

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EXECUTIVE BOARD
July 10, 2024

The in-person and virtual (Microsoft Teams) meeting of the Executive Board of the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) was called to order at 10:32 am in the Robert O. Yoho Executive Board Room of the IDOH building by Dr. Stephen Tharp, Chairperson. The following Board members were present for all or part of the meeting:

Amelia Clark, DrPH, MA
Brenda Goff, HFA
Joanne Martin, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Rex McKinney, FACHE (virtual)
Suellyn Sorensen, PharmD, BCPS
Armando Soto Rojas, DDS
Matthew Sprunger, MD (virtual)
Dan Cutshaw, PE
Stephen Tharp, MD (Chair)
Troy Weirick, MD
Lindsay Weaver, MD, FACEP (Secretary)

Those not able to attend:

Robin Marks, DVM, JD
Holly Robinson, MD

The following staff members were present for all or part of the meeting (in-person or via teams):

Guy Crowder, MD, MPHTM, Chief Medical Officer
Jon Ferguson, Director, Interim Deputy Chief of Staff
Pam Pontones, Assistant Commissioner of Local Health Services
Kelly MacKinnon, JD, Chief Legal Counsel
Eric Hawkins, State Epidemiologist
Laura Chavez, Director, Women, Infants and Children
Bob Davis, Chief Data Officer

Guest:

Andy VanZee, Indiana Hospital Association
Monica Heltz, Fishers Health Department
Scott Fadness, Mayor, City of Fishers
Kathryn Robertson, MD, Local Health Officer, City of Fishers
Chris Greisl, Barnes and Thornburg Law Firm

Call to Order

Dr. Stephen Tharp, Chair, stated that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:32 am. He then asked if Board members had any known conflicts of interest to declare. Hearing none he proceeded with the meeting.

Minutes

Dr. Tharp asked for discussion and/or corrections to the minutes of the May 8, 2024, Executive Board meeting. Hearing none, he entertained a motion for approval. On a motion made by Brenda Goff, seconded by Dr. Amelia Clark and passed by majority roll call vote of in-person and virtual attendees, the Board approved the minutes as presented.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Secretary's Report

Dr. Weaver provided a Health First Indiana (HFI) Update. All 92 local health departments have opted in for the 2nd year of HFI funding. All the HFI Regional Teams have been onboarded. Dr. Weaver asked Board members to make us aware of any misconceptions around HFI so they can be addressed. Dr. Matthew Sprunger suggested Dr. Weaver speak to the Indy Chamber as he is hearing that businesses are struggling with what their role would be. Andy VanZee, Indiana Hospital Association, stated that 102 hospitals have pledged to work with their local health departments. Board members asked for five HFI key messages they can use when speaking with community members and leaders.

She reported that the ZOTEC immunization scheduling platform has been replaced with the My VISIT scheduling platform for vaccine inventory, scheduling & immunization testing. My VISIT is currently being piloted in two local health departments, with 14 more local health departments signing on. She also stated that 64 local health departments are connected to the Indiana Health Information Exchange (IHIE).

Dr. Weaver participated on a panel entitled Improving Hoosier Health: The First Year of HFI during the Governor's Hoosier Huddle on June 21 at Hinkle Fieldhouse.

She also reported that the Black and Minority Health Fair was held June 27 through 30, 2024. Over 14,000 attendees received free screenings worth \$4,000 per person.

The Labor of Love Summit will be held on July 23 & 24 at the JW Marriott in downtown Indianapolis.

Commissioner's Office

City of Fishers Health Department Approval of Non-Physician Local Health Officer

Kelly MacKinnon, JD, Chief Legal Counsel, reminded the Board members that they approved the policy (Resolution 2023-03) for approval of local health officer process at the September 13, 2023, Board meeting. Pam Pontones, Deputy Health Commissioner of Local Health Services, presented the documentation submitted by the Fishers Health Department requesting Board approval for Monica Heltz, DNP, MPH, APRN, FNP-C, RN, current Administrator at the Fishers Health Department to be approved as the Local Health Officer. The current full-time Local Health Officer, Dr. Kathryn Robertson, will become the Medical Officer to continue oversight of all clinically based services. Monica stated they will integrate health in all policies. Dr. Robertson, Monica Heltz, Chris Greisl, Barns and Thornburg Law and Scott Fadness, Mayor of Fishers all attended to answer questions from the Board members.

Dr. Tharp asked for discussion and/or comments from the Board, staff and/or public. Hearing none he entertained a motion for approval. On a motion made by Brenda Goff, seconded by Dr. Troy Weirick and passed by majority roll-call vote of in-person and virtual attendees, the Board approved Monica Heltz as the Local Health Officer for the Fishers Health Department effective immediately.

Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC) Update

Guy Crowder, MD, MPHTM, Chief Medical Officer, reported the Indiana Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC) was established to conduct public meetings to survey the needs of patients in Indiana with rare diseases along with providing assistance to their caregivers and providers. Dr. Wade Clapp, Chief Physician at Riley Hospital for Children, chairs the Council. The Council members were established by HEA 1201 and includes patient/caregivers, industry, research, pharmacy, advocacy organizations, medical providers, minority health groups and state agencies. The Council submitted their mandated annual report to the Indiana General Assembly in June 2024 outlining some recommendations for consideration.

Office of Data & Analytics Update

Robert Davis, Chief Data Officer, provided an overview of the Office of Data & Analytics (ODA). Their mission is to advance data solutions that promote, protect, and improve the health and safety of all Hoosiers. Their vision is to leverage data to provide actionable insight and enable evidence-based decisions. Their core principles are Quality, Accessibility, Governance, Engagement and Literacy. ODA works very closely with the Management Performance Hub, Indiana Office of Technology and Division of Vital Records. ODA staffs the State Public Health Data Advisory Committee.

Women, Children and Families Commission

Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Update

Laura Chavez, MPH, Director of WIC, presented an update on the WIC program. WIC is a nutrition education program funded by the USDA. WIC provides services to pregnant, postpartum and

breastfeeding parents, infants and children up to age five who meet income guidelines and are at nutrition risk. Clients receive an electronic benefits card which can be redeemed at designated grocery stores and pharmacies. They also receive breastfeeding support, education, and referral to community services. WIC clinics are in every county and hosted by a variety of agencies, i.e. not-for-profit organizations, local health departments and hospitals. There are over 600 WIC-approved vendors in the state. Participating vendors have minimum stock requirements. The State Vendor Team provides vendor education and training. The WIC program cannot control store inventory or stock, including infant formula. The WIC program has four additional programs – WIC Farmer’s Market, Senior Farmer’s Market, The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). Some of the WIC initiatives include mobile apps, client and vendor portals, breastfeeding mobile unit, new education and training team to increase social media and community engagement.

Distribution

Dr. Tharp thanked staff for professional new hire and separation reports and summary of final orders.

Adjournment

Dr. Tharp asked for any other business to come before the Board. Hearing no additional comments from the Board, staff and/or public, he adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2024, at the IDOH building.