**Porter County Board of Health**

Tuesday February 1, 2022

Room 102A

**In Attendance:** Attorney Dave Hollenbeck, Chairman Martin Moeller, Health Officer Dr. Maria Stamp, Terry Wuletich, Dr. Patrick Fleming Dr. Derek Gasper, Dr. Linda Boxum and Suzanne Phelps

**Not In Attendance:** Kathy Lemmon

Chairman Moeller called the meeting to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Patrick Fleming made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 7, 2021 meeting, seconded by Terry Wuletich. All were in favor. Motion carries.

**Announcements:**

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 1, 2022.

**New Business:**

Introduction of new board member Dr. Linda Boxum who looks forward to serving Porter County. Board would like to recognize Donna Warner for her eight years of service on the board. The board members signed a resolution commemorating Donna for her service. Dr. Patrick Fleming made a motion to approve, seconded by Suzanne Phelps. All in favor. Motion carries.

We need to elect a Chairman and vice-chairman to the board since it is the first meeting of the year. Dr. Derek Gasper made a motion that Martin Moeller remain in the position of Chairman. Motion seconded by Suzanne Phelps. All in favor. Motion carries. Martin Moeller made a motion that Suzanne Phelps remain in the vice-chairman position. Motion seconded by Dr. Derek Gasper. Martin Moeller made a motion to close the nominations. Motion seconded by Dr. Linda Boxum. All in favor. Motion carries.

**COVID update:**

Getting much better on hospitalizations and cases. January was the worst month of the pandemic due to the number of cases and deaths. These were on the tail end of the delta variant. Hoping for better numbers for February. The Health Department has been giving vaccines and not charging the customer. ISDH billed insurance for an administrative fee and takes a portion of the payment. So far, we have received $517,000 for vaccines given through July 2021. We have not received any reimbursement for any shots after that date yet, due some issues in funding going to Veterans Affairs and FSSA instead of the Department of Health. ISDH also had to renew insurance contracts. We should be getting additional funds for vaccines in the future. Dr. Stamp recently signed for a grant for $70,000 from ISDH for a nursing liaison to the schools to help with contract tracing and issues. Changed the school contract tracing so the state of this grant is in flux. There will be a meeting to discuss any changes, deliverables. The Health Department can use the reimbursement for our expenditures. It is a one-time payment so we do not want to use for reoccurring payments. We did purchase three vehicles with some of this money. We have one vehicle, a 2005 van that we have been driving all over the state. We are looking into an all-wheel drive truck for Environmental, a larger SUV for the Nursing Division and a small SUV for the Foods Department. We will look into appropriations for the remaining funds and bring it to the board for approval prior to the next Council meeting.

Monoclonal treatments will remain limited due to the length of the treatment and the one on one with nursing to monitor. The demand has decreased so most can get in quickly. State had a flow chart with today’s webinar with availability of treatment options. Antivirals supplies are rising quickly.

John Pisowicz updated board on his status. He has completed 85% of his deliverables provided by the state.

Governor for the 23rd consecutive month issued an order for a public health emergency for Indiana. This may be the last one. Legislature is attacking his legal authority to implement further orders. For us it is a funding thing. Also provides ability to meet remotely. The emergency order also makes us eligible to receive certain types of Federal funding, such as additional unemployment, or food stamps. American Recovery Act resulted in Porter County receiving 33 million dollars. The first 16 million arrived in May, with the rest due to arrive this May. The Commissioners are seeking input from the citizens of Porter County on how the money should be allocated. They would also like to form a committee to make a recommendation. They specifically asked that a Board of Health member be included on the Committee. One issue we have are chronic malfunctioning septic systems. The only option is to connect them to a municipal collection system that goes to a sewage treatment plant. The problem is the high cost to run a line to a municipal plant. Dave and Dan will put a report together for all those that are close to a collection system. The only option for some homeowners is to pump and haul which has to be done frequently. We may offer a program where we pay part of the cost. This is a significant public health issue. Most of the homes are located in older subdivisions that do not meet the current lot requirements or have fill over a swamp.

Motion to approve the claims and receipts for September, October, November & December was made by Terry Wuletich. Seconded by Suzanne Phelps. All were in favor. Motion carries.

A draft of our annual report was provided to all Board members. We would like board to review before it is distributed.

Dave would like to revisit our mission statement.

We would like to interview community members to do PSA’s encouraging others to get their vaccines. Strike team days may change due to inclement weather forecasted.

A motion to adjourn made by Linda Boxum and seconded by Dr. Patrick Fleming. All were in favor. Motion carries.