

MINUTES

August 19, 2019 Health Board Meeting

Grant County Complex ~ Council Chambers

Members Present

Dr. Ihrke
Charles Choate
Chuck Poling
Dr. Renfro
Dr. Leighty
Dr. Miller

Members Absent

Staff Present

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:00pm.

Dr. Ihrke chaired the meeting.

Minutes

June 17, 2019 minutes were read and approved as written.

Environmental Division Report

Jeff Couch presented the Environmental Division report (attached). Jeff reported that no mosquitos sampled in Grant County had tested positive for West Nile Virus to date. Dr. Leighty inquired as to the procedure when a positive West Nile is documented. Health Department is to notify the public. The Environmental Division will present a clear plan of action at the next meeting.

Foods Division Report

Dale Carr presented the Foods Division report (attached). Dale Carr held an educational meeting focusing on Universal precautions with the 1812 organizers and participants at Marion Public Library.

Nursing Division Report

Amber Turner presented the Nursing Division report (attached). Amber noted the immunization rate for the Nursing Division are up over 66% compared to the same time frame in 2018. Dr. Renfro inquired about the STI Clinic. Amber stated the response is “not where we expected”. It is believed that the close proximity of the Sheriff Department and jail is a deterrent to potential clients.

Vital Records Report

Teanna Silverthorn presented the Vital Records report (attached). Dr. Ihrke would like to see cause of death statistics on premature deaths. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings statistics will be provided for the next meeting.

A Few Words from Dr. Moore

Dr. Moore expressed a desire to have more back and forth with the board stating “there is a world of things we can touch as a Health Department and I would like to know what matters to you as a board. What can we bring to you?”

Dr. Leighty spoke about his work with the Thriving Families Program, specifically the Quality of Life Program. Dr. Leighty along with Dawn Brown, President/CEO of the Community Foundation of Grant County feel there is grant money available to create and fund a Community Health Coordinator position within the Health Department. Dr.’s Moore, Leighty and Ihrke will meet with Ms. Brown to discuss the possibilities.

Old Business

- a) Dr. Moore reported the Commissioners had presented a smoke free air ordinance which will, by definition, regulate electronic devices aka e-cigarettes as smoking. The ordinance also creates a required distance of 20 feet from bleachers, grandstands and playgrounds. The Commissioners requested a recommendation from the board whether smoking should be banned completely at public events and festivals or if the organizers should be permitted to designate smoking areas. The recommendation of the Grant County Health Board remained consistent in that all smoking should be banned in public areas. Responsibility for enforcement being placed on the Health Department is a great concern that David Glickfield will address with the Commissioners.
- b) The Commissioners removed the IOWPA requirement from the On-Site Septic Ordinance at their August 5th meeting which inadvertently allows anyone meeting the bond and insurance requirements to install a septic system. Much discussion was had about certification testing, who should write the test, what the test should include, fees and requirements. Wabash and Miami County have shared their certification test which will be used as a model. Environmental Division staff will continue working to develop an installer certification test for Grant County.

New Business

- a) Resignation of Health Board President. Board Vice President Dr. Ihrke spoke on the resignation of board President Dr. Noel Ratliff stating “disappointment in our community that a person would receive threats and feel that he could no longer serve that community”. Dr. Ihrke will chair the next meeting in order for newly appointed board member Dr. Denise Pearson to be present and participate in the process.

Prior to the next meeting Dr. Renfroe will work on standards for a Health Officer evaluation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm

Next meeting September 23, 2019

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tara Street