

MINUTES AND MEMORANDA  
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
July 20, 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, M.D.	Member
Michelle Migliore, D.O.	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)
Cassy White	Director – Health Equity, Epidemiology, and Data (HEED)
Brett Davis	Assistant Director of Environmental Health
Sally Dixon	MIH Coordinator
Jodie Pairitz	Director of Nursing – Zoom
Carolyn Smith	Food Services Director
Ericka Tijerina	Vital Records Director
Harry Gilbride	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Marcellus Lebbin, J.D.	Department of Health Attorney

**I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, & NOMINATIONS**

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

## **II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

On motion made by Dr. Kirsch, seconded by Attorney Reilander the agenda was put to the Board. Discussion was held and a motion was made to amend the agenda to discuss how press releases are reviewed before publication by Dr. Cruthird and seconded by Attorney Reilander. The agenda with the amendment was unanimously approved.

## **III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

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

## **IV. BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **V. HEALTH OFFICER REPORT**

Dr. Einterz stated the written report that was circulated and noted the change to the way the Emergency Preparedness section was presented and asked if the Board preferred the new style or the previous format. Discussion was held and it was the consensus of the Board that the new format was preferred.

Dr. Kirsch then inquired as to the status of Monkeypox in the County. Dr. Einterz responded with a summary of the virus, its origins, the hotspots in the United States, the population it is impacting, treatment options, and status of the cases in St. Joseph County. Dr. Einterz concluded by noting that the fatality rate is small, there have been none in the United States. Attorney Reilander asked about public relations and Dr. Einterz noted that he has talked with a number of media outlets that contacted the Department.

Attorney Reilander then asked about the Policy and Legislation statement. Discussion was held about the terms used in the report with Ms. Dixon and Dr. Kirsch defending the use of medical terms and Attorney Reilander asserting that legal terminology should have been used when addressing the legislature.

Dr. Marker entered the meeting.

Dr. Beidinger states that definition differences can be a concern, calls for a point of order.

Mr. Linn then inquires as to how the birth equity team/group gets its direction. Discussion followed. Dr. Einterz stated the Department will work to emphasize what comes out of that group to the Board.

Mr. Linn then asked how the budget was going. Dr. Einterz responded that there was a meeting tonight with the County Council and he would have more information for next meeting.

Attorney Reilander asked for a list of the individuals in all of the working groups, and Ms. Dixon said she would provide a list to the Board. Ms. Dixon then invited everyone to the August 4<sup>th</sup> public meeting from her group. Dr. Einterz also noted that that the Birth Equity team would be giving a report at 6:00 p.m. on July 21<sup>st</sup> that everyone is welcome to attend.

## **VI. DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER REPORT**

There was nothing to report.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Beidinger asks for a nomination to have Dr. Cruthird fill the vacancy on the finance committee. Upon motion by Mr. Linn, seconded by Dr. Marker, Dr. Cruthird's appointment to the finance committee was unanimously approved.

Dr. Beidinger then asked for a nomination to appoint Dr. Ronald Hellenthal to the Agricultural Advisory Board. Upon motion by Mr. Linn, seconded by Dr. Marker, Dr. Ronald Hellenthal's appointment to the Agricultural Advisory Board was unanimously approved.

Dr. Beidinger then asked for a nomination to appoint Dave Jeffers to the Agricultural Advisory Board. Upon motion by Mr. Linn, seconded by Dr. Marker, Dave Jeffers' appointment to the Agricultural Advisory Board was unanimously approved.

Ms. Pontius then gave a presentation on tobacco control in St. Joseph County. A discussion followed.

Two public information videos were then presented one on Public Health Emergency and a second on Food and Pool quality and testing.

Dr. Beidinger then asked for discussion on how press releases are crafted and vetted by the Board. Attorney Reilander opened the discussion with Dr. Einterz, Dr. Kirsch, and Ms. Vida joining in.

As the discussion continues Dr. Beidinger calls for order and Dr. Cruthird asks that current events be removed from the discussion and focus on if a press release on controversial issues should be given to the Board so that they have an opportunity to comment before it is released. Dr. Beidinger asks how such a matrix could be created so that the Department would know what qualifies. Discussion follows and the Board decides to table the issue pending a list of releases from the Department that have been issued in the last thirty (30) days to assist in developing the matrix.

#### **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

#### **IX. BOARD NOTIFICATIONS**

Personnel changes were noted.

Dr. Marker left the meeting.

#### **X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following were present at the meeting and spoke regarding the press release of June 30, 2022:

Dr. Cynthia Heckman Davis conveyed support for the press release.

April Lidinsky conveyed support for the press release.

Ken Smith conveyed support for the Department.

Pam Clayes conveyed support for the press release.

Erin Clark conveyed support for the press release.

Allen Clark conveyed support for the press release.

Melanie Lyon conveyed opposition to the press release.

Lisa Tychonievich conveyed opposition to the press release.

Daryl Heller conveyed support for the press release.

Katrina Barron conveyed support for the press release.

Dr. John Rice conveyed opposition to the press release.

Maria Carmona conveyed support for the press release.

The Board of Health received e-mails regarding several matters and the following show a tally of how many were received.

<b>Emails Received</b>			
	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>In opposition of DOH</b>	<b>In Favor of DoH</b>
Re: Press Release of June 30, 2022	Thursday, July 7, 2022	1	0
	Wednesday, July 13, 2022	2	2
	Thursday, July 14, 2022	0	1
	Monday, July 18, 2022	1	0
	Wednesday, July 20, 2022	58	5
	Thursday, July 21, 2022	3	0
	Friday, July 22, 2022	1	0
	Monday, July 25, 2022	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>67</b>	<b>8</b>
Re: CHW's	Wednesday, July 20, 2022	0	1
Re: July BOH Mtg.	Monday, July 25, 2022	1 + 1 to Attorney Reilander only	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

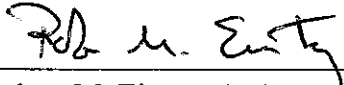
**XI. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Board of Health is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at 4:30 p.m., at the County-City Building.

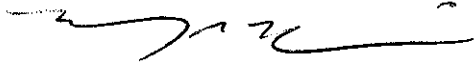
**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

ATTEST:

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
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 Marcellus Lebbin, Esq.  
 Health Department Attorney