

MINUTES AND MEMORANDA
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
March 15, 2023
Regular Meeting

Present at the Meeting:

John Linn, PE	President
Heidi Beidinger-Burnett, PhD, MPH	Member
Ellen Reilander, JD	Member
Kristin Vincent, MSN	Member
Robert Hays, MD	Member

Also Present at the Meeting:

Robert M. Einterz, MD	Health Officer
Mark D. Fox, MD, PhD, MPH	Deputy Health Officer
Amy Ruppe	Administrator
Jennifer S. Parcell	Executive Administrative Asst.
Carolyn Smith	Food Services Director
Cassy White	Director of HEED
Denise Kingsberry	Vital Records Assistant Director
Harry Gilbride	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Jodie Pairitz	Director of Nursing
Karen Teague	Assistant Director Food Services – Zoom
Mark Espich	Director Environmental Health
Robin Vida	Director HOPE
Sally Dixon	MIH Coordinator
Taylor Coats	Assistant Director Health Equity
Jonathon Carmona	Community Health Worker
Kimberly Dreibelbeis	Community Health Worker
Veronica Escobedo	Community Health Worker
Rafael Lemus	Community Health Worker
Cathy Escobedo	Community Health Worker
Danielle Sims	Disease Investigation Specialist – Zoom
Shelley Chaffee	Immunization Outreach Coordinator – Zoom
Mary Mumbi Wachira	Data Analyst
Amy Schnick	Administrative Assistant – HEED – Zoom
Dominique Quatararo	Public Health Associate
Marcellus Lebbin, JD	Department of Health Attorney

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Linn called the March 15, 2023, regular Board of Health meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On motion made by Attorney Reilander, to approve the agenda with the addition of approving a new health officer in Item V, and seconded by Dr. Hays, the revised agenda was put to the Board. Mr. Linn, Attorney Reilander, Ms. Vincent, and Dr. Hays voted in favor of the motion, Dr. Beidinger voted against. The motion passed.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the February 15, 2023 meeting minutes was sought. Upon motion by Attorney Reilander, seconded by Dr. Hays, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Approval of the March 1, 2023 meeting minutes was sought. Upon motion by Attorney Reilander and seconded by Dr. Hays, the minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Linn thanked Dr. Einterz for his work at the Department and in the community.

Mr. Linn then asked anyone who has recommendations for the open Board seat to send them to him.

V. APPOINTMENT OF HEALTH OFFICER

A motion was made by Attorney Reilander and seconded by Dr. Hays for the appointment of Joseph H. Cerbin, MD. Discussion was held and Dr. Einterz emphasized the importance of getting someone before the end of the month so that vital records and other functions of the Department could continue uninterrupted.

A vote was held with Mr. Linn, Attorney Reilander, Ms. Vincent, and Dr. Hays voting in favor of the motion, and Dr. Beidinger voting against. The motion passed.

VI. HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

Dr. Einterz thanked Dr. Fox for his assistance during his term as Health Officer and noted he was happy to hear Dr. Fox was continuing to assist the Department.

Dr. Einterz then spoke of the community health workers and how they were able to give a voice to the voiceless using grant funds instead of local funds. He noted that the CDC had sent other health departments, such as the State of Maryland, to look at the program in St. Joseph County. Dr. Einterz said the CDC has reached out to see if the Department of Health could use an additional \$250,000 to continue its work on the CDC funded program, but that the current funds needed to be spent. To this end new outreach is being done with community partners, such as the South Bend Police Department, with success.

Dr. Einterz then spoke about the Governor's health initiative and the impact it could have on St. Joseph County.

Ms. Vincent then inquired about the proposed marketing program to assist with the community health worker program. Ms. Coats responded that the program would use social media to target at risk areas and use radio to cover the County. The website will track the number of visits to measure the effectiveness of the campaign. The advertising could be renewed every six (6) months if it was of value. Dr. Beidinger noted her support for the program.

Attorney Reilander asked how the County lead initiative funds were being spent. Dr. Einterz responded that the individuals funded by lead are focused on lead, but if they discover other health needs, they direct people to the resources that can address those needs.

Attorney Reilander then asked about the maternal infant health Safety PIN grant and how the funding was being moved between line items in the budget. Ms. Dixon noted that a part-time employee to assist could not be found so they moved the funds so that they could use contract labor to assist with reviewing and summarizing medical records. The extra funds were approved to be moved back to a salary line item by the Indiana Department of Health so that they could be used for a raise. Discussion followed on how positions are funded.

Attorney Reilander then asked when the South Bend Community School Corporation data would be available. Ms. White said she was not sure and would look into it.

Dr. Einterz then led discussion on ACEs and PACEs programs, followed by a discussion on cancer, heart disease, and mental health. Dr. Einterz noted their impact on health in St. Joseph County and what the Department of Health was doing to help reduce incidences of these diseases.

A discussion was then had on health café grants and how the money was used and what funds were returned to donors.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Einterz noted the annual report was sent to the Board and asked for questions. Dr. Beidinger thanked Dr. Einterz for a well-written report that was easy to read. Questions followed on the status of the health of individuals in the County.

Motion was made by Attorney Reilander and seconded by Dr. Hays to approve the annual report. The motion was unanimously approved.

The request of the NACCHO Mentor Program Grant – Receive (23-12) was discussed by the Board.

Motion was made by Dr. Beidinger and seconded by Ms. Vincent to approve the NACCHO Mentor Program Grant – Receive (23-12). The motion was approved by Mr. Linn, Dr. Beidinger, Ms. Vincent, and Dr. Hays. Attorney Reilander abstained. The motion passed.

The request of the Health CHWs for COVID grant – Apply (23-19) was discussed by the Board.

Motion was made by Dr. Beidinger and seconded by Dr. Hays to approve the Health CHWs for COVID grant – Apply (23-19). The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

IX. BOARD NOTIFICATIONS

Personnel changes were noted.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Hagen commented on the position of Health Officer.

Taylor Coats expressed her thoughts on the job of the Board of Health.

Ann Carol Nash expressed her appreciation to Dr. Einterz for his work at the Department.

John Pinter thanked the department for its work with refugees.

Marla Godette spoke about her concerns regarding grant funding.

Jennifer Parcell expressed her appreciation to Dr. Einterz for his work at the Department.

XI. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Board of Health is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2022, at 4:30 p.m., at the County-City Building.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m. upon motion of Dr. Hays, seconded by Attorney Reilander, which passed unanimously.

ATTEST:



Joseph H. Cerbin, M.D.
St. Joseph County Health Officer

Respectfully submitted,



Marcellus Lebbin, Esq.
Health Department Attorney