



ALLEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
October 16, 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 – William Pond, MD, Board President

Meeting Reminder Statements – Mindy Waldron

Approval of the Minutes for the July 17, 2023 Board Meeting – William Pond, MD**

BOARD APPOINTMENT REPORTS:

- Health Commissioner’s Report – *(Dr. Thomas Gutwein)*
- Medical Director’s Report - *(Kathy Thornson for Dr. 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

- **Title 10, Article 7 (Tattoo & Body Piercing Ordinance) – Amendment – (Mindy Waldron)**

Adjournment**

*** Vote is/may be required*

HERE ARE THE 2024 BOARD MEETING DATES FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

January 22nd, April 15th, July 15th, and October 21st

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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
October 16, 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.

Directors Present: Dr. William Pond, Dr. James Cameron, Deb Lambert, and Theodore Sobol.
Directors Absent: Patti Hays, Mary Hess, Marlon Wardlow

Dr. Pond presided over the meeting. Kimberly Meyer recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Dr. Pond 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 Dr. Cameron to approve the July 17, 2023, minutes. Deb Lambert seconded the motion. Motion carried unopposed.
- A motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Dr. Cameron. Theodore Sobol seconded the motion. Motion carried unopposed.
- A motion was made by Deb Lambert to approve the amended Tattoo & Body Piercing Ordinance (Title 10, Article 7). Dr. Cameron seconded the motion. Motion carried unopposed.

Board Appointment Reports:

Health Commissioner's Report - Thomas Gutwein, MD

- Influenza, RSV, COVID-19
 - Reviewed graphs with data on COVID-19 cases, deaths, and deaths by race in Allen County, through October 1, 2023.
 - Current recommendations for COVID-19 vaccinations.
 - Everyone 6 months and older should get an "updated" COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Children 6 months to 4 years may need additional doses to be up to date.
 - There is no more "original" or "bivalent" vaccine being used at this time, only the "updated COVID-19" vaccine is recommended.
 - If you recently had COVID-19, you still need to stay up to date with your vaccines, but you may consider delaying your vaccine by 3 months.
 - Reinfection is less likely in the weeks to months after infection. However, certain factors could be reasons to get a vaccine sooner rather than later.
 - Personal risk of severe disease.
 - Risk of disease in a loved one or close contact.

- Local COVID-19 hospital admission level.
 - The most common COVID-19 variant (EG.5) is currently causing illness.
 - Presented graphs on data regarding influenza rates.
 - Current recommendation for flu vaccine.
 - All persons aged 6 months or greater who do not have contraindications.
 - Fall Respiratory Season: Adult RSV
 - ACIP recommended two RSV vaccines for adults 60 years and older.
 - Arexvy, GSK, 1 dose adjuvated recombinant vaccine.
 - Abrysvo, Pfizer, 1 dose recombinant vaccine.
 - Vaccine available in retail pharmacies and should be added to Section 317 (grants to state to immunize underserved populations).
 - Shared clinical decision making regarding the RSV vaccine - recommendations are individually based and informed by a decision process between the health care provider and patient based on:
 - Best available evidence.
 - Patients' risk for disease, characteristics, values, preferences.
 - Clinical discretion.
 - Characteristics of the vaccine.
 - Fall Respiratory Season: Maternal RSV
 - FDA expanded the approval for Abrysvo, Pfizer, on Aug. 21 for the prevention of RSV in infants through active immunization of pregnant women.
 - Maternal vaccine to help protect infants at birth through 6 months of life.
 - Administered at 32-36 weeks of gestational age.
 - Current recommendations for RSV vaccine.
 - Pregnant mothers at 32-36 weeks gestation.
 - Adults 60 and older with chronic medical conditions, frail, nursing home residents.
 - Children less than one year of age.
- How Allen County Ranks
 - Allen County is ranked in the lower middle range of counties in Indiana (lower 25%-50%) for health outcomes (how healthy a county is right now, in terms of length of life but quality of life as well).
 - Reviewed a table on disease prevention and immunizations in Allen County vs. State of Indiana.
 - Presented a table with percentages on prenatal care, births, and opioid abuse.
 - Reviewed a county health rankings model.

Discussion

- Dr. Pond inquired about insurance payments for the RSV vaccine. Medicaid will cover the cost, whereas commercial insurance will not.
 - Dr. Gutwein explained that since the RSV vaccine is new it will take roughly 2-3 months before commercial insurance will start covering the cost.
- Dr. Cameron commented that most infants will get the RSV vaccine before they leave the NICU.

