

Porter County Board of Health Meeting

Tuesday January 07, 2025

3590 Willowcreek Rd, Portage Township Conference Room

Portage, Indiana

Abbreviated Minutes

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

Absent: None

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Boxum called for a motion to approve the December 2024 meeting minutes. Terry Wuletich made a motion to approve, Dr. Osan seconded the motion. Passed 5-0. 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 February 04, 2025 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Porter County Administration Building in Valparaiso.

**** New Business ****

Porter County Health Department Administrator, Carrie Gschwind, gave an update on the tobacco grant opportunity for 2025 through 2027. She presented information about the application process for the grant and requested the board vote on pursuing the opportunity to receive the grant.

Dr. Boxum called for and presented a motion in favor of applying for the grant. Dr. Brunt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, 6-0.

Carrie Gschwind goes on to present information for a new physical activities program proposal request for 2025. These classes would take place around the community with several different local partners hosting them. Carrie requested a vote to determine the funding allocation for each program if approved under the new initiative. The total available funds amount to \$125,000 from Health First Indiana funding.

Concerns were raised and discussion took place about ensuring funds are used effectively and not just for active individuals, emphasizing the need for clear metrics for each program.

Dr. Boxum called for and made a motion to approve the maximum funds limit for each program at \$12,000. Dr. Osan seconded the motion. It passed 6-0.

Carrie goes on to present information about a radio show opportunity with WVLP in Valparaiso. She made mention to Porter County Health Department Communications Specialist, Demetrious Lewis, hosting the program. Demetrious mentions a few ideas for potential content for the show. There is a yearly fee of \$350 for the program that will come from the advertising fund.

Dr. Boxum called for a motion to approve the WVLP radio show opportunity. Dr. Fleming made the motion and Dr. Boxum seconded the motion. It passed 6-0.

**** Old Business ****

None.

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

Attorney Dave Hollenbeck discussed how he has been working with health department staff on implementation efforts for Health First Indiana programming.

Attorney Hollenbeck also made reference to the challenges of filling the open board position due to new political and statutory requirements. Concerns about future board appointees and maintaining a quorum for upcoming meetings were discussed.

****Claims & Receipts****

Dr. Boxum called for a motion to approve the claims and receipts. Dr. Brunt made the motion to approve the claims and receipts. The second approved motion is inaudible. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Osan made mentioned to the possibility of needing more financial oversight to ensure transparency and accountability in spending. Suggestions included having an outside CPA review financials and providing regular updates to reassure the board about fund allocation.

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

Carrie Gschwind gave an update on on-going programs from 2024 that are continuing into 2025. She requested permission to continue with these current programs.

Carrie presented social media and bike program stats from 2024.

****Miscellaneous****

Carrie Gschwind offers to give the board a tour of the health department before or after the board of health meeting in February.

****Public Comment****

None.

Meeting Adjourned