**Porter County Board of Health**

Tuesday May 7, 2019

1401 Calumet Ave

Valparaiso, Indiana

All board members were in attendance for the meeting. Chairman Moeller called the meeting to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to accept the minutes of the February 2019 meeting was made by Kathy Lemmon and seconded by Suzanne Phelps. Motion carries.

Announcements: Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 4, 2019. Kris Contrino began working with the Health Department as the office manager and is being brought up to speed. She hopes to attend the June meeting.

**New Business**: Dave Hollenbeck introduced Dr. Patrick Fleming as our newest board member for consideration. Dr. Fleming is a primary care physician practicing in Chesterton. The board needs to endorse Dr. Fleming for appointment and the Porter County Commissioners will confirm the appointment at an upcoming meeting if they so choose. Donna Werner moved to endorse Dr. Fleming through the end of Dr. Forchetti’s term ending on December 31, 2020. Kathy Lemmon seconded the motion and all are in favor. Motion carries.

Barbara D. Hoover-200 W Valparaiso- Variance Request: Ms. Hoover is requesting a variance of the Porter County lot size criteria which requires 1 usable acre for a septic system. Ms. Hoover’s 3 bedroom single family home resides on a lot of .91 of usable acreage. She has the required primary septic and move over septic if needed. She has the space for 5 laterals even though only 3 are required. The stand-alone lot has loam soil which is good for septic systems. Health Department sanitarians are in agreement with this variance approval. Elizabeth Forbes makes a motion to approve and Donna Werner seconds. All in favor, motion carries.

Cecilia Ballard – 2404 Oakwood Drive – “Septic Malfunction”- Ms. Ballard is requesting the Health Department waive the repair permit for a septic system fee of $168. Ms. Ballard has been on pump and haul since 2016 but this is a temporary solution and she is now required to repair her septic. Donna Werner raised concerns of Ms. Ballard financial ability to cover the full cost of the repair. Ms. Ballard has received assistance to cover the cost of the new design and septic system repair. Discussion of local sewer/septic requirements ensued. Donna Werner motions to waive the permit fee with a second from Suzanne. All in favor, motion carries.

Porter-Starke Services, Inc., DBA – Marran Health Center- Ms. Ibstein is requesting a Mutual Order of Understanding (MOU) with Porter County Health Department to prevent overlapping of services with the Porter-Starke Services Marran Health Center in Hebron IN. They would like to refer clients to the Health Department for services we provide. Dave Hollenbeck, Ms. Ibstein and the health department nursing staff have been working together to agree on acceptable language for the MOU. The health center in Hebron plans to open Aug 1, 2019. Mr. Hollenbeck is asking for recognition from the board that they are in support of the collaborative effort and to authorize Dr. Stamp, Mr. Moeller, Mr. Hollenbeck and Mrs. Zepeda to finalize the MOU and bring it back to the June board meeting for approval. Kathy Lemmon made a motion to support and Dr. Gasper seconded and all are in favor.

**Dave Hollenbeck Report:** Dave discussed the progression of House Bill (HB) 1486. The initial purpose of HB 1486 was to restructure how the State Department of Health handles Technologies New to Indiana (TNI) in regards to septic systems. Indiana hopes to be an incubator for new ideas, but many of these new technologies do not fall within current Indiana code, thus a provision needs to be made to allow the use of such technologies. This had little effect on Porter County until the last week of the session when amendments were presented that would have added another path to approval through local health departments where the sanitarians would be tasked with reviewing and approving these innovative systems. Additionally, the time allowed to review was changed from 45 days to 10 days. These two changes would have a significant impact on Porter County Health Department work load. Dave reached out to Senator Charbonneau and Senator Tallian and both were receptive to looking at the bill and consequently the bill was amended on the floor to reflect wording that relieved local health departments from reviewing these TMI’s. Dave was thankful Mindy Waldron from Ft. Wayne Allen County was watching the progression of this bill and made us aware.

**Claims and Receipts**: Kathy Lemmon questioned why March claims were so high. This high amount was due to many claims being held from January and February due to the Office Manager open position. A motion to accept the claims and receipts for the months of March and February was made by Donna Werner and seconded by Dr. Gasper. Motion carried.

**Reports**:

Dr. Stamp- Connie and Dr. Stamp participated in a radio show on WVLP in the weekly segment by the Porter County Substance Abuse Council. The discussion centered on the nursing activities at the Health Department concerning substance abuse and the opioid crisis. They discussed HIV and Hepatitis C testing at the jails. They also discussed the current Hepatitis A outbreak in Indiana of which Porter County has no cases. The conversation eventually segued into measles vaccines due to current outbreaks across the US which allowed more discussion of services offered by the Health Department.

Conversation ensued regarding the measles outbreak and how Indiana is affected. Many people have called requesting vaccinations. The CDC guidelines are vague in regards to older populations born before 1957. There is a concern we will distribute more vaccine than we have available to us and vaccine will not be available to those who truly need it. Dr. Stamp has directed the staff to perform a titer to check patients requesting vaccination to determine if they actually need it or not. Those born 1960’s to early 1970’s are at a greater risk due to poor vaccines given during that time.

Nursing-

Foods-

Vital Records-

Environmental- Mr. Hollenbeck discussed Tony Moore’s passion regarding mold remediation. Our current policy on our website states the Porter County Health Department does not investigate mold complaints. Recent issues with Quality Inn, Portage precipitated a broader analysis of our role. Dr. Stamp, Letty and Tony are having discussions regarding mold complaints and our level of regulation. Donna Werner is concerned we will be opening a “Pandora’s box” by creating a program to regulate mold. Dave stated we are not in the business of mold remediation and Dr. Stamp commented they are proceeding with caution when considering a mold program. Mr. Moeller stated he believes rental properties could use our help and Dr. Fleming believes commercial properties such as schools are having issues based on complaints he sees in his practice. Elizabeth Forbes stated she believes community outreach and education is the best solution. Dr. Gasper raised concerns of employees using this against their employers.

Emergency Preparedness-On April 16th Letty, Tony, Kris and Sheila traveled to Jasper County to participate in the districts demonstration of all supplies available to District 1 in the event of an emergency.

Meeting adjourned.