**Porter County Board of Health**

Tuesday October 4, 2022

Community Foundation Building – Calumet Ave, Valparaiso.

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

Absent: none

Martin Moeller called the meeting to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Dan and Connie present colors.

Dr. Linda Boxum made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 6, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Suzanne Phelps. All were in favor. Motion carries.

**Announcements:**

The November 1, 2022 meeting is cancelled due to Election Day. December 6, 2022 is the tentative date of our next meeting.

**New Business:**

Mr. Bill Higbie with the Community Foundation presented on First Things First and their new initiative to open a 529 college fund for all children born in Porter County. The initiative is funded by the Lilly endowment and they hope to provide each child with $100. Upon the child’s 18th birthday, the child can choose to withdrawal the funds to support further education/training. First Things First is requesting the Health Department provide them with the following information: Child’s name, birthdate, parent’s names and address. Attorney Hollenbeck stated it is the board’s choice to make a motion to allow him to research Indiana’s public record laws. Once the laws are determined, the board can make a motion to move forward on the decision to provide the information to the Community Foundation.

A motion of support offered by Dr. Fleming and seconded by Dr. Gasper. All in favor, motion carries.

John Pisowicz’s Emergency Preparedness contract is up for renewal. The contract amount increased by $20,000 for grant period July 2022-June2023. Attorney Hollenbeck proposes a pay increase of $10,000 and the remaining $10,000 allocated to a fund for expenses associated with emergency preparedness. This fund will cover storage unit expenses and possibly new radios and/or an emergency notification app John is researching.

A motion to approve John Pisowicz new contract made by Kathy Lemmon. Seconded by Dr. Fleming. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Dr. Stamp’s Report**

Dr. Stamp presented the Governor’s Public Health Commission report and focused specifically on pages 19-30 regarding Recommendations and Action Items. Many of the recommendations will affect how Health Departments currently operate. A few highlighted recommendations include:

* Forming a committee of Public Health Professionals across the state to determine Indiana’s core health department services. Connie Rudd, PCHD Director of nursing is participating in this committee.
* The commission encourages partnerships with other health departments and local public & private agencies for key services such as TB, STI, and Lead.
* Taking measures to ensure the Board of Health represents the current public health workforce. The recommendation is to include an appointment from the county commissioners, county council and one member appointed by the most populous city in the county. The hope is to continue the bipartisan structure but add two or more independent members with no partisan affiliation.
* The commission would like to increase revenue streams to support the local health department and achieve consistent per capita spending in line with the rest of the US. Currently Indiana spends $55 per person on public health compared to the national average of $91 per person.

Dr. Stamp commented on the nurse’s school liaison program made possible by the State’s CoAg workforce grant. The department can play a significant role in student wellness, nutrition, exercise and ensuring appropriate & accurate health screenings are taking place in the schools.

There was discussion regarding measures the health department can act on now and measures that must wait until proper legislation is in place. The health department will continue to utilize already established grant funds to support wellness efforts.

**Attorney Report:**

Two Board of Health members’ terms expire on 12/31/22. Suzanne Phelps and Board President Martin Moeller. Both board members stated they would serve if nominated and appointed. Attorney Hollenbeck will recommend both members to the county commissioners if the board so approves.

Kathy Lemmon made a motion to approve recommending Suzanne Phelps and Martin Moeller for Board of Health reappointment. Seconded by Dr. Fleming. All were in favor. Motion carries.

Suzanne Phelps made a motion to approve the claims and receipts for July. Seconded by Dr. Linda Boxum. All were in favor. Motion carries.

**Administrator Report**:

Sheila Paul reported on staff restructuring efforts to help build up Outreach efforts and fulfill many of the Governor’s Public Health Commission Report recommendations.

Dr. Fleming made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Terry Wuletich. All in favor. Motion carries.