

Porter County Board of Health Meeting

Tuesday, June 2, 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, Dr. Linda Boxum, Dr. Amanda Alaniz, Attorney Colby Barkes

Absent: Rodney Guimont Jr. M.D. and Attorney Dave Hollenbeck

The meeting opened with The Pledge of Allegiance led by Chris Osan.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Chris Osan requested a motion to approve the “previous month’s” regular meeting minutes. There was no meeting in May. Michelle Cherry made the motion to approve, and Dr. Boxum seconded. The motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Announcements

The next Porter County Board of Health meeting is July 7th in the Commissioners’ Chambers of the Porter County Administration Building in Valparaiso.

New Business

Updates from Porter County Aging and Community Services included transportation services to new out-of-county medical facilities such as Michigan City, Hobart, and Crown Point, fleet upgrades including three new busses and three new minivans to reduce environmental impact, and a part-time dispatcher was hired in March to improve response times to voicemails and calls and any messages needing to be addressed. Also, there are strength and development classes held three times weekly which are continuing to grow in popularity. In partnership with the Porter County Health Department, staff has been trained in Stop the Bleed, CPR, and Narcan. An AED was purchased with grant funding, and the location was registered. Some current needs and challenges include the need for additional drivers due to high transportation denials in April and May which were over one hundred both months. Fuel costs more than doubled from January to May reaching \$7,300. Dr. Osan requested a motion to approve a request for funding to increase from \$80,000 to \$100,000. Dr. Boxum made the motion to approve, Sylvia seconded, and the motion was approved via roll-call vote. Approximately, \$50,000 in grants were secured for various services. The current transportation fee is one dollar per one-way trip with free rides for individuals with disabilities and subsidized options available.

In regards to ordinance and fee schedule changes, a draft ordinance was presented to formalize previously discussed fee changes. Dr. Osan called for a motion to approve fees, Sylvia made the motion, and Dr. Boxum seconded to substantively agree to the fee changes depending on feedback from the attorney and the commissioners. The motion passed unanimously via roll-call vote. There

is a proposed addition to the tattoo ordinance to regulate mobile tattoo units and tattooing at temporary indoor events. Some of those include requiring all tattooing to occur inside of unit, handwashing facility requirements, regulations for tattooing minors with guardian consent, a fee of twenty-five dollars per event per artist, and piercing won't be a major focus due to limited availability and complex sterilization requirements.

The 2027 proposed budget was presented for review and approval. Diabetes program funding will shift from direct funding to equipment purchases. Tobacco cessation program funding was discussed whether it is no longer necessary due to the effectiveness of state tax increases in promoting cessation. Dr. Osan requested a motion to approve the budget, Robyn made the motion, Michelle seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll-call vote.

Old Business

None.

Reports of Board Attorney

Colby will confirm ordinance formatting requirements with the commissioners' attorney and update the draft accordingly.

Claims & Receipts

Dr. Chris Osan requested a motion to approve the claims and receipts. Dr. Brunt made the motion to approve, Dr. Boxum seconded. The motion passed unanimously via roll-call vote.

Reports of Committees, Staff, and Health Officer

Health Fair was announced for next Friday from 11am- 2pm.

Miscellaneous

None.

Public Comment

None.

Meeting Adjourned