

MINUTES AND MEMORANDA
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
April 20, 2021
Regular Meeting

Present at the Meeting:

Heidi Beidinger-Burnett, PhD, MPH	President
Jason Marker, M.D.	Vice President
Ilana T. Kirsch, M.D., FACOG	Member
Michelle Migliore, D.O.	Member
John Linn, P.E.	Member
Ellen Reilander, J.D.	Member

Also Present at the Meeting:

Robert M. Einterz, M.D.	Health Officer
Mark D. Fox, MD, PhD, MPH	Deputy Health Officer
Jennifer S. Parcell	Executive Administrative Asst.
Amy Ruppe	Administrator
Robin Vida	Director Health Outreach Promotion and Education (HOPE)
Mark Espich	Director - Environmental Health
Cassy White	Director – Health Equity, Epidemiology, and Data (HEED)
Brett Davis	Asst. Director – Environmental Health
Jodie Pairitz	Director of Nursing
Ericka Tijerina	Director of Vital Records
Carolyn Smith	Director of Food Services
Mary Mumbi Wachira	ND Fellow
Marcellus Lebbin, J.D.	Department of Health Attorney

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, & NOMINATIONS

Board President, Dr. Beidinger, called the April 20, 2022 regular Board of Health meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Beidinger asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Changes were made to address documentation of the minutes and electronic meeting options. Dr. Migliore made the motion to approve the agenda as modified and Dr. Kirsch seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Dr. Beidinger then asked for a motion on the February minutes. Discussion was had about the one time inclusion of a transcript of the meeting. Following that discussion Mr. Linn made a motion to approve the February minutes with the inclusion of the full meeting transcript created by counsel, Dr. Migliore seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Dr. Beidinger then asked for a motion on the March minutes. A motion to approve the March minutes was made by Dr. Kirsch and seconded by Dr. Marker the motion carried unanimously.

IV. BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Beidinger congratulated Ms. Dixon and the Department on the successful birth equity conference.

Dr. Beidinger then noted that there is a vacancy on the Board and asked for interested individuals to reach out to a member of the Board. Dr. Beidinger asked the Board to submit the names of interested individuals, especially those with diverse backgrounds and public health experience to her so that they could be passed onto the Commissioners.

V. HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

Dr. Einterz gave the Health Officer Report highlighting the birth equity conference, the retirement of the emergency preparedness coordinator, and asked for questions on the written report submitted to the Board.

It was noted that there has been an uptick in COVID in the last couple of weeks, but it is not yet at a level of concern.

Dr. Einterz made the Board aware that there is a nursing shortage, and its effects are being acutely felt by the Department as the compensation offered by the Department is being significantly outpaced by the health systems. The Department of Health is looking at options such as using more medical assistants and part time nurses. Discussion followed on the needs of the Department resulting from these departures and possible solutions.

Dr. Kirsch then turned the conversation to the Healthy Homes Program and Mr. Espich gave an overview of the program.

Discussion was then held on Mr. Linn's question about the budget and funds from COVID reimbursement.

VI. DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

Dr. Fox tuned the conversation back to the COVID report and discussion was held on hospitalization rates and vaccine boosters. It was noted that the hospitalization numbers are stable, and boosters are being sought by the most vulnerable subgroups of the population. The discussion concluded with a determination that the County is not yet seeing the increases in hospitalization and death that are occurring in Europe.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Beidinger asked for Dr. Marker to present the finding of the committee on the decorum statement. Dr. Marker obliged and discussion was held on the options presented. Mr. Linn made a motion to edit the existing statement of decorum, add an introduction statement every meeting agenda, and add a Robert's Rules of Order handout to the new board member packet. That was seconded by Attorney Reilander and discussion followed. Dr. Marker then presented a compromise which Mr. Linn adopted and modified his motion so that:

(i) the decorum statement so that it reads:

At regular meetings, the public is invited to address the Board for three minutes regarding items posted or not posted in the agenda. Individuals may only speak once during this section of the agenda. Speakers shall properly identify themselves by stating their names and address for the record. Personnel issues are not to be addressed during the open sessions of the Board of Health. The Board President may interrupt, warn, or terminate any person's statement if the statement becomes personally directed, abusive, obscene, or inflammatory.

(ii) the location of the decorum statement is moved within the regular Board of Health meeting agenda along with the addition of the following header:

The following statement provides guidance for the public comment portion of this meeting as well as the expected decorum for all conversation during the meeting.

(iii) Portions of Robert's Rules of Order (the official parliamentary guide for our meetings) pertinent to Board meeting decorum and management will be distributed to all Board Members and be added to orientation materials for future new Board Members.

Mr. Linn's motion was seconded by Attorney Reilander and unanimously adopted.

Ms. White then gave an update from the HEED unit and the Health Equity 2022 Report. Discussion followed. It was noted that the Health Equity Report is a follow-up to the Burden of Disease Report and decided that the reports should be used both as internal resources and as a guide for the public to understand current health concerns and how they are being addressed.

Dr. Beidinger then turned the discussion to the minutes of the meetings and discussion followed. It was decided that the Attorney would still draft the minutes, but that they need not be any more verbose than required by Robert's Rules and that the meetings would be recorded and posted so that anyone interested could watch the meeting in its entirety.

Dr. Beidinger asked for discussion on electronic access to meetings. After discussion it was decided that the meetings would be in person, but the meetings would be recorded and posted for the public.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

IX. BOARD NOTIFICATIONS

Personnel changes were noted.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

XI. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

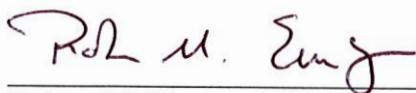
XI. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Board of Health is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 2021 at 4:30 p.m., at the County-City Building.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

ATTEST:



Robert M. Einterz, M.D.
St. Joseph County Health Officer

Respectfully submitted,



Marcellus Lebbin, Esq.
Health Department Attorney

Audio of meeting can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jeW5-b34ulOCnCycPk3gCCS5moWzsE7j/view>