconded by Dr. Marker, and unanimously approved, the Minutes of the December 12, 2018 regular meeting of the Board were approved.

Presentation regarding Opioid Overdoses in St. Joseph County by Betsy McCue, Epidemiologist of the Health Department.

Betsy McCue explained that the Health Department has received a \$20,000 grant to be utilized in the preparation of an opioid overdose plan. She presented a power-point presentation which contained the following information: The source of the funding is the Indiana State Department of Health and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; to increase individuals entering recovery, to increase awareness about opioid and addiction, and to develop a comprehensive overdose response plan; to decrease overdose deaths, decrease "near-death" overdoses reporting to emergency rooms and to better understand addictions and ways to address it; reviewed graphs showing the increase in overdose deaths in St. Joseph County from 41 in 2011 increasing to 69 in 2017; and showing the type of drugs causing a particular death.

Between now and August, 2019, she will be involved in activities to include: “ESSENCE surveillance; overdose response plan development meetings; trainings for stakeholders; preparing a cohesive mass education message about addiction and the opioid crises; and table-top exercise development and implementation.

Board Members thanked Betsy for her presentation.

II. HEALTH OFFICER ORAL REPORT

1. Food Inspections of Acute Care Hospitals.

All hospital food business regardless of whether owned or operated by the hospital will now fall under the jurisdiction of the St. Joseph County Health Department. We anticipate at least one, but no more than two, inspections annually. Since hospital patients are uniquely dependent on the ability of the hospital to prepare and serve food, our Food Services Division will take special care with regards to using enforcement and compliance policies as part of the inspection process. In the event of a violation, we will give the matter our highest priority to quickly resolve and remedy the situation. Hospitals are considered to be Menu Type 4 facilities and are exempt under the “certification of Food Handlers rule, 410 IAC 7-22-15(i).”

2. Vehicle Lease Program.

We continue to follow the Public Purchasing Rules to seek bids for the lease of 12 compact vehicles and two pick-up trucks. The request for bids was published in the Mishawaka Enterprise newspaper and also posted in the St. Joseph County Procurement web page. Only one bid was timely received and will be opened at the next Commissioners’ meeting on January 15th.

3. Influenza.

Although Indiana is reporting high activity, locally we cannot confirm this. We will continue to attempt to obtain information regarding the nature and extent of influenza cases in St. Joseph County.

4. Tuberculosis.

Our local hospitals continue to be concerned about the large number of cases during 2018. Memorial Hospital was interested in learning how to implement Emergency Detention Orders when they have not finished a patient’s evaluation. St. Joseph Medical Center was interested in learning the process of releasing patients for home isolation. Additional meetings are anticipated in the future regarding these issues.

5. Suicides.

Board Members were provided materials to address suicide rates between 2013 and 2018. Various categories were included. This is a serious issue and deserving of the Board's attention.

6. Vacancies.

Our Executive Secretary Mary Rooney, will retire February 11, 2019. Her position will be replaced in mid-March. Board Members are invited to submit their expectations regarding the duties and responsibilities for this position so that her replacement might be appropriately recruited.

Environmental Health Director, Linda Mauller, has submitted her letter of retirement, effective January 31, 2019. Her position will also be replaced mid-March.

7. Water Resources Advisory Board.

An organizational meeting was held with Board Member John Linn in order to begin the process of reactivating this Board.

III. DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER ORAL REPORT:

1. Lead Initiative.

Board Members received a revised, streamlined report seeking to distill a considerable amount of data into a useable information format. Of special note:

- YTD (11/20/18 tests total 4,159 compared to 4,241 as of 11/30/17), down 2%.
- Of 404 duplicated tests, 150 returned as "no result". Dr. Fox is working with ISDH to understand the implications of this status and to determine opportunities for quality and process improvement.
- This report reflects 30 elevated tests. Dr. Fox is working to match these to manifests received. Staff is in the process of changing the work flow of how manifests are received in order to ensure prompt, timely attention.

