



ALLEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
January 23, 2023 Executive Health Board Meeting

5:45p.m. – Citizens Square, 200 E. Berry St., Fort Wayne, IN – ROOM B-035

AGENDA

Call the meeting to order – Patricia Hays, Board Vice President (Pres. Dr. William Pond will be absent)

Meeting Reminder Statements – Mindy Waldron

Approval of the Minutes for the October 17, 2022 Board Meeting – Patricia Hays, Vice Pres.**

Election of Officers – Patricia Hays, Vice President**

Need to select a President and Vice President

BOARD APPOINTMENT REPORTS:

- Health Commissioner’s Report – *(Dr. Thomas Gutwein)*
- Medical Director’s Report - *(Dr. Anna Menze)*
- Department Administrator’s Report – *(Mindy Waldron)*

CONSENT AGENDA: (one vote to accept all items below as submitted) -- (Mindy Waldron)**

- Personnel Report – *(Mindy Waldron)*

Old Business

New Business

- **Review of Proposed Ordinance Amendments & Additions****
 - *Allen County Code, Title 10, Articles 2, 4.5, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, and new 14*

Adjournment**

*** Vote is/may be required*

HERE ARE THE REMAINING 2023 BOARD MEETING DATES FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

- **4/17/2023, 7/17/2023, 10/16/2023**

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MEDIA & PUBLIC NOTE: No questions will be entertained and no interviews will be conducted on the items listed on the agenda above prior to the Board Meeting. For this meeting, all media inquiries will be conducted at the conclusion of the meeting. Since this is a public meeting and not a public hearing, no public comments will be taken for items/issues not already on the agenda. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

NOTICE: Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of Allen County, should contact Allen County Title VI Coordinator Laura Maser, (260) 449-7555, laura.maser@allencounty.us, as soon as possible but no later than forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled event. Individuals requiring special language services should, if possible, contact the Allen County Government Title VI Coordinator at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the date on which the services will be needed. The meeting is open to the public.

Allen County Department of Health Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
January 23, 2023

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of Directors of the Allen County Department of Health was called to order in the Council Chambers located at 200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, IN at 5:45 p.m., pursuant to the notice sent to all directors in accordance with the bylaws.

The following directors were present: Patti Hays, Mary Hess, Deb Lambert, Theodore Sobol, Marlon Wardlow. The following directors were absent: Dr. William Pond and Dr. James Cameron.

Patti Hays presided over the meeting. Jennifer Miller recorded the proceedings of the meeting. Mindy thanked Jennifer for stepping back into her prior role and recording the meeting in Kim's absence.

Patti Hays called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Meeting Reminder Statements from Mindy Waldron:

- Remember to speak into your microphone and avoid tapping.

Summary of Motions Passed at this Meeting:

- A motion was made by Theodore Sobol to approve the October 17, 2022, minutes. Mary Hess seconded the motion. Motion carried unopposed.
- A motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Mary Hess. Deb Lambert seconded the motion. Motion carried unopposed.

Election of Officers:

- President - Mary Hess nominated Dr. Pond and Theodore Sobol seconded. Nominations were closed and the motion carried unopposed.
- Vice President - Deb Lambert nominated Patti Hays and Theodore Sobol seconded. Nominations were closed and the motion carried unopposed.

Board Appointment Reports:

Health Commissioner's Report - Thomas Gutwein, MD

Dr. Gutwein shared a few comments from his perspective regarding the Health Department:

- Dr. Gutwein stated that the term triple demic (COVID-19, influenza, and RSV) has been thrown around a lot. Overall summary, "We are doing great!"
- Dr. Gutwein reported that the Federal Department of Health and Human Services announced that they are going to extend the public health emergency until April 12th.
- Dr. Gutwein went over data related to COVID-19.
 - Allen County is now in the green for community levels. This is based on the number of new positive tests, new COVID-19 admissions, and the percent of hospital beds that are occupied.

