

Health Board Minutes

January 18th, 2022

Members present in person at the Health Department and on Zoom

Members Present:

Linda Bauer
Michael Day
Thomi Elmore
Thomas Martin
Cynthia Rose
Catherine Rountree
James Zimmerly

Staff Present:

Ernie Reed
Taylor Hardesty
Jennifer Heller
Seleah Settle
Dr. Norman Oestrike, Health Officer

Guests Present:

Susi French- Family Nurse Partnership
Olivia Zarate- CDC Foundation

Board Nominations for 2022:

- a. Board President
 - I. **MOTION** to nominate Thomi Elmore as Board President: Cindy Rose
ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Board Vice President
 - I. **MOTION** to nominate Dr. Michael Day as Board Vice President: Cindy Rose
ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Assistant Health Officer
 - I. **MOTION** to nominate Dr. Thomas Martin as Assistant Health Officer: Linda Bauer
ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from November 16th, 2021

- a. Cathy Rountree requested that the minutes be amended to include the statement that Dr. Norman Oestrike presided over the November 16 board meeting.
ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the amended minutes from the November 16th meeting passed unanimously.

Health Officer- Dr. Norman Oestrike

- a. COVID
 - I. 2,289 Positive Cases
 - II. All 92 counties in the state are at the red level.
 - III. Through the federal government, anyone can sign up to receive 4 at home rapid tests per address. The link to sign up for this service was posted to the Health Department's Facebook page.
ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the Health Officer's report for January through December 2022 passed unanimously.

Front Office- Judy Hess and Taylor Hardesty – Report Mailed

- a. New Department Website
 - I. Taylor said that the state has offered to provide the department a new website. The website is free and can be edited as frequently as needed. This will also allow the department to post meeting audios, agendas, and any other necessary additions. The board agreed this was a great idea and they are looking forward to seeing it launch soon.
- b. County Emails for Board Members
 - I. Taylor announced to the board that the IT department voiced concern about assigning any new county email addresses because of the cost. It was suggested that a generic email

(bchealth@browncounty-in.us) be given to the public for any correspondence to the board, then the emails would be sent out to the board member's personal email addresses by the department staff. Also, the board members check their personal emails much more frequently than their county email.

- II. Cathy Rountree raised some concerns regarding putting government business within personal emails. In the event of a legal issue, she is concerned the court could have access to their personal emails, especially due to the legal notices they often receive. Since board members have access to confidential information, she feels they should be provided an email. Thomi agreed that with the legal notices she does not want to compromise her personal email. Dr. Oestrike also agreed with their objections. He inquired if the cost of the email domain could be paid from the department's budget. Taylor said she was unsure since currently it is paid by the county. Taylor said she would discuss these concerns with the IT Department and would continue the discussion further.
- III. Cathy asked that the front office report be amended to clarify the section that discusses the job positions that are partially paid by the tobacco dollars and partially by the department.
- c. Septic Service Record Keeping
 - I. Taylor gave a brief description of the septic project she has been doing. Jim Zimmerly inquired if within this program the department could also keep track of septic service records.
 - II. Thomi said it is technically not mandated for homeowners to have their tanks serviced, so although it is encouraged, it is up to the realtor and the homeowners to do their due diligence. Cindy said legally whenever you are requiring someone to have their tank serviced and a government agency to keep track of it, it goes way beyond the jurisdiction of the Health Department. The rest of the board agreed.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the front office report with the amended clarified verbiage regarding the two employee positions passed unanimously.

Emergency Preparedness-Corey Frost– Report Mailed

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the emergency preparedness report passed unanimously.

Nursing- Seleh Settle – Report Mailed

- a. Extended Testing Hours
 - I. Seleh stated that through the month of January the Health Department opened for extended testing hours due to high demand. This is in addition to the normal testing hours. The additional testing is from 4 to 8 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays, and Saturdays from noon to 4 pm.
- b. COVID Funds
 - I. Cindy inquired if all the additional testing and other services were funded by the federal government. Dr. Oestrike said these expenses are funded by grants from the CDC. The funds go to the state then the counties apply for grants and receive the money. Cindy asked if repaving the parking lot was funded by these grants. Dr. Oestrike said that the funds were allocated to create a safe and operable testing clinic, so some of the COVID funds were used to repave the parking lot as it was very dangerous and needed to be ADA accessible. Since the funds used to pay rent at the music center, the funds were now used to modify the clinic. Cindy said that she would like to see a ledger of the covid grants the department has received, how the funds were spent, and what the remaining balance is.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the nursing report passed unanimously.

CDC Foundation- Olivia Zarate

- I. Olivia introduced herself as an employee for the CDC. Her job is to assist local health departments with anything they may need such as flyers, advertisements, and grant assistance. She exchanged information with Seleh for any needs she may have in the future.

Environmental Health-John Kennard & Ernie Reed-Report Mailed

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the environmental health report passed unanimously.

Environmental Health –Jennifer Heller – Report Mailed

- a. Active Shooter Training
 - I. Jennifer has a retired FBI agent coming to teach an active shooter training. This is for the public and anyone can attend. It will be January 28th in the Salmon Room.

- b. Indiana Health Association Conference
 - I. Jennifer will be hosting the conference for the Indiana State Health Association at the Abe Martin Lodge. Normally the guidance states that an employee cannot rent a room if they live within 50 miles of the conference. Since Jennifer is the one hosting the conference and lives 30 miles away, she has asked the board to allow a variance to the rule to allow her to book a room at the Abe Martin Lodge for the duration of the conference.
ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the one-time exception to the 50-mile radius rule so Jennifer can book a room at the Abe Martin Lodge and be on site during the Indiana Health Association conference passed unanimously.
ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the environmental health report passed unanimously.

Recovery and Wellness Coalition-Cathy Rountree & Michael Day

- I. Cathy said she wanted to make the public and board more aware of the coalition. It is a statewide entity that uses county funds collected from fines and recycles it into the recovery community. The coalition includes the faith community, law enforcement, recovery community, and anyone else interested. The coalition also compiled a recovery resource guide that was released to the public.
- II. Michael Day said a large story will be in the Democrat about the coalition doing a program called motivational incentives. Citizens that have done well with their recovery will gain vouchers by having negative drug screens, completing 12 step programs, and other activities. They can then exchange the vouchers for gift cards and other rewards as a form of positive reinforcement.

Nurse-Family Partnership Program- Susi French

- I. Susi explained that her partnership program supports first time mothers that meet income eligibility and are less than 28 weeks pregnant. She meets with the mother at their home or a neutral location 1-2 times a week. This service continues until the child turns 2 years old. Susi said having a nurse's assistance eases some uncertainties of a first-time mother. A licensed clinical social worker can also help the mother if they are suffering with postpartum depression or other mental health issues. Studies have shown in other states that this program has caused a decrease in neglect and smoking and an increase in breastfeeding and overall wellbeing of the mother and child. Susi is very excited to include Brown County in her scope and asks that the word be spread as much as possible. She has also gotten in touch with the Democrat.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to adjourn meeting at approximately 6:15 pm passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Norman Oestrike, MD
Health Officer

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