- Dr. Cameron stated that he is shocked that some of the counties in the Health Outcomes map are listed better than Allen County and inquired where the data is obtained.
 - Dr. Gutwein stated that the data is collected from the state of Indiana and that you really need to look at a 5-year average to get better numbers.

See meeting supplements for full details.

Medical Director's Report - Kathy Thornson for Anna Menze, MD

Immunization Services:

- COVID-19 vaccinations have slowed down.
 - Expect to see an increase once people start scheduling appointments for the new vaccine.
 - Still waiting to receive doses for private purchase.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS GIVEN	
July	23
August	21
September	6
TOTAL	50

NUMBER OF VACCINES GIVEN (PER MONTH)	
January	344
February	287
March	359
April	255
May	389
June	259
July	447
August	474
September	443
TOTAL	3,257

VACCINATIONS GIVEN (YTD)	
Varicella	348
TDAP	316
Flu	259
HPV	259
IPV	254
Pediatric Hep A	237
COVID-19	213
Adult Hep B	173
MCV4	167

MMR	117
Meningitis B	116
Hep A/Hep B (Twinrix)	107
Adult Hep A	100
Typhoid	83
MMR/Varicella (Proquad)	65
Pediatric Hep B	62
PCV13	60
DTAP	51
Herpes Zoster (Singrix)	47
PVC15	40
DTAP/IPV (Kinrix)	38
Mpox	32
Rabies	25
DTAP/IPV/Hib/Hep B	24
HIB	23
DTAP/IPV/HIB (Pentacel)	22
DTAP/IPV/Hep B (Pediatrix)	21
Rotavirus	19
PPSV23	12

- Vaccinated 48 people this quarter at the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission and Charis House.
- Continue to see incoming refugees to conduct the initial steps of the refugee screening process.
- Provided over 175 flu vaccines to county employees at two flu vaccination clinics on 10/2 and 10/9 at CSQ.
- Offered flu vaccines at the Allen County Homeless Veteran’s Stand Down event sponsored by Work One on 10/13 at the Grand Wayne Center.

Infectious Disease Clinic:

- Have received 320 refugees so far this year and each refugee is seen for at least 3 individual appointments that are required to be completed within 90 days of the refugee’s arrival to the United States.
 - Primarily coming from Burma/Myanmar and a few from the Congo.
 - In addition to traditional refugees, also see parolees from Ukraine, Haiti, Venezuela, and Nicaragua.
 - People entering the United States with this status are not eligible to receive the full refugee health screening.
 - Some free services are offered when they arrive, such as TB testing and vaccinations.
- Continue to see community referrals for LTBI but continue to suffer from drug shortages.

Sexually Transmitted Infectious/Disease Clinic:

- Continue to offer a full STI/STD exam and follow up for SART referrals.
- See 10-15 patients each week at the Allen County Jail to offer STI/STD testing and treatment.

Infectious Disease Case Management:

- Have received 7 cases of TB in 2023 and are finishing up 1 case from 2022. Breakdown for 2023 is as follows:
 - 6 pulmonary, 1 extrapulmonary
 - 5 males, 2 females
 - 100% foreign born
 - Mono resistance in 50% of cases
- The past few years have seen TB drug shortages, which has worsened this year.
 - Most of them are used to treat both latent and active TB.
 - The biggest impact is to the LTBI patients.
 - Have had to pause use of some of the medications for LTBI treatment to conserve them for active TB cases.
 - One medication that was used for a short-duration treatment for LTBI is widely unavailable with no projection of availability.
 - Only one treatment option available right now, which is daily for 4 months.
 - This has led to many patients holding off on treatment until a shorter course is available.

TOP 10 REPORTABLE DISEASES (YTD)	
Hepatitis C	208
Latent Tuberculosis	89
Campylobacter	44
Group Strep A	43
Salmonella	41
Hepatitis B	40
Giardia	26
Strep Pneumonia	22
CPO (formerly CP-CRE)	20
Varicella	16

HIV/STD Prevention:

ALLEN COUNTY HIV/STD SURVEILLANCE DATA FOR 2023 BY QUARTER*						
Infection	Qtr. 1 Cases (Jan-Mar)	Qtr. 2 Cases (Apr-Jun)	Qtr. 3 Cases (Jul-Sep)	Total Cases (YTD)	% Change Between Quarters	Total Cases (2022)
Chlamydia	615	643	595	1,853	-7%	2,276
Gonorrhea	184	195	220	599	+13%	774
Early Syphilis	9	18	25	52	+39%	53
Late Latent Syphilis	14	14	20	48	+43%	35
HIV	5	8	10	23	+25%	26

*Preliminary numbers for Allen County.

- Third Quarter Highlights
 - The national shortage of Bicillin L-A, the CDC recommended treatment for syphilis, continues with no signs of relief until mid-2024 per the FDA listing.
 - Pregnant syphilis cases remain the state (and national) priority for the limited inventory on hand of the injectable Bicillin L-A.
 - Continue to use Doxycycline, an oral antibiotic, given for 2-4 weeks, twice a day for most other cases due to this shortage.
 - At the end of this quarter, 100 cases of syphilis have been diagnosed and treated.
 - This is already 14% higher than the total of all early and late syphilis cases reported in 2022 (88 cases).
 - Began the mobile clinical outreach project on September 12th.
 - Providing free HIV/STI screening, pregnancy testing, prevention, education, and treatment services.
 - The mobile unit is intended to make these much-needed health services more accessible to people in need.
 - Year to date cases of HIV in Allen County at the end of the third quarter totaled 23 new cases.
 - Gender
 - Male - 17
 - Female - 6
 - Race
 - Black - 48%
 - White - 8%
 - Hispanic - 22%
 - Multi/Other - 22%
 - Had a total of 26 HIV cases reported in 2022.

RISK CATEGORIES			
Risk	Male (74% Cases)	Female (26% Cases)	Risk % of Total Cases
MSM	15	NA	65%
Hetero	2	6	35%
TOTAL	17	6	100%

Discussion

- Deb Lambert inquired as to why parolee refugees do not receive the full refugee health screening.
 - Kathy Thornson commented that they still receive high priority screenings, such as TB testing.
 - Mindy Waldron stated that parolee refugees are not coming into the country the traditional way (the US officially accepts them into the country), they typically have sponsors or host families.
- Dr. Pond asked about the number of parolee refugees compared to normal refugees.

- Mindy Waldron stated that this data could be collected and shared at the next meeting.
- Dr. Pond inquired about the percentage of vaccines given out.
 - Mindy Waldron stated that vaccines are given by the Allen County Department of Health and Super Shot.

Administrator's Report - Mindy Waldron

- Health First Allen County Updates
 - All required local and state budgets submitted.
 - Submitted to Allen County Council
 - All regular local budgets.
 - New HFAC budget.
 - Currently amending the HFAC budget due to COLA increases and changing needs.
 - Submitted to IDOH
 - The HFAC budget on their prescribed form.
 - Has been amended twice - as each time the local budget changes, the HFAC budget submitted to IDOH must be updated.
 - Budget
 - \$4.65 million total
 - \$1.85 million - salaries, fringe, projects, supplies, operations
 - \$2.8 million - CPHS grants
 - \$450,000 - held for future building
 - Grants program done and deployed.
 - Went with Wizehive for the grant portal.
 - Defined 8 priority core public health service areas for which funding applications will be accepted.
 - Tobacco Prevention & Cessation
 - Student Health
 - Maternal & Child Health
 - Fatality Review & Prevention
 - Trauma & Injury Prevention
 - Chronic Disease (Prevention & Reduction)
 - Child & Adult Immunizations
 - Access, Linkage, & Referrals to Care
 - Letters of Intent
 - Submitted - 49
 - Total \$ Requested - \$5,833,383
 - Not Approved - 8
 - Approved to Apply - 41
 - Grant \$ Overall - \$2.8 million
 - Letters of Intent
 - Tobacco Prevention & Cessation - 0, \$0
 - Student Health - 8, \$627,250

- Maternal & Child Health - 5, \$519,320
- Fatality Review & Prevention - 2, \$90,000
- Trauma & Injury Prevention - 3, \$738,437
- Chronic Disease (Prevention & Reduction) - 10, \$1,210,431
- Child & Adult Immunizations - 1, \$200,000
- Access, Linkage, & Referrals to Care - 12, \$1,411,346
- Applications
 - Tobacco Prevention & Cessation - 0, \$0, 0%
 - Student Health - 8, \$521,160, 12.5%
 - Maternal & Child Health - 5, \$370,632, 8.9%
 - Fatality Review & Prevention - 2, \$90,000, 2.2%
 - Trauma & Injury Prevention - 3, \$447,545, 10.7%
 - Chronic Disease (Prevention & Reduction) - 10, \$1,139,578, 27.3%
 - Child & Adult Immunizations - 1, \$200,000, 4.8%
 - Access, Linkage, & Referrals to Care - 12, \$1,404,198, 33.6%
- As applications are reviewed emphasis will be placed on:
 - Existing organizations with a track record of success.
 - Received exciting new programs, too.
 - Evidence-based programming/projects.
 - Clearly identified goals and data gathering objectives that align with the KPIs and show potential for the greatest impact (appear to meet intent of funding).
- Applications are being reviewed by 3rd party experienced grant reviewers.
 - Will score applications using a scoring matrix.
- Completed and posted a health plan to meet state-required key performance indicators (KPIs).
 - Created a plan to explain HFAC/HFI, funding and more.
- Held a successful large community partner meeting on August 28th.
 - Rolled out the grant program in detail and had great discussions.
- Updating plans for all data analytics and project management for all new duties.
- Completed a hiring plan for growth.
 - Taking a measured approach to hiring.
 - Priority positions for January 2024 with new funding.
 - Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
 - Public Health School Liaison
 - Health Educator
 - Additional Plan Reviewer/Inspector - Food Division
 - 2024 and beyond
 - Gathering thoughts, ideas, and needs.
 - In January 2024, will likely discuss 2025 needs and get rolling on the steps to post and hire for these positions.
- Working on a plan for space to accommodate all.

- Final Thoughts
 - Have been given a chance to help make a difference in how public health is delivered at the local level and intend to make the most of it.
 - Will be funding several areas of public health that may also be currently funded by generous other local funders.
 - Hope only to add to the funding landscape.
 - Will roll out some new internal projects or programming over time as well.
- Website - <https://allencountyhealth.com/health-first-allen-county>
- Staffing Updates
- Board Make-up Updates
 - The board (due to population) will go from a 7-person board to a 9-person board in 2024.
 - 6 members appointed by the Allen County Commissioners.
 - 1 member appointed by Allen County Council.
 - 1 member from each of the two largest cities in the county (Fort Wayne & New Haven).
- General Department Updates
 - Dr. Lindsay Weaver, State Health Commissioner visited and talked with board members/elected officials in September.
 - Completed the yearly city/county employee flu clinic.
 - Staff readying and deploying COVID and flu vaccines (RSV when available).
 - Gearing up for the next phase in our grant program and for all HFAC initiatives and duties for 2024.
 - Board meeting dates for 2024.
 - Tattoo/Body Piercing Ordinance up for amendment.

Discussion

- Dr. Pond commented that the Grant Program/Community Partner Meeting was great. He felt it was very beneficial for those wishing to apply for the grants.
- Dr. Cameron inquired about the lack of grant applications for certain areas and if there are plans to do these internally.
 - Mindy Waldron stated that we will know more in 2024.
 - Dr. Gutwein commented that we need to look at everything as a whole, such as mental health. Learning about a lot we are not involved in, will expand in the future, some internal and some external.
- Dr. Pond commented that the Health First program is very robust and high intensity and inquired if we know how other counties budgets are being allocated.
 - Mindy Waldron stated that we are unsure how other counties' budgets are being allocated. In the future we may collaborate or help/support other counties.
- Dr. Pond inquired how the political affiliation is determined for board members, since there can be no more than five of one political party affiliation on the board.
 - Mindy Waldron stated that it is by the honor system and whatever the board appointee states their political affiliation is. Unless legislators give any guidance on how this should be determined.

- Dr. Pond asked what the change in the fee is in the Tattoo/Body Piercing Ordinance.
 - Mindy Waldron stated that there is not any change in the fee, just one permit is no longer needed.
- Dr. Pond would like Mindy Waldron to pass on the board's appreciation to the Tattoo Convention governing members that have assisted with the revision of the Tattoo/Body Piercing Ordinance.

Personnel Report - Mindy Waldron

- Hired Positions:
 - Katy Pefley - Environmental Health Specialist (Food Division)
 - Michelle Morgan - Registered Nurse (Community Health & Case Management Division)
- Open Positions:
 - Registered Nurse
 - Harm Reduction Medical Assistant
 - Disease Intervention Specialist

Presentation slides are available upon request.

Consent Agenda

- Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Dr. Cameron and seconded by Theodore Sobol. Motion carried unopposed.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Motion to adjourn was made by Theodore Sobol and seconded by Dr. Cameron. Motion carried unopposed.

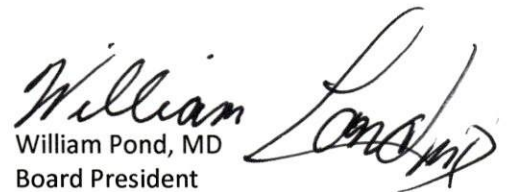
Adjournment: 6:44 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: January 22, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas Gutwein, MD
Health Commissioner



William Pond, MD
Board President