

**Wayne County  
Board of Health**  
Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Commissioner's and Council Chambers  
401 East Main  
Richmond, Indiana

**Board Members Present:**

Dr. Paul Rider  
Peter Zaleski

**Board Members Via Telcon/Zoom:**

Jeff Butler  
Dr. Jon Igelman  
John Lebo

**Present:**

Dr. David Jetmore, MD Health Officer  
Christine Stinson, Executive Director, WCHD  
Tamra Webb, Recording Secretary  
Chris Simons, HIV/HVC Program Manager  
Ron Cross, Attorney  
Ken Paust, Wayne County Commissioner, President  
Jeff Plasterer, Wayne County Council

**Present Via Telecon/Zoom:**

Keith Webster, Funeral Director  
George Philhower, Western Wayne Superintendent  
Katie Bymaster, Nettle Creek RN Clinic Director  
John Markward, Seton Catholic School Principal

**Board Member Absent:**

Robert Coddington  
Sabrina Pennington

**Determination of Quorum and Approval of Minutes:**

Dr. Rider called the meeting and confirmed a quorum. Dr. Rider asked for a motion to approve the minutes. John Lebo motioned the approval, and was seconded by Peter Zaleski, which passed unanimously.

**School Plans:**

Stinson discusses with the board about updates with the schools. On behalf of the schools Superintendent George Philhower joins in with Stinson to go over status for the schools with Covid-19 being on the rise in Indiana. The main concern is for safety if schools should remain open or go to virtual only for learning. Stinson stated that she will not make a directive for the schools to go virtual only. It has been shown that with contact tracing that there has not been any known widespread of the virus within the classrooms. She stated until that becomes a problem, she does not see a motion being made by the Health board to go virtual. She then stated if any of the schools are feeling or seeing something different, that the Health Department is here to support taking action to what the schools feel is best to

be done. Philhower being elected spokesperson for the schools states he is in complete agreeance with Stinson and thanks her for all her help and support thus far. Philhower stated that the schools are not seeing any transmission within the classrooms in the Wayne County district. He also stated that schools also think the kids are safest being in attendance when protocols are taken to help prevent the spreading of the virus. Concerns are that if kids are out of school, they are more at risk of not following the guidelines of keeping social distance and wearing a mask. He then stated that if it were evident that the school was the case for widespread infection then the schools would not hesitate to close as early as the next day. He does not think it is wise nor necessary to close any additional days other than already close for the Holidays. Peter Zaleski asks how things are looking as far as extra curriculum that are coming up, such as basketball and wrestling. Philhower stated to his acknowledge thus far there has not been anyone that has tested positive and spreading it to others on the team. If a student tests positive, then the whole team then goes in quarantine for two weeks. So far there has not been any transmission from extra curriculum events. Stinson added that there have been cases where two students on a team tested positive but there has always been another outside connection between the two. She also stated if we go into Red status things could change. Philhower stated that the schools offer virtual only leaning at any time for students with parents that have any concerns for them being in school at this time.

#### **Health Officer Report:**

Jetmore stated that Covid-19 is on an increase all over the world. Our positivity rate in Indiana is 12% and 20% for unique individuals that are getting tested for the first time. The positivity rate in Wayne County is 7.5% with 104 cases yesterday at an all time high. Indiana is at a level Orange. The hospitalization rate for Reid patients is on an increase also with 90% of the ICU beds in use. Yesterday there were 84 patients in isolation at Reid for Covid-19 with 5 respirators in use. Wayne County now has 51 deaths so far with 60% of that being long-term care facilities. Jetmore stated that the Governor announced we will no longer be in stage 5 and will now use the color categories for each County. Going from blue to red being the highest. The colors are based on positivity rates and cases per 100 thousand. With Wayne County being Orange that means no more than 50 per gathering and red Counties are no more than 25. Jetmore stated that on the positive side Eli Lilly received emergency usage of the Monoclonal Antibody Therapy and it will be used for people with more moderate cases and people at higher risk. In addition, there are two vaccines that have recently finished the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of testing which are Pfizer-BioNtech and Moderna with both vaccines being 95% effective. Reid will be one of the Hospitals to receive the vaccines with an initial 2,000 doses.

Stinson brings to the board an email she received from a funeral director Keith Webster with some concerns and hopes for a directive from the board limiting the gathering at funerals from 50 to 25. Keith Webster stated funeral homes are having difficulty with maintaining social distances and enforcing the mask wearing with a larger crowd. He uses an example from a prior week where someone attending went to be tested two days before a funeral not having results. Then later finding out they were positive and another family member in the same household tested positive as well. He is also finding it difficult to maintain the mask mandate during the funerals. Jetmore along with Stinson agree, Peter Zaleski made a motion to recommend to the Health Officer, Mayor, and the Commissioners to limit to only 25 at each funeral and to reinforce a mandate of wearing a mask, it was seconded by John Lebo and was passed unanimously.

**Executive Director Report:**

HIV/HVC program Manager, Chris Simons gives an update on the SSP and STD numbers for the harm reduction program. Simons reports that the HIV numbers in comparable with 2019 to 2020. Right now, HIV 386 tests have been completed since January 1<sup>st</sup> which gives a 22% difference from last year being down this year with a positive rate of 0 %. The State would like to see a 2% positive rate. HEP C has 226 tests completed this year, which is only 6% lower than last year. With a positivity rate of 32% lower than the prior year. Simon stated we need to make sure we are hitting the right population and groups. Stinson stated with being in the middle of a pandemic and moving our Department to another location that the rates are not that bad, and she gives props to Simons with keeping up the best that he can. Simons added that the State numbers are down. Next, he stated there have been 237 patients that qualified for prep (prevention medication for HIV) 127 patients being qualified clinically under CDC guidelines for Prep and 63 referrals to other providers. As far as STD the Health Department started out the first of the year dealing with a syphilis outbreak. Seeing 17 new cases prior to September. Gonorrhea and chlamydia numbers are staying about the same with 13% chlamydia and 7% gonorrhea. Simons then stated as for the harm reduction side of things, the syringe exchange program had its best year yet with help from Meridian. Having a return rate about 200% average with receiving more syringe than we are handing out. The Health Department has given out 640 doses of Narcan since June, overdose deaths are 52 far this year down 23 from last year. Most overdose deