

MINUTES AND MEMORANDA
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
June 15, 2022
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
John Linn, P.E.	Member
Ellen Reilander, J.D.	Member
Theresa Cruthird, MD	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)
Denise Kingsberry	Assistant Director of Vital Records
Karen Teague	Assistant Director of Food Services - ZOOM
Brett Davis	Assistant Director of Environmental Health
Sally Dixon	MIH Coordinator - ZOOM
Jodie Pairitz	Director of Nursing
Marcellus Lebbin, J.D.	Department of Health Attorney

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, & NOMINATIONS

Board President, Dr. Beidinger, called the June 15, 2022, regular Board of Health meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On motion made by Dr. Marker, seconded by Mr. Linn and unanimously approved, the agenda with addition of a new business item regarding participation policy for the June 15, 2022, regular meeting of the Board of Health was adopted.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion made by Dr. Marker, seconded by Mr. Linn, and unanimously approved, the minutes for the June 15, 2022, regular meeting of the Board of Health was approved.

IV. BOARDS PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Beidinger welcomed Dr. Cruthird an anesthesiologist and yielded the floor to Dr. Cruthird who gave a brief introduction of her background and her passion for land use, water systems, and food safety.

V. HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

Dr. Einterz noted the written report that was circulated and asked if there were any questions.

Attorney Reilander asked about where the money came from for the Maternal Infant Health Conference for birth equity. Dr. Beidinger stated that twelve thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) came from grants

Attorney Reilander asked about COVID-19 and whether there is still a need for testing sites. Dr. Einterz stated that the DoH CHWs perform social needs assessment, and in the context of those assessments offer home test kits to community members. Ms. White described the social needs assessments that have been done at LaCasa, in the DoH clinic, and in the community.

Attorney Reilander asked about the fetal infant mortality numbers from the most recent years. Ms. White stated that they will publish these numbers, but at this point the numbers are preliminary.

Attorney Reilander then asked about how appointments are made to the fetal infant mortality team. Ms. Vida stated that they get members through an invitation/application process. Mr. Linn then asked about the subcommittee for the team. Dr. Einterz stated that there was no subcommittee. Dr. Einterz also stated that the Board of Health should follow up with those who

are on the team. Dr. Einterz stated that the team has five objectives. There was then a discussion on FIMA v. MIHI.

Attorney Reilander asked questions regarding abortion recommendations coming from the working group. Dr. Einterz inquired about exceptions for the life of the mother. Discussion followed.

Dr. Beidinger brought up the Board resolution for participation by those who are in person only. Mr. Linn liked the public participation. Attorney Reilander wanted to ensure that the Department of Health would try to record and post the meetings. The proposal of the business for the Board resolution was made by Dr. Marker, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, and approved with the support of Dr. Beidinger, Dr. Marker, Dr. Kirsch, Attorney Reilander, and Dr. Cruthird. The motion was opposed by Mr. Linn.

VI. DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

There was nothing to report.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Pairitz gave a presentation on vaccination fees, including types of vaccines and the fees associated. A motion was made to approve the vaccination fees by Mr. Linn, seconded by Dr. Cruthird, and unanimously approved.

Dr. Einterz introduced the Department of Health Budget and concluded that it is sustainable through 2028. Dr. Kirsch asked about nurse positions. Mr. Linn supported funding for the Environmental Health unit. Attorney Reilander expressed her opinion that there was insufficient time to review the proposed budget. A motion was made to adopt the budget proposal by Mr. Linn and seconded by Dr. Marker, and approved with the support of Dr. Beidinger, Dr. Marker, Mr. Linn, Dr. Kirsch, and Dr. Cruthird. The motion was opposed by Attorney Reilander.

The County-wide lead initiative budget was discussed. A motion was made to adopt the budget proposal for the County wide lead initiative by Mr. Linn and seconded by Dr. Marker, and approved with the support of Dr. Beidinger, Dr. Marker, Mr. Linn, Dr. Kirsch, and Dr. Cruthird. The motion was opposed by Attorney Reilander.

Ms. Vida gave a HOPE presentation. The County alert system was discussed. Dr. Beidinger expressed the idea of looking into ways to improve mental health in St. Joseph

County. Discussion followed on how the Department of Health can improve access to resources for mental and physical health. A discussion on accessibility to food followed.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

IX. BOARD NOTIFICATIONS

Personnel changes were noted.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

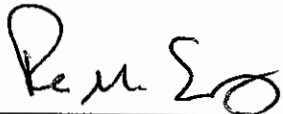
XI. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Board of Health is scheduled for Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 4:30 p.m., at the County-City Building.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

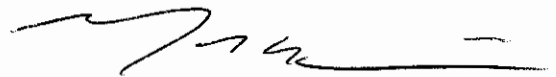
This meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

ATTEST:



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

Respectfully submitted,



Marcellus Lebbin, Esq.
Health Department Attorney

Full zoom of meeting can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiIPxlZS0iY>

From: [Rebekah Go](#)
To: [Jennifer Parcell](#)
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 5:35:29 PM

Hello! Can this be read at the meeting today? I'm on the zoom.

Sent on the Go, please excuse any errors!

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rebekah Go
Date: June 15, 2022 at 5:24:43 PM EDT
To: Robin Vida
Subject: Public Comment

Dear Robin,

Please read the following:

I am deeply concerned that the health department has become a foil for political partisanship.

I have always appreciated that the Health Department is not a lone wolf. It works hard to consistently look to national best practices with everything that it does. This means that it follows the recommendations of such nationally organizations as the CDC, the Academy of Pediatrics, the ACOG, and the FIMR

However, It seems that some of the newer members of the board don't even seem to trust these Nationally recognized science-based organizations. In which case, I must wonder - why are they are sitting on the board of public health at all? If not Nationally recognized best-practices then what? Some other lesser practice or intervention?

I believe that a certain amount of healthy scrutiny is important and even some actual skepticism. But this is absurd and it's gone too far. I have now attended three meetings (virtually) and this actually feels like a hostile takeover - inserting divisiveness into - of all things - the public health!!!

An unbelievable and unreasonable amount of these meetings has been spent discussing whether such a thing as a Public Health exists and whether best practices should be followed. All of this detracts from the clearly important work of this department. As we just heard, babies are literally dying. Mothers are literally dying.

I think if the public knew this, they would be outraged. I would like the newest members of the board to consider whether they should be at the table. Frankly, I think at this point you are doing more damage than good and I cannot see you as anything more than an impediment to the important work that needs to be done

(and I have spent months trying to give you the benefit of the doubt).

Thank you Dr. Bob, Dr. Fox, and Robin - among others. I am so grateful for your important work. And that you continue under what are frankly untenable circumstances.

Sent on the Go, please excuse any errors!