

Porter County Board of Health Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

155 Indiana Avenue, Commissioner's Chambers

Valparaiso, Indiana

Abbreviated Minutes

In Attendance: Dr. Chris Osan, Robyn Lane, Sylvia Graham, Michelle Cherry, Dr. Kimberly Brunt, Attorney Colby Barkes

Absent: Attorney Dave Hollenbeck and Dr. Linda Boxum

Meeting opened with The Pledge of Allegiance led by Dr. Chris Osan. Michelle Cherry arrived late.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Chris Osan requested a motion to approve the “previous month’s” regular meeting minutes. Vice Chairperson Robyn Lane made the motion to approve, and Dr. Kimberly Brunt seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Announcements

The next Porter County Board of Health meeting is canceled due to primary election day on May 5th, the following meeting is scheduled for June 2nd in the Commissioners’ Chambers of the Porter County Administration Building in Valparaiso.

New Business

The Opioid Settlement Grant was awarded to the Porter County Health Department. This proposal included a Peer Recovery Coach, Antonio Turner, sustaining provider assistance, Pulse-Point integration management, and “SaveHeart Station” AED placement at the Porter County Expo Center and Sunset Hill. The total grant awarded was \$27,590 with an additional \$20,000 from the Porter County Commissioners. Antonio Turner will plan one-hour sessions every other week for one year at JDC where monthly education already includes Stop the Bleed, Hands-only CPR, STI testing with classroom sessions by a PCHD nurse, and food safety education.

Old Business

None.

Reports of Board Attorney

Attorney Colby Barkes discussed PulsePoint Integration and AED Placement legal documents and contracts including termination clauses were reviewed and approved. Funds were already allocated for the project. He has been handling subpoenas tied to active litigation and FOIA requests. He has upcoming ordinance work including tattoo-related changes. Mobile attachment ordinance and budgets will be discussed next meeting in June.

Claims & Receipts

Dr. Chris Osan requested a motion to approve the claims and receipts. Dr. Brunt made the motion to approve, Sylvia Graham seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Reports of Committees, Staff, and Health Officer

Carrie Honeycutt, care coordinator for PCHD, discussed the growth of the Find Help platform and outreach after board members emphasized destigmatizing mental health and encouraging help-seeking. She reported significant growth of the platform that was launched December 2023 using outreach tools such as window clings, removable stickers, and magnets. These tools are usable across counties. She also discussed the shortcuts on the front page of the website for quick crisis access including veterans, recovery, reentry, and 24/7 crisis. There are added community partnerships and autism-related resources that were expanded.

D.O.N. Jessica Malher, noted suicide concerns and coordination. Meetings are scheduled with IU Health and the state trauma/injury prevention leads to brainstorm additional strategies to help with the high and variable suicide rates across age groups. There are permissions in place for crisis messaging including 988.

Health Officer Dr. Guimont discussed ongoing rotation of family medicine residents through the Health Department for their public health elective. He explained an expanded partnership with the residency program including patients without primary care can be assigned to residents as PCP's, and how Dr. Young continues specialty treatment letting residents manage broader health and social needs.

Miscellaneous

None.

Public Comment

None.

Meeting Adjourned