

Allen County Department of Health Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
January 25, 2021

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of Directors of the Allen County Department of Health was called to order via the virtual Zoom platform, at 5:45 p.m., pursuant to the notice sent to all directors in accordance with the bylaws.

The following directors were present: Dr. William Pond, Dr. James Cameron, Patti Hays, Deb Lambert, Ted Sobol, Dr. Thomas Dykstra.

The following directors were absent: Mary Hess.

Dr. Pond presided over the meeting. Angie Meenagh recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Dr. Pond called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Meeting Reminder Statements from Mindy Waldron:

- Those not speaking should set their microphones to mute.
- This recording will be the permanent record.

Summary of Motions Passed at this Meeting:

- A motion was made by Ted Sobol to approve the October 19, 2020 minutes. Mindy Waldron pointed out that many directors had not reviewed these minutes as no packet was distributed. Ted Sobol withdrew his motion and the approval of the October, 2020 minutes was tabled.
- A motion was made by Patti Hays to approve the Consent Agenda and the motion was seconded. The motion carried unopposed. No one abstained.

Election of Officers of the Board of Directors:

- President of the Board of Directors:
 - Ted Sobol nominated Dr. William Pond and that nomination was seconded.
 - A motion was made by Patti Hays to close nominations and that nomination was seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried unopposed. No one abstained.
 - Dr. William Pond was elected to the position of president for 2021.
- Vice President of the Board of Directors:
 - Ted Sobol nominated Patti Hays and that motion was seconded.
 - There were no additional nominations.
 - Patti Hays was elected to the position of vice president for 2021 by acclamation.

Board Appointment Reports:

Health Commissioner's Report – Matthew Sutter, MD

Dr. Sutter presented slides that are available for review. Key points from the presentation follow:

- Dr. Sutter displayed and reviewed charts illustrating the status of Allen County COVID-19 cases.
- He reviewed the state and county COVID-19 dashboards demonstrating the rise and decline of COVID-19 spread.

- He concluded that the death rate, which trails the infection rate, is still high but the number of new cases is in marked decline.
- Hospitals report being much more comfortable with their capacities.
- Allen County remains in orange status and restrictions will continue as appropriate for that level.
- He recommends continued caution, including masking and social distancing, to avoid another surge in the spring, as some are predicting.
- Testing and vaccinations continue.

Discussion:

- Deb Lambert asked if it is true the WHO organization has concerns about false positives with PCR testing and, if so, will that change how we do testing? He responded that it will not change how we do things locally.
- Deb Lambert asked how have we virtually eliminated the flu while COVID-19 continues to spread? He stated that influenza is way down this year because steps taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are also preventing the spread of flu.
- Dr Pond asked why neighboring states, which have more restrictions than we have in Indiana, are not doing as well as we are in regard to COVID-19 statistics. Dr. Sutter stated that there is no clear reason at this time. It is possible that those who are more keenly aware of their risk are more likely to follow recommendations and that we were experiencing very high infection rates at one point which may account for that.
- Dr. Cameron asked Dr. Sutter to discuss the safety of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Dr. Sutter explained that it is not possible to contract COVID-19 from the vaccines. He pointed out that reactions to the vaccines are extremely unlikely.

Administrator's Report – Mindy Waldron

Mindy Waldron provided an update on the operations of the department since the October 19, 2020 meeting. She presented slides that are available for review. Key points follow:

- 85% - 90% of those we are vaccinating are in the high-risk category for COVID-19
- We continue to do testing, but at a much lower rate.
- Contact tracing continues seven days per week, but the workload has decreased somewhat.
- Four hotlines are in operation.
- Enforcement - Complaints from consumers related to the governor's orders have generated more than 1200 inspections, which is up from an average of 640.
- We have performed more than 17,000 COVID-19 tests in 75 operational days. We are experiencing a decline in demand for tests.
- Several new staff have been hired to fill temporary positions. In addition, several volunteers are helping in the mass vaccination clinic.
- We have the capacity to vaccinate approximately 1,000 people per day but we are not receiving that many vaccine doses at this time.
- New vital records software is in use.
- Our two registered nurse positions remain open as we are not getting many applicants.
- Many legislative bills are proposed on the state level to strip powers from local health departments or to restructure how they function. The progress of these bills is being monitored.

Discussion:

- Dr. Pond asked if our vaccination numbers are limited only by our supply of vaccine. Ms. Waldron replied that is correct; Our capacity exceeds supply.
- Patti Hays pointed out that Easter Seals/Arc is vaccinating and testing many of those with disabilities.
- Dr. Cameron asked about the status of minorities gaining access to vaccinations. Ms. Waldron responded that the numbers are about what we expected and we are partnering with organizations such as Neighborhood Health Clinic and CTN to support the process of minority vaccinations.

Consent Agenda

- Personnel Report – Mindy Waldron.
- Sewer Board Report of recent activities – Mindy Waldron.
- Motion to approve was made by Patti Hays and seconded. The motion carried unopposed. No one abstained.

Old Business

None

New Business

- Dr. Cameron stated that the medical community believes that the general public is neglecting overall health maintenance due to COVID-19 restrictions. He recommends that the board encourage everyone to continue adhering to their health plans per their providers, and to be physically active.

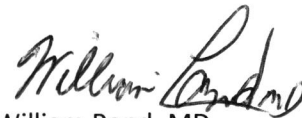
Adjournment: At approximately 6:30 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: April 19, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew Sutter, MD
Health Commissioner



William Pond, MD
Board President