

## Porter County Board of Health

Tuesday April 4, 2023

Meeting Room 102A

**In Attendance:** Attorney Dave Hollenbeck, Dr. Maria Stamp, Terry Wuletich, Dr. Patrick Fleming, Dr. Linda Boxum, Dr. Ronald Michaels, Robyn Lane, Jessica Jepsen and Kathy Lemmon

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Dave Hollenbeck called the meeting to order and Dr. Stamp led us with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Governor's Proclamation April 3 through April 9 as Public Health week.

Dr. Linda Boxum made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 7, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Robyn Lane. All were in favor. Motion carries.

### **Announcements:**

Our next meeting would normally be on 5/2/23, which is Election Day. Since all county rooms will be in use, we can either move the meeting to another venue, or not have one in May. Dr. Ron Michaels asked about moving the meeting to the following week. Robyn Lane made a motion to move the meeting to the following week whenever there is an election. Jessica Jepsen seconded the motion. If there is business to consider, we will have a meeting. If there is no business to discuss, we will make attendance optional and staff will provide updates. All in favor. Motion carries. Kathy Lemmon abstained from voting since she will not be available to attend on May 9.

**Addendum:** We discovered that meeting room 102A is available on 5/2/23; therefore we will meet on our usual date, time and location.

### **New Business:**

#### **Senate Bill 4**

Sheila discussed the Governor's Public Health Commission, and Senate Bill 4. Sheila prepared a packet for the board with details. Once the bill passes and we learn if the Commissioners and the Council opt in or out of the funding, we will proceed with prepared budgets. Our proposed budget must be ready for the Council by August. Our department is working to create two budgets; one if they opt out of the funding and our budget stays the same and one if they opt in. Currently, the funding amount proposed will be \$4,503,590 for the first year, doubling the following year. We expect the funding will change before the bill passes. This new funding would replace our current local health maintenance and trust accounts which we currently receive \$162,355. This would increase our per capita funding from 12.5 to 32.5 based on population from the 2020 census. The funds would be non-reverting and non-diverting which means that the money stays with the Health Department.

Based on the core services, we should have a staff of seventy; we currently have about twenty-eight staff. It will be difficult to build a staff to that level quickly and we need to determine where to put additional staff. We need to look at the core services, our strengths and weaknesses, and then decide if we want to partner with other agencies with MOU's to make sure those services are provided to the residents of Porter County. It is unlikely we can provide all the services in the first year. If we enter into MOU's with other agencies, we will set metrics to ensure they adequately meet our core services. We may want to look at getting a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOAT) analysis done by an outside company to enhance our services.

Transportation is a big issue in Porter County for people getting to services. Not just our services, but services across the board. We might consider contributing funding to existing programs, ride share etc.

If we receive the funding, there is a limit on Capital assets of 10%. This would include land, buildings, and vehicles. However, since it non-reverting we can set aside some money each year to use when needed. We may consider forming a Stakeholder Committee of various agencies and coalitions across the county. We can collaborate with different agencies to develop programs to present to the Board. This would be similar to the Community Foundation of Porter County and include FQHC's, Hospitals, Porter Starke, EMS, etc. within the county.

The state will be divided into three regions for support. We currently have regional support for Epidemiologist, Foods Specialist and an Environmental Specialist. IDOH will add more regional support for the following: health liaison, legal, finance, and data analytics. We have a lot of data coming in, but not enough staff to review. It is important to communicate this is not a state takeover of public health. Indiana is still a home rule state and they are merely there to support us.

Much of the funding received will go to core services. Key performance indicators (KPI) will make sure we are using money appropriately. We will set up programming based on the KPI for our area. We can also develop our own KPI and set individual goals for our county. We will report to the state through a dashboard.

Staff is looking at current programs and ways to improve. It is important to remember the bill may change before it passes. Final vote should be held before session ends on April 30.

### **Chairperson Vote**

Dave took nominations for the next Chairperson. Terry Wuletich made a motion to elect Dr. Linda Boxum as chairperson. Seconded by Kathy Lemmon. No other nominations. All in favor. Motion carries. Dr. Boxum thanked the board for the honor and the opportunity.

### **Attorney's Report**

Naming rights issue for car wraps. Dave plans to have a proposal at the next Board meeting. We should run this by the County Commissioners so they are aware of our policy.

### **Claims and Receipts**

Kathy Lemmon made a motion to approve the claims for February. Seconded by Robyn Lane. All in favor. Motion carries.

### **Health Officer's Report**

Dr. Stamp stated that work on Senate Bill 4 is a good exercise for us, whether it passes or not. We are able to give our recommendations and see what other counties are working on. This will make us a better Health Department, regardless of any extra funding we may receive. It is a good process even though it is time consuming.

### **Administrator Report:**

June 9<sup>th</sup> American Cancer Society, Relay for Life is having a walk. Luminaries will be put along the path with notes from family members. They use can goods to keep them in place. After the event, they will donate them to a local food bank. We will host a can food drive through the county. Collection will be May 1 -12. Sheila will work with Commissioners office and government offices on where to set up the collection bins.

Sam Burgett, social worker with Valpo PD, is developing a group to provide necessary services to the homeless within our community. She reached out to see if we would like to work with the coalition. The group will also include local EMS. We are here to help serve the under served in the community. While there is a high need for contributions, donations are at the lowest.

Sheila went over the Community Foundations request for funding. Dr. Michael raised a few concerns. Seventy percent of their budget will be toward salaries; nonprofits typically do not receive more than 10% of the budget towards salaries. They are increasing the budget from \$150,000 to \$250,000. The request does not include a clear plan for spending. The foundation is well respected and does a lot for our community. We need to determine if this program aligns with our core services. We want to make sure the funds are used to assist the community. It was noted they made a request for ARPA funds and they were denied. Board agrees that Sheila's response to the funding request was spot on. We will await a response.

**Division Reports:**

Foods Division will have its retail Food Safety Workshop Monday April 10 in the Chambers and on Tuesday April 11 at the Bonner Center.

**Public Comments:**

Penny Cusic went to all of the presentations for ARPA funds. Community Foundation did a presentation to receive funds and they were denied. Another group with a similar program did receive funding.

Dave noted that the Lilly Foundation reviewed this early childhood program and while they thought it was a good idea they chose not to fund it

Debbie Fray – teacher for 47 years - If we receive the funding from the state, would you be able to invest the money? We are looking into this also. We want the money to be used for public programs. Homelessness is an issue. Kids living in cars. High number of seniors going to food pantries. Called the Health Department regarding a lead issue and she was so glad to hear all that we offer with mitigation and testing. Way to go! Appreciated past help with septic issues also. Ms. Fray is happy the Shingles shot will be provided by PCHD at the upcoming school clinic. The health department is doing a fine job in so many avenues. Thank you for your service.

Motion to adjourn made by Kathy Lemmon. All in favor. Motion carries.