

Porter County Board of Health

Tuesday April 02, 2024

Commissioners Chambers

Abbreviated Minutes

In Attendance: Dr. Maria Stamp, Dr. Linda Boxum, Robyn Lane, Dr. Chris Osan, Dr. Patrick Fleming, Dr. Kimberly Brunt, Attorney Colby Barkes, Terry Wuletich, Kathy Lemmon

Absent: Attorney Dave Hollenbeck,

The meeting starts off with Dr. Linda Boxum leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

* **Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Dr. Brunt. Dr. Brunt makes mention to a misspelling of Leesa's name. Terry Wuletich seconds the motion and it passes unanimously, with the amended changes to Leesa's name.

* **Next Board Meeting**

Dr. Boxum mentions the next board meeting is scheduled for May 7th, which coincides with election day. The meeting may be canceled if the need arises to review applications for the open health officer position and additional meetings are needed for this purpose.

* **New Business**

-None-

* **Old Business**

-None-

* **Report of Board Attorney**

Colby Barkes states that a significant number of contracts and MOUs related to various programs and program related agreements were reviewed and approved. These include the Portage YMCA program delivery agreement, the bike program MOU, application, educational materials and liability waiver and a dental screening affiliate agreement.

* **Claims and Receipts**

Dr. Boxum calls for a motion to approve the claims and receipts. A motion to approve claims and receipts was made Robyn Lane. Dr. Osan seconds the motion and it is unanimously approved.

* **Reports of Committees, Staff, Health Officer**

Carrie Gschwind gives updates on the Find Help initiative, including the identification of network affiliates and the creation of promotional materials. Discussion was had on the presentation of vital records data reports, emphasizing the preference for detailed breakdowns in the reports for better understanding and analysis. Plans to install public health vending machines

stocked with health and well-being items across the county were discussed. Questions about operational details and privacy concerns were shared and Carrie will provide follow-up information next meeting.

Discussion takes place on Nalox Boxes available across Indiana, particularly in Indianapolis, and the depletion of their stock. The conversation centered on whether the Narcan was being taken by those in need or by others for resale. The conversation also touched on the challenge of ensuring that Narcan reaches the intended recipients. Comparisons were made to other free distribution scenarios, highlighting human nature to take freely available items, regardless of need.

Carrie Gschwind goes on to discuss the purchase of the machines quoted, which are temperature-controlled outdoor machine with custom configuration and branding. The machine is priced at \$10,700. The discussion also covered the software needed for the machine, emphasizing its technological advantages. Options for Wi-Fi and cellular connectivity were discussed, with a preference for cellular feed. Concerns were raised about where the information would be stored, with cloud-based storage was mentioned as the storage type. The discussion included the type of data stored and its visibility. The conversation touched on the community's needs and how the machine's presence could benefit them.

Discussion takes places on transportation needs in the community, including updates on the bicycle program and our Lyft transportation program, emphasizing the importance of accessibility in Porter County.

Discussion took place on a joint task force with the Tobacco Education and Prevention Coalition, HUB, PATH and the juvenile justice system aimed at assisting schools with restorative school substance use policies, prevention programs and restorative programming.

Dr. Osan makes a suggestion to model a school-based program after Recovery Connection, providing a contact for parents and teachers dealing with substance use issues.

Carrie Gschwind gives acknowledgment of Public Health Week, highlighting the work done in public health, and plans to spotlight different departments over three days with social media posts from the communications specialist/social media manager, Demetrious. There will be breakfast provided on Friday and all Board members are invited to attend.

*** **Asthma Program Development** ***

Carrie Gschwind talks about applying for a capacity building grant to develop an asthma program, including home assessments, education on possible asthma triggers, and asthma management plan preparation. Discussion takes place on the importance of having non-expired rescue inhalers and teaching students to use spacers effectively for asthma management. Dr. Stamp makes mention to the state health commissioner issuing a standing order allowing schools to administer emergency medicines like albuterol without needing individual agreements with physicians. Carrie Gschwind goes on to say that to start the program it will cost about \$8,800. Dr. Boxum calls for a motion to approve the Asthma grant funding. Terry Wuletich makes a motion to approve the grant. Kathy Lemmon seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

Public Comment

Dawn Miller asks about the public health vending machines and the possibilities of adding things like vitamins. She asks about the funding for the bike program. Dr. Boxum says the funding from the program came from Health First Indiana funding. The program has a budget of up to \$50,000 from Health First Indiana funding.

Penny Cusic makes mention to potential misuse of public health vending machines and says they should be added to locations where people who need them can get better access.

Dr. Osan makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Boxum seconds the motion and it passes unanimously. The meeting ends.

-Meeting Adjourned-