

MINUTES AND MEMORANDA
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

June 16, 2021
Regular Meeting
ALL-VIRTUAL MEETING

Present at the Meeting:

St. Joseph County Board of Health Members:

Heidi Beidinger-Burnett, Ph.D., MPH	President - Zoom
Jason Marker, MD	Vice President - Zoom
John Linn	Member - Zoom
Ilana T. Kirsch, M.D., FACOG	Member - Zoom
Michelle Migliore, D.O.	Member - Zoom
Jamie Shoemaker, M.D.	Member - Zoom

Also Present at the Meeting:

Robert M. Einterz, M.D.	Health Officer - Zoom
Mark D. Fox, M.D., Ph.D., MPH	Deputy Health Officer - Zoom
Jennifer S. Parcell	Executive Administrative Asst.
Mark Espich	Director, Environmental Health - Zoom
Robin Vida	Health Outreach, Promotion and Education (HOPE) - Zoom
Niko Rust	Director of Nursing, Clinic - Zoom
Carolyn Smith	Director, Food Services - Zoom
Cassy White	Director, Health Equity, Epidemiology and Data (HEED) – Zoom
Karen Flanigan	Asst. Director of Food Services - Zoom
Marcellus Lebbin	Attorney for Board of Health – Zoom
Nancy Pemberton	Director of Nursing, Immunization Clinic – Zoom
Brett Davis	Asst. Director – Environmental Health Zoom
Marcellus Lebbin	Department of Health Attorney - Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Board President, Dr. Beidinger-Burnett, called the June 16, 2021 regular Board of Health meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. All board members and members of the public participated via audio/visual Zoom with all members confirming they could hear each other.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On motion made by Dr. Marker, seconded by Dr. Shoemaker, and unanimously approved, the agenda for the June 16, 2021 regular meeting of the Board of Health was adopted.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion made by Dr. Marker, seconded by Dr. Migliore, and unanimously approved, the minutes of the May 19, 2021 regular meeting of the Board of Health were approved.

IV. BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett announced a new partnership with the University of Notre Dame to expand the capacity of the vector surveillance program. Dr. Beidinger-Burnett then turned the floor over to Mr. Davis for details.

V. HEALTH OFFICER PRESENTATION AND REPORT

The Board received reports from Dr. Einterz. There was a ruptured waterline at an apartment complex that required the water to be shutoff for a number of days. The Department of Health worked with owners of the complex to make sure conditions were sanitary and no evictions needed to take place. Dr. Einterz also noted that the Department of Health continued to work on acquiring grants and gave an update on the immunization clinic. Dr. Einterz outlined changes in the communicable disease report. Finally, Dr. Einterz informed the Board about bone graft material that was contaminated with Mycobacterium tuberculosis and distributed in twenty (20) States. There were several cases in St. Joseph County and the Department of Health is working with personnel at Memorial and SJRMC to treat infected individuals.

Dr. Marker asked about community health workers for the summer lead program. Ms. White informed the Board that the community health workers are starting to have conversations with community leaders this week to increase awareness and focus on ten (10) high risk census tracts. Ms. White also noted that a program for screening is being created.

Dr. Marker asked if all census tracts are urban and inquired as to how they were identified. Ms. White responded that the areas were identified by age of home, percentage in poverty, and ethnicity. Ms. White also noted that none of the area targeted are rural areas.

Dr. Shoemaker asked what the process is for food inspections and how findings were determined. Ms. Smith responded with the processes the Health Department follows for food inspections and how determinations are made with regard to public safety and shutdowns. Ms. Smith did note that of the eighty-three (83) complaints of foodborne illness this year the Department of Health found eight (8) possible cases and two (2) of those were confirmed.

Dr. Shoemaker asked if a food temperature education campaign would be beneficial. Ms. Smith responded by explaining how the compliance inspections are performed by the Department of Health and that every inspection is an educational session for items that need improvement. Dr. Einterz then noted that every restaurant is required by State law to have a certified food manager. Ms. Smith then explained the education requirements and responsibilities of a certified food manager. Dr. Shoemaker then asked some follow up questions about recent incidents at some establishments and Dr. Einterz and Ms. Smith responded. The discussion closed with Dr. Einterz stating the Department of Health has been encouraging the

county council for the last year to modernize permitting and inspection software in order to make reports more accessible to the public.

VI. DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER PRESENTATION

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Fox stated that all four (4) metrics were in the green for the first-time last week. Dr. Fox noted that testing is down, as are positive test results, and the Governor's mask mandate expires at the end of the month. With the expiration of the mask mandate local school systems are working on their recommendations, but requirements will be up to local school boards with guidance from the CDC. Dr. Fox stated that if case rates stay down it will be easier for schools to reopen.

Dr. Kirsch asked if the popup clinic was successful. Dr. Einterz informed the Board that all individuals came for their second shot, but only five (5) new individuals came for initial vaccination. Dr. Einterz stated there is a concern of in isolated outbreaks where vaccination uptake is low.

Dr. Shoemaker asked that the mask reporting be taken off the website. Dr. Einterz agreed that it should be removed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett called for new business and asked for Ms. Rust to provide a presentation on the immunization team. Ms. Rust obliged and gave a presentation on strategic plan, the implantation of the plan, and the team working to implement the immunization plan.

A discussion then followed with regard to the presentation by Ms. Rust. Dr. Kirsch asked about documentation and Dr. Migliore joined the conversation. Ms. Rust responded to their questions. The conversation then moved to medical records and patient portals and Dr. Fox responded to inquiries about new systems and capabilities that are being explored. Dr. Einterz informed the Board that the Department of Health is hoping to have a new system in place in the next few months.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Update

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett then asked about old business and it was noted that the wastewater and water resources advisory boards met.

IX. BOARD NOTIFICATIONS

1. Hirings: Two new summer interns have joined the team.
2. Resignations: None.
3. Retirements: None
4. Terminations: None

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cheryl Schlimpert commented on the COVID-19 dashboard and requested it include people who have been infected. Ms. Schlimpert also requested mask recommendations be removed for vaccinated individuals.

Amy Drake asked why herd immunity numbers went down in the calculations from the May to June meetings and inquired as to the information being used in herd immunity calculations. Dr. Fox responded by first apologizing that the response to Ms. Drake's email was missed due to family issues. Dr. Fox then explained the initial numbers used in May included all individuals who had been infected since the start of the pandemic and the updated numbers in June included natural immunity at ninety (90) or one hundred eighty days (180).

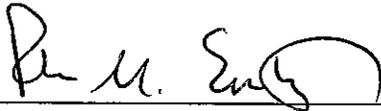
XI. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Board of Health is scheduled for Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 4:30 p.m., at the St. Joseph County Department of Health, 8th Floor Board Room-Zoom

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

ATTEST:



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

Respectfully submitted,



Marcellus Lebbin, Esq.
Department of Health Attorney