

Porter County Board of Health Meeting

Tuesday December 03, 2024

3590 Willowcreek Rd, Portage Township Conference Room

Portage, Indiana

Abbreviated Minutes

In Attendance: Dr. Rodney Guimont Jr., Dr. Linda Boxum, Kathy Lemmon, Dr. Kimberly Brunt, Dr. Chris Osan, Attorney Dave Hollenbeck, Dr. Patrick Fleming, Robyn Lane, Terry Wuletich

Absent: None

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Boxum welcomed new Porter County Health Officer, Dr. Rodney Guimont Jr. to the board meeting.

Dr. Boxum called for a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Dr. Chris Osan made a motion to approve, Kathy Lemmon seconded the motion. Passed 6-0. Dr. Fleming was not present during this vote, but he arrived shortly after.

**** Announcements ****

The next Porter County Board of Health meeting is scheduled for January 07, 2025 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Porter County Administration Building in Valparaiso.

Porter County Health Department Administrator, Carrie Gschwind, gave a presentation on the expansion and remodel updates taking place at the Porter County Administration Building. She presented a slideshow displaying the construction going on in the health department, and the updates that have been made to the Veteran's Office.

**** New Business ****

Vilasni Mariyala gave a presentation on the current trend of STI infections in Porter County. She worked as an intern for the health department during the fall semester while earning her Masters of Public Health degree from Valparaiso University. According to her presentation, the stats show a decrease in infection rates over the past few years.

Carrie Gschwind goes on to explain the projects and assignments that the interns have been working on over the past three months with the health department. Carrie also introduces Sunania, another intern from the fall semester, and explains the purpose of her final assignment, an interview with Porter County Health Department Environmental Director, Dan Boyd. Dan shares his story on his battle against colon cancer. A short version of the video is presented during the meeting, while a longer version can be found on the health department's social media pages.

Further discussion took place on the health department's internship program, and all of the students who have passed through the program since the summer of 2023.

**** Old Business ****

None.

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

Attorney Dave Hollenbeck discussed the administration building construction efforts, and how exciting it is to see the updates.

Attorney Hollenbeck also made mention to the fact that Porter County has only had four Health Officers in the last 67 years. Attorney Hollenbeck welcomes Dr. Guimont and thanks him for joining the team.

Attorney Hollenbeck discussed the work he has been doing with Dan Boyd on proper sewage disposal regulations and unfit living condition cases.

****Claims & Receipts****

Dr. Boxum called for a motion to approve the claims and receipts. Robyn Lane made the motion to approve and Dr. Osan seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

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

Dr. Boxum officially introduced Dr. Guimont and thanked him for attending the meeting. Dr. Guimont said his onboarding has been going well.

Carrie Gschwind introduced Care Coordinator, Carrie Honeycutt, and she gave a presentation on her current programs, and the stats for those programs with the GIS system.

Carrie Gschwind presented information regarding local level KPI reviews for 2025, and discussion took place on how to improve health outcomes in Porter County going forward.

****Miscellaneous****

Dr. Boxum announced that Katy Lemmon is attending her last meeting as a member of the board of health, as she is not seeking reinstatement. Members of the board took turns expressing their gratitude for Kathy's service to the board. Kathy expressed her gratitude to the board of health and thanked everyone for their kind words. She was presented with flowers and several other gifts from the board members.

****Public Comment****

None.

Meeting Adjourned