

Porter County Board of Health Meeting

Tuesday March 04, 2025

155 Indiana Avenue, Commissioner's Chambers

Valparaiso, Indiana

Abbreviated Minutes

In Attendance: Dr. Rodney Guimont Jr., Dr. Linda Boxum, Dr. Chris Osan, Robyn Lane, Terry Wuletich, Michelle Cherry, Sylvia Graham, Attorney Dave Hollenbeck

Absent: Dr. Kimberly Brunt

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sylvia Graham is introduced as the new board member, bringing her experience from the county council and as a liaison with the health department.

Dr. Linda Boxum called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February, 2025. Dr. Chris Osan made the motion to approve the minutes and Robyn Lane seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**** Announcements ****

The next Porter County Board of Health meeting is scheduled for April 01, 2025 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Porter County Administration Building in Valparaiso.

**** New Business ****

Porter County Sheriff's Office Social Worker, Sam Burgett, presented a proposal, in response to our Physical Activity and Movement RFA, for a meditative yoga program aimed at law enforcement and justice-involved individuals to reduce stress and stigma.

Concerns were raised about ensuring sustainability, accountability and return on investment for the program. Data to justify funding and an expression of interest from the populations served were requested. Discussion took place on the appropriate time frame for evaluating the yoga program's success. A shorter time frame was suggested to assess the return on investment and interest.

Dr. Boxum called for a motion to table this proposal until the next Porter County Board of Health session on April 01, 2025. Dr. Osan made the motion and Sylvia seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Sam will provide more stats regarding the benefits of this program, and will also plan to be accompanied by the yoga instructor of this initiative.

**** Old Business ****

None.

****Reports of Board Attorney****

Attorney Dave Hollenbeck reported on The Times news article involving the Porter County Health Department's Food Safety Division. He reported that the story is complete and it will be released any day now. He discussed the need to monitor recent state legislative developments that could influence funding to the health department.

****Claims & Receipts****

Dr. Boxum called for a motion to approve the claims and receipts. Terry Wuletich made the motion to approve and Dr. Osan seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

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

Health department staff members were introduced, highlighting their positions and responsibilities within the organization.

Porter County Health Department Administrator, Carrie Gschwind, gave updates on the budget for the health department, including different fund sources, and the budgeting process.

Carrie goes on to discuss the funding status of Health First Indiana and its impact on the health department's budget.

****Miscellaneous****

Discussion took place on how the "Find Help" webpage has been doing so far.

****Public Comment****

None.

Meeting Adjourned