- Allen County is in the yellow for transmission of COVID-19, whereas last week it was 85% in the red. This is based on the number of new cases and the percent positivity. Dr. Gutwein commented, "Overall, we are doing really well."
- For roughly the last week and a half the number of new cases of COVID-19 and deaths in Allen County have been flat.
- COVID-19 admissions to the hospital in Allen County are down roughly 53%.
- Subvariants: HHS region 1 (New England states) vs. region 5 (Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and Ohio). Dr. Gutwein reported that the newest variant (XBB 1.5) is not prevalent in region 5 but it is here in the US and will most likely increase over time.
- The last graph showed weekly testing of wastewater for COVID-19 variants. Allen County has no sequencing data presumably because the levels were so low.
- Dr. Gutwein commented that "There is a lot of concern about the bivalent vaccine and everything that we are seeing so far shows that the bivalent vaccine is effective against the XBB 1.5 variant."
- Dr. Gutwein stated that "There was some concern about the Pfizer bivalent vaccine causing a stroke 21 days after administration. That has really been shown to be a non-event and when they are able to compare data across the world it is not significant and probably will be nothing."
- Dr. Gutwein went over information related to influenza.
 - Indiana is listed in light green, meaning the risk is now low.
 - There have been 156 deaths in Indiana from influenza.
 - This is the most Indiana has had in the last 5 years.
 - Influenza-A peaked in early November.
 - Still a possibility that there will be a peak of influenza-B.
- Dr. Gutwein went over data related to RSV.
 - RSV numbers have decrease significantly.
- Dr. Gutwein stated "We are still seeing influenza, COVID-19, and RSV cases but at very low numbers that are not causing a significant strain on the health care system like it was a month ago."
- Dr. Gutwein reported that the Ebola outbreak has ended.

Discussion

- Patti Hays asked, "When you report deaths, is it deaths by COVID-19 or deaths with COVID-19?"
 - Dr. Gutwein answered, "It is death with COVID-19."
- Marlon Wardlow asked, "Do we stratify that data, so looking at certain patient populations to see if the same rates are equal across all patient populations?"
 - Dr. Gutwein answered, "We do, and we look at it every week. I haven't seen any significant change."
 - Mindy Waldron answered, "As far as case and death data it was all very similar to statewide data on ages and such when I was developing weekly reports all throughout COVID. So, we were right in line."

Medical Director's Report - Anna Menze, MD

Dr. Menze stated that the department has seen a continued increase in refugees. Because of the increase, a second day of refugee screening has been added each week to the clinic schedule. Last year,

Dr. Menze said the department welcomed over 250 new refugees from Myanmar, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and the Congo.

Dr. Menze reported that offering the new pediatric COVID-19 bivalent booster has not resulted in a lot of appointments. Staff have gone to the Rescue Mission and Charis house bi-weekly to offer vaccines. The demand for the COVID-19 vaccine has dropped and the average is now 10-15 a week.

Dr. Menze stated that a small supply of Mpox vaccines from IDOH is being offered to the general public.

She reported that the 12-week treatment for latent TB is still not being widely used due to the rifampentine shortage. Instead, they are turning towards the 6-month isoniazid treatment.

Dr. Menze listed the top 5 infectious diseases reported since January 2022:

- COVID-19 - 45,057 (cases both confirmed and probable)
- Hepatitis C - 270 (both chronic and acute)
- Campylobacter - 65 (both probable and confirmed)
- Hepatitis B - 66 (both confirmed and probable)
- Latent TB - 64

Dr. Menze reported the following numbers for HIV/STD cases last year:

- Chlamydia - 2,276
- Gonorrhea - 774
- Early Syphilis - 58
- Late Latent Syphilis - 35
- HIV - 26

Dr. Menze also shared some tables listing data of race and age of new HIV cases.

Dr. Menze shared the following numbers for the SSP for this year so far:

- Total Visits - 1,364
- Doses of Narcan Distributed - 990
- New Clients - 190
- Needle Exchange Rate for the year - 99.5%
- YTD Testing at the SSP:
 - HIV - 52
 - HCV - 43

Dr. Menze complimented the staff stating that "They just do a phenomenal job day in and day out and Erika Pitcher just got published with a CDC article last week."

