

MINUTES

June 15, 2020 ~ Health Board Meeting

Grant County Complex ~ Council Chambers

Members Present

Dr. Ihrke
Dr. Renfroe
Dr. Leighty
Dr. Miller (via WebEx)
Dr. Bragg
Dr. Pearson

Members Absent

Chuck Poling

Staff Present

Dr. Moore Tara Street
Peggy Bradley Jeff Couch
Dean Small Teanna Silverthorn
Amber Turner David Glickfield

Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm

Approval of Minutes

February 24 minutes were approved as written.

May 13 Executive Session minutes were approved as written.

Foods Division Update

Dean Small reported that Dale Carr had resigned in March of this year. Dean has moved into the Department Head role and Scott Kikendall has been hired. Dr. Renfroe inquired if formal orientation or training is available. ISDH does not offer formal Certified Food Safety Officer training however education is provided along with hands on training with Dean.

Nursing Division Update

Amber Turner shared the chain of events in the Nursing Division since COVID was confirmed in Indiana and then Grant County on March 19, 2020. Contact tracing began immediately for all confirmed cases. To date Grant County has 324 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 24 deaths. Clinical cases are now being included in total case numbers which is causing the numbers on the ISDH website to be skewed from our local numbers. Contact tracing was taken over by the ISDH on May 18th. Information sharing with MGH is going well. Information is being provided to the Summer Intern COVID program for their interviews. Amber is giving daily reports on WBAT. Appointments for immunizations were recently started in order to respect social distancing.

Environmental Division Update

Peggy Bradley stated septic installations are slow with little explanation. Housing complaints have escalated substantially.

Old Business

Animal Bite Protocol: Dr. Pearson will finalize the draft and email it to Tara. The draft will be looked over by legal council and presented at the August meeting. Tabled until the August meeting.

New Business

Policy for Staff Attendance at Health Board meeting: A policy needs to be established for Health Department staff attendance at Board meetings. Tabled until the August meeting.

COVID-19 Community Testing & Research Internship Program: Ann Vermillion shared plans for the internship program. The goal is to develop a meaningful research project and to establish a testing program which includes a CDC (like) behavioral health questionnaire. Phase one will run from current thru August. The students participating will present their research and data at the August board meeting. The second phase, if the grant funds are received, will run through the end of the calendar year. More information to follow.

Insight with Dr. Moore: Appreciation was expressed to the staff for stepping up in the midst of all that is going on. “The world got turned up-side-down when COVID came. We had this year all planned out and this came along and dominated the agenda as a rapidly moving target”. After explaining several of the stages Grant county and the health department have gone through during this pandemic Dr. Moore shared his belief that it is now necessary to test, test, and test some more in order to begin to get and understanding about this virus stating “we can’t manage what we don’t monitor”. The internship is key to allowing the health department to gain a wealth of knowledge about COVID and its victims. Much information regarding testing procedures, plans for the internships and the many different approaches to COVID was shared.

The health department has been tasked with determining how to safely re-open the schools and Dr. Moore would like to have a public discussion at a special Health Board meeting in order to develop the directives to be issued to all Grant County schools. A meeting will be held among the counties school administrators and the health department will take place in mid-July. Directives need to be established prior to that meeting.

2021 Grant County General Fund budget: Budget was discussed with the recommendation to leave all line items at the 2020 amounts. Dr. Renfroe motioned, 2nd by Dr. Pearson, unanimous approval.

2021 Local Health Maintenance Fund grant and Indiana Local Health Department Trust Fund grant budget: Budgets were discussed. It was pointed out that both funds are depleting the carryover monies in order to maintain the programs. This will be addressed by asking the County Council to fund a second full time nurse. Recommendation was made to leave all line items at the 2020 amounts. Dr. Miller motioned, 2nd by Dr. Bragg, unanimous approval.

2020/2021 Preparedness budget: Budget was discussed with the recommendation to pass the budget as submitted. Dr. Leighty motioned, 2nd by Dr. Renfroe, unanimous approval.

Dr. Moore welcomed Dr. Bragg to the board.

A special public meeting of the Board was set for June 22, 2020 at 6pm in the County Council Chambers to discuss a plan to re-opening for the schools. School administrators will receive an email invite. In order to respect social distancing guidelines the meeting will also be available via WebEx.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm

Next regular meeting August 17, 2020

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tara Street