A second school-based testing event is to be tomorrow evening at Madison STEAM Academy. This represents a larger student body (125 students per grade), for phlebotomists from SBMF, and the school has committed staff to assist with registration. SJCHD will focus on educational messaging. The focus will be to encourage testing of children ages one to six, and this is not restricted to children attending school. Also, Dr. Fox has prepared a parental consent authorizing parents to received "NORMAL" lead results by non-secure means.

A lead grant request is to be submitted to ISDH next week focused on increasing testing in children under three years of age in high risk areas through collaboration with community partners, and increased education and process improvement with provider offices.

There is a potential need for additional environmental health staff as the city of South Bend HUD grant commences in operation. Since there is required lead time for a staff member to obtain qualification, the Health Department should insure there will be adequate staff to meet the need.

2. Immunizations.

Dr. Fox noted that there has been an improvement in staffing such that plans are in the work to increase hours to improve access to these services. Options include re-opening in Mishawaka during certain days of the week; extending hours into the evening; and exploring other collaborations. Staff is also exploring the feasibility of credit card payments for private stock (purchased vaccine) as well as insurance billing for private stock.

3. Wabash Global Health Initiative Summer Internship.

Dr. Fox anticipates applications for two summer internship positions from students in the Wabash Global Health Initiative.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

19-01 **Discussion and Vote on November, 2018 Health Officer's Report.**

The Health Officer's Report was reviewed by Board Members. Dr. Galup added that Environmental Health Staff Member, Mark Espich, will participate in the reactivation of the 16-member Water Resource Advisory Board. Board Member John Linn is helping to initiate this project. On motion made by Dr. Marker, seconded by John Linn, and unanimously adopted, the November, 2018 Health Officer's Report was approved.

19-02 **Board of Health Orientation for New Members.**

Dr. Deardorff reported that Mayor Buttigieg has appointed a new Board Member to fill the current vacancy in order to replace Dr. Davis but that there has been no official notification.

A orientation work session for both new and current Board Members has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, at 5:30 p.m. Attorney Keckley will distribute reference materials and answer questions regarding the Board's duties and responsibilities.

Dr. Deardorff and Vice-President Heidi Beidinger-Burnett will meet in order to establish committee assignments for the Board's Personnel Committee, Finance Committee and Appeals Committee.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

18-08 Update on Status of Board of Health Appointment.

This matter has been discussed above.

VI. BOARD NOTIFICATIONS:

1. Hirings.

The Board acknowledged the hiring of David Ekkens and Josiah Hartman for Environmental Health Services positions; Jessica Dilling for Environmental Administrative Assistant; and Carla Dawson, Immunization Nurse.

2. Resignations.

The Board acknowledge the resignation of Kirsten Zalas as Health Educator.

3. Retirements.

The Board acknowledge the retirement of Linda Mauller, Environmental Health Director and Mary Rooney, Executive Administrative Assistant.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Debra Duvall, a local resident, questioned whether any Board Members were involved in the economic development initiatives occurring in the county. There are no Board members involved in these activities. It was noted, however, that Board member John Linn is a member of the County Drainage Board.

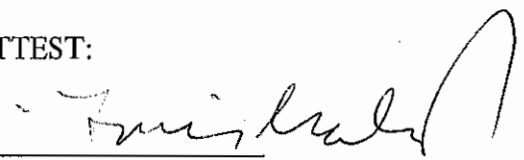
Ms. Duvall encouraged the Board to continue the work to test children for lead poisoning and provide case management and remedial services. She is concerned that there is a correlation between lead poisoning in a child's academic performance and/or special education needs.

Environmental Health Assistant Director Mark Espich reported that of the thirteen vehicles available to staff members only six are currently operable. Many vehicles need substantial repairs. There is hope that the lease arrangement for new vehicles can be accomplished soon.

VIII. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

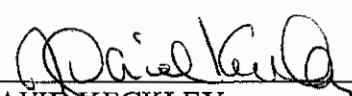
The next regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Health Board is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., at the St. Joseph County Health Department, 8th Floor Board Room.

ATTEST:



Dr. Luis N. Galup
St. Joseph County Health Officer

Respectfully submitted,



J. DAVID KECKLEY
Attorney for St. Joseph County Health Board