

Porter County Board of Health Meeting

Tuesday June 4, 2024
155 Indiana Avenue, Commissioner's Chambers
Valparaiso, Indiana
Abbreviated Minutes

In Attendance: Dr. Maria Stamp, Dr. Linda Boxum, Kathy Lemmon, Dr. Kimberly Brunt, Attorney Colby Barkes, Dr. Chris Osan

Absent: Dr. Patrick Fleming, Robyn Lane, Terry Wuletich, Attorney Dave Hollenbeck

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

Dr. Boxum entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Dr. Brunt made a motion to approve, and Kathy Lemmon seconded the motion. It passed with a 4-0 vote.

**** Announcements ****

The next meeting is scheduled for July 2, 2024 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Building.

**** New Business ****

Powers Health Proposal: Shannon Hough from soon-to-be Powers Health presented a proposal for the Reducing Undiagnosed Diabetes Initiative (RUDI) in Porter County. Shannon explained the RUDI program, which aims to increase the rate of prediabetes diagnosis using on-site A1C testing and immediate education and referral for high-risk individuals.

Dr. Boxum entertained a motion to approve the Powers Health proposal. Kathy Lemmon called for a motion to approve the proposal and Dr. Brunt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Health Officer Salary: Discussion took place on the current health officer salary and the challenges in filling the position. Dr. Boxum mentioned that no one has applied to the position yet, and there may be plans to use more advertising to get the word out about the job opening.

Dr. Boxum entertained a motion to increase Dr. Stamp's salary to \$150,000 to continue as the health officer until someone else is hired. Dr. Osan called for the motion to approve and Kathy Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Hardship Fund Standard Operating Procedure: Discussion took place on reviewing and approving the standard operating procedure (SOP) for handling hardship cases.

Dr. Boxum entertained a motion to approve the hardship SOP. Dr. Osan called for a motion to approve and Dr. Brunt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

School Liaison Job Description: Discussion took place on updating the job description for the school liaison position to include a wider range of applicants.

Dr. Boxum entertained a motion to approve the school liaison job description. Kathy Lemmon called for the motion to approve and Dr. Osan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Asthma and Immunization Grant Update: Carrie Gschwind gave an update on the grant funding for the asthma and immunization programs.

Dr. Boxum entertained a motion to approve the immunization grant. Dr. Osan called for a motion to approve and Kathy Lemmon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

****Old Business****

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

Carrie Gschwind presented a PowerPoint, showing the health department's local youth sports advertising initiatives with the Portage and Valparaiso YMCAs. Carrie then gave an update on the collaboration efforts with the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana and the Backpack and Snacks program.

Tick Surveillance: Discussion took place on the increase in tick activity and the state's tick surveillance dashboard.

Residential Onsite Sewage System: Carrie Gschwind explained the process for inspecting and approving new septic systems and addressing complaints about failing systems.

Care Coordinator Updates: Carrie Honeycutt will provide care coordinator updates in upcoming meetings.

First Responder Mental Health: Carrie Gschwind gave an update on the First Responder Mental Health initiative and will continue to do so in upcoming meetings as more data becomes available.

Public Health Care Kits: Discussion took place on the distribution of public health care kits to various organizations, including libraries, YMCA, and fire departments.

Further discussion about the Community Resource Network, Bike Program, and upcoming health fair took place.

Report of Board Attorney: Attorney Barkes made mention of approving a state-created public image photo content form for the health department to use. He said he meets with Carrie regularly to discuss the ongoing programs within the health department.

Claims & receipts: Dr. Boxum called for a motion to approve claims and receipts. Kathy Lemmon made the motion to approve and Dr. Osan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

****Public Comment****

Michael Barry from the Town of Porter spoke about the conditions of a residential property on Summertree Drive.

Councilman Greg Simms from Valparaiso asked for clarification on the health officer's salary increase.

Meeting Adjourned