Administrator's Report - Mindy Waldron

Mindy Waldron's PowerPoint presentation provided updates on the plan for Governor's Public Health Commission (GPHC) funding and duties (if passed), general department updates, and ordinance amendments.

Mindy reported on the proposed funding from the Governor's Public Health Commission, what it might look like, what it could be for us, what support might be needed, and where it is at so far.

- Indiana ranked 45th for state government public health expenditures.
- The revenue of 90 of the 94 local health departments is below the national 25th percentile.
- Most of the local public health funding comes from the local government (70%), many times from property taxes.
- Across the nation this is reversed in many states, where the state government is the bulk of the funding for a local public health department.
- Funding per capita ranges from \$1.25 to \$83 (Marion County) across Indiana.
- Currently, the state of Indiana funds approximately \$6-\$7 million for local public health services.
 - They hope to increase this to around \$200 million for local health departments by 2025 (\$100 million in 2024, \$200 million in 2025).
 - Allen county receives about \$200,000 a year in state funds (budget is \$6 million+).
- Mindy went over an overview of the GPHC recommendations and outcomes and the possible updated set of core services.
- Mindy covered what is happening and what is being done now.
 - Two bills were entered into legislative session (1 for the funding component, and 1 for the new duties and requirements).
 - If this passes and if the money is "opted into" at local level the core services must be done or ensure they are done locally in another fashion.
 - Internal visioning sessions are being held on what the plan might be and ideas for betterment, etc.
 - If the bills pass external visioning and brainstorming sessions with core partners will be held.
- First funding would not come until January 2024.
- More staffing and space would be required.

Mindy went over other departmental updates.

- Discussions regarding space needs in the buildings continue but are gaining slight traction.
- The 2023 budget was approved.
- The department filled many positions in 2022.

Personnel Report - Mindy Waldron

- Sara Burriss was hired as the Harm Reduction Program Coordinator.
- Kristina Herber was hired as the Administrative Assistant for Immunizations.
- Jake Tadevich was hired as the Disease Intervention Specialist for HIV/STD Prevention.
- Two Environmental Health Specialist positions remain open as well as one Disease Intervention Specialist position.

Presentation slides are available upon request.

Consent Agenda

- Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mary Hess and seconded by Deb Lambert. Motion carried unopposed.

Old Business

None

New Business

- Mindy went over the proposed ordinance amendments and additions (Allen County Code, Title 10, Articles 2, 4.5, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12 and new 14)
 - Motion to approve the ordinance amendments and additions was made by Deb Lambert and seconded by Mary Hess. Motion carried unopposed.

Discussion

- Patti Hays commented that “Despite the increase in fees most of them are below cost.”
 - Mindy replied that the increases were kept low to keep the financial impact low on people and businesses.
- Mary Hess stated that “It makes a lot of sense that you put these all in one document and I applaud Mindy because I am sure that was quite the undertaking.”
- Deb Lambert acknowledged the hard work that the Allen County Department of Health does. She attended the meeting where Dr. Box went over the proposed changes and every now and then in her comments Dr. Box would throw out as an example Allen County. Deb continued by saying she is so incredibly impressed with the work being done, even being understaffed and underfunded.
- Mary Hess stated “I get to meet with other school nurses across the state on a very regular basis and a lot of that is problem solving, we all have similar problems because we are all in the business of kids and the public. Many times, when I ask if they have gone to the health department it is like a deer in the headlights. Not all areas have the same services that Allen County has or the dedication to the public. Great job and thank you!”
- Patti Hays stated “We all have a chance to show that support as well, Thursday is public health day at the House. There is a group going down to show support for the proposed enhanced funding. If you are not going you can still show support. If you go, please wear blue or yellow to show your support or even if you do not go you can wear blue or yellow to show your support.”
- Mindy Waldron commented that you can also look up who your legislators are and send them a message regarding support for Senate bill 4 and funding for public health.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mary Hess. Motion carried unopposed.

Adjournment: 6:34 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: April 17, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas Gutwein, MD
Health Commissioner



Patti Hays
Board Vice President