

**Porter County Board of Health Meeting**

Tuesday August 06, 2024

155 Indiana Avenue, Commissioner's Chambers

Valparaiso, Indiana

Abbreviated Minutes

**In Attendance:** Dr. Maria Stamp, Dr. Linda Boxum, Kathy Lemmon, Dr. Kimberly Brunt, Dr. Chris Osan, Attorney Dave Hollenbeck, Dr. Patrick Fleming, Robyn Lane

**Absent:** Terry Wuletich

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The meeting started with Dr. Boxum leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Boxum welcomed back Attorney Dave Hollenbeck, and he thanked everyone for supporting him during his leave of absence.

Dr. Boxum entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting. Dr. Fleming made a motion to approve and Kathy Lemmon seconded the motion. It passed 6-0.

**\*\* Announcements \*\***

The next Porter County Board of Health meeting is scheduled for September 03, 2024 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Building.

Dr. Boxum mentioned that Dr. Stamp announced her intent to retire back in January. At this time, two new applications have been received for the health officer position. The vetting process for the first applicant is almost complete, and the second applicant is being processed. The board will conduct interviews for the new health officer and extra meetings will be scheduled for this purpose.

**\*\* New Business \*\***

2025 Proposed Budget: Carrie Gschwind gave a presentation of the proposed 2025 Health Department budget. The proposed budgets for our General Health fund, Local Public Health Service fund, and various grant funds were discussed.

Dr. Boxum entertained a motion to approve the proposed 2025 Health Department budget. Robyn Lane made a motion to approve and Dr. Brunt seconded the motion. It passed 6-0.

Indiana Health Information Exchange (IHIE): Carrie Gschwind and Dr. Stamp presented information about the IHIE platform and explained why it would benefit the department to hold an IHIE subscription. The state will pay for the first year of participation. The cost beyond the first year would be \$1,200 annually. The board discussed agreement to participate in a one-year trial run, pending Attorney Hollenbeck's legal review.

Dr. Boxum called for and made a motion to approve the health department's participation in the program, pending legal review. Robyn Lane seconded the motion and it passed 6-0.

**\*\* Old Business \*\***

None.

**\*\*Reports of Board Attorney\*\***

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant: Attorney Hollenbeck gave an update on the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant. The grant has been received and will fund the positions for another year. The next step is to finalize the agreements with John Pisowicz and Jeff Dees for their positions funded by the grant (Emergency Preparedness Division).

Attorney Hollenbeck suggested a motion be made allowing him to meet and work with John, Jeff and the board chairperson to finalize the 2024/2025 agreement. Dr. Fleming made the motion and Dr. Osan seconded the motion. It passed 6-0.

Contract for Dr. Erika Young: The contract with Dr. Young for the tuberculosis clinic is ongoing and no new action is required until June, 2025.

Claims & receipts: Dr. Boxum called for a motion to approve the claims and receipts. Kathy Lemmon made a motion to approve and Dr. Osan seconded the motion. It passed 6-0.

**\*\*Reports of Committees, Staff, Health Officer\*\***

Dan Boyd gave an update on the ongoing septic system ordinance changes. A draft ordinance is under review and will be brought to the board soon. After local approval, the next step will be to submit the draft to the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) Technical Review Panel (TRP).

Carrie Gschwind highlighted the new monthly Care Coordinator and Program Partner reports presented to the board this month, adding the success of the recently launched safe disposal of medication and sharps programs, and the plans to improve data tracking and public reporting.

Programs just beginning in July and August were discussed along with partner meetings that have taken place since the last meeting.

Discussion on the success of the health fair and the mobile unit outreach at the Indiana Dunes State Park took place.

Administration Building renovations have started, with phase one expected to be completed by mid-to-end October. Updates will be given at each meeting.

Dr. Stamp gave a presentation on trending vital records data. The data shows consistent trends in deaths, but recent changes in data recording have affected the appearance of trends in accidents and suicides.

**\*\*Public Comment\*\***

None.

**Meeting Adjourned**