

MINUTES AND MEMORANDA
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
August 17, 2022
Regular Meeting

Present at the Meeting:

Heidi Beidinger-Burnett	President
Ilana T. Kirsch, M.D., FACOG	Member
John Linn	Member
Ellen Reilander	Member
Theresa Cruthird, MD	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 - HOPE
Cassy White	Director – HEED
Brett Davis	Assistant Director of Environmental Health
Sally Dixon	MIH Coordinator
Jodie Pairitz	Director of Nursing
Carolyn Smith	Food Services Director
Harry Gilbride	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Karen Teague	Assistant Director of Food Services – Zoom
Marcellus Lebbin	Department of Health Attorney

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Dr. Beidinger-Burnett, called the August 17, 2022 regular Board of Health meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On motion made by Mr. Linn, seconded by Dr. Migliore the agenda was put to the Board. The Agenda was unanimously approved.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion made by Dr. Cruthird, seconded by Mr. Linn, and unanimously approved, the minutes for the July 20, 2022 regular meeting were put to the Board. Discussion followed and the minutes were unanimously approved with the changes of titles and the addition of emails.

IV. BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett recognized the Department of Health for the impact of the videos it has been publishing. Dr. Beidinger-Burnett also thanked the MIH for the work it has done.

V. HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

Dr. Einterz directed the Board to the written report. He then noted a few items for the Board's attention: (i) the salt samples from Juday Creek; (ii) ACE data; (iii) HOPE report and media outreach efforts. Discussion followed and the Board inquired about the impact of the media outreach. It was noted that the Department of Health was in the media four times in the last thirty days. Attorney Reilander asked if the Board could be alerted when the Department of Health was in the news. Ms. Vida responded that she would do that.

Dr. Einterz then updated the Board on the COVID-19 vaccination numbers for the County, the behavioral crisis facility, and the Department's work on cancer prevention.

Dr. Kirsch then complimented Ms. Dixon for being a co-leader of a regional meeting for maternal and infant health.

Discussion was held on the food safety at the SJC County 4-H Fair and Attorney Reilander asked if the loss of power had an impact. Ms. Smith noted that many vendors had generators, but those vendors without generators closed temporarily to mitigate the impact of the power loss.

Discussion was then held on the lack of affordable housing in the County. Dr. Kirsch inquired as to the number of unhoused individuals in the County. Dr. Einterz responded that the Department estimated between five hundred and six hundred individuals are unhoused. Dr. Cruthird inquired as to the causes of the housing problem. A discussion followed on the lack of housing resulting in fewer landlords accepting individuals from the Section 8 program or taking on tenants with eviction records after the COVID-19 eviction moratoriums. Dr. Beidinger-Burnett asked to get the City of South Bend and County together to create a plan for the American Rescue Plan funds. Dr. Einterz noted that with the employee turnover, staffing shortages, and other health issues facing the County, the Department of Health does not have the

capacity to take the lead coordinating the City's efforts, but the Department is happy to assist the City in putting together a plan.

Dr. Kirsch then asked for a monkeypox update. Dr. Einterz notes that the number of cases in the County remains small and that the cases are MSM individuals with multiple partners.

Attorney Reilander asked about what funding resulting from the Health COVID crisis co-ag grant was being used for. Dr. Einterz responded that the funds are being used in schools to improve health outcomes. Attorney Reilander then inquired about meeting minutes and Ms. Dixon said she would send them. Attorney Reilander then inquired about the ACEs program. Dr. Einterz responded with an overview of the program and how it hopes to reduce adverse childhood experiences. The discussion moved to how the Department of Health addresses social needs assessments.

VI. DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

There was nothing to report.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

The Environmental Health Unit gave a presentation. A discussion followed on the work the Unit is doing and the positive impact it is having.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett turned the discussion to the issue of press releases and proposed policy. A discussion followed. A motion was made by Dr. Cruthird and seconded by Dr. Migliore to table the issue until the next meeting pending a report on the types of press releases and number of press releases issued by the Department of Health. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. BOARD NOTIFICATIONS

Personnel changes were noted.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ann Carol Nash expressed her support for the work done by the Department of Health. Marla Godette expressed her support for the community health workers.

Two letters were received in opposition and one in favor of the Department of Health regarding the Statement in Response to SCOTUS decision on Roe V Wade. They were from:

In opposition:

Dorsey Gordon

Kristie Wttt (Chester)

In Favor:

Rabbi Karen Companez and Rabbi Michael Friedland

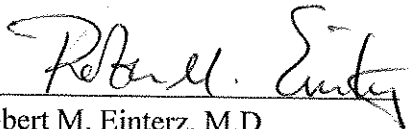
XI. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Board of Health is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 4:30 p.m., at the County-City Building.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

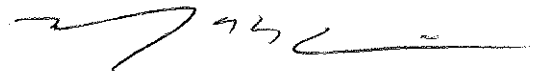
This meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

ATTEST:



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

Respectfully submitted,



Marcellus Lebbin, Esq.
Health Department Attorney