

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
EXECUTIVE BOARD  
November 9, 2022

The in-person and virtual (Microsoft Teams) meeting of the Executive Board of the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) was called to order at 10:34 am in the Robert O. Yoho Executive Board Room of the IDOH building by Brenda Goff, Chair. The following Board members were present for all or part of the meeting (in-person or via teams):

Naveed Chowhan, MD, FACP, MBA (via Teams)  
Brenda Goff, HFA (Chair)  
Martin Hanneman, DDS  
Robin Marks, DVM  
Joanne Martin, DrPH, RN, FAAN  
Shelley Rauch, HFA (via Teams)  
Holly Robinson, MD  
Stephen Tharp, MD (Vice Chair)

Those not able to attend:

Blake Dye  
Suellen Sorensen, PharmD, BCPS  
Patricia Spence, PE  
Kristina M. Box, MD, FACOG, Secretary

The following staff members were present for all or part of the meeting (in-person or via teams):

Pam Pontones, Deputy Health Commissioner of Local Health Services  
Lindsay Weaver, MD, FACEP, Chief Medical Officer  
Amy Kent, Deputy Health Commissioner & Chief Strategy Officer  
Jon Ferguson, Executive Director, Healthy Hoosiers Foundation  
Kelly MacKinnon, JD, Chief Legal Counsel  
Donna Sembroski, Office of Legal Affairs

Call to Order

Brenda Goff, Chair, stated that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:34 am. She then asked if Board members had any known conflicts of interest to declare. Hearing none she proceeded with the meeting.

Minutes

Ms. Goff asked for discussion and/or corrections to the minutes of the September 14, 2022, Executive Board meeting. Hearing none, she entertained a motion for approval. On a motion made by Joanne Martin, seconded by Dr. Holly Robinson and passed by majority roll call vote of in-person and virtual attendees, the Board approved the minutes as presented.

## **OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Pam Pontones, Deputy Health Commissioner for Local Health Services, provided an update on the CDC public health infrastructure grant which is \$51 million over five years. This grant will cover costs to support the implementation of the Governor's Public Health Commission recommendations to improve public health in Indiana, including Workforce, Foundational Capabilities and Process Improvement and Data Modernization.

Dr. Lindsay Weaver, Chief Medical Officer, explained the changes in the newly restructured IDOH organizational chart that will support the implementation of the Governor's Public Health Commission recommendations. She also provided an update on the American College of Surgeons (ACS) site visit to assess Indiana's Statewide Trauma System. The last assessment was in 2008. The final report will be shared with the Executive Board when it has been received.

Dr. Weaver also provided an update on the Smart Start Vaccination Campaign. She reported there was a 10% drop in childhood immunizations during the pandemic. Reminder letters were sent to parents in July as a reminder. As of September, immunizations were up 27% and in October 46%.

### **Governor's Public Health Commission**

#### **Implementation Update**

Amy Kent, Deputy Health Commissioner and Chief Strategy Officer, provided an update on the Governor's Public Health Commission (GPHC) recommendations. There is a Public Health Day: Investing in Hoosiers Lives scheduled for Thursday, January 26 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the State House in the North Atrium. This event will hopefully demonstrate to legislators the importance of public health. The Executive Board members have been invited to this event. Ms. Kent provided an update on the GPHC implementation process, stakeholder meetings, and past and upcoming roadshows. The next steps are:

1. Convening district strategy sessions with LHDs to engage community partners and elected officials
2. Ongoing stakeholder meetings for coalition building
3. Ongoing meetings with key legislators
4. Presentation to the State Budget Committee in early December
5. Communications – keep spreading the message

Dr. Weaver provided an update on the funding aspect of the GPHC recommendations. LHDs must "opt in" to receive the increased funding and agree to perform the core public health services for five years. LHDs that "opt out" will continue to receive the funding at their current rate and will have the opportunity to "opt in" in one year. Current calculations total \$203 million if all LHDs "opt in".

#### **LHD Core Services Update**

Pam Pontones, Deputy Health Commissioner of Local Health Services, provided an update on the regional and district personnel infrastructure. There will be three regional teams. The northern region is composed of Districts 1, 2, 3 & 4. The central region is composed of Districts 5, 6 & 7. The southern region is composed of Districts 8, 9 & 10. There will be 10 district teams as well. All these teams will assist the LHDs.

Pam reported that a LHD Core Services Committee has been formed to define the core public health services that should be available in each county/jurisdiction. The Committee will review current required LHD services & activities and review recommendations from subject matter experts on additional services LHDs can/should provide OR ensure are available in their jurisdiction. Currently, the required core services are: Vital Records, Environmental Services, Food Protection & Inspection, Fatality Review, Lead Assessment & Case Management, Immunizations, Infectious Disease Surveillance & Prevention, Tuberculosis Control & Case Management, Tattoo, Body Piercing & Eyelash Safety, and Health-related Areas During Emergencies/Disasters. Other additional services are: Tobacco Prevention and Cessation, Maternal and Infant Mortality, Health Equity, Harm Reduction for Trauma and Injury Prevention, School Health Liaison, and Full-time Public Health Nurse.

In summary, LHDs shall be aware of the needs within their communities, with a focus on health equity, to ensure those are met and refer/connect individuals to services through community partners as needed. The IDOH is committed to working through regional, district and division teams to make connections to community partners easy and readily available. LHDs shall use data to inform planning, operations, and decision-making and to measure results and outcomes. LHDs shall work to standardize, in coordination with the IDOH, and move to digital documentation for all vital records, food inspection, and environmental inspection records and improve data infrastructure.

#### Distribution

Ms. Goff thanked staff for the professional new hire and separation reports and summary of final orders.

#### Adjournment

Hearing no additional comments from the Board, staff and/or public, Ms. Goff adjourned the meeting at 12:20 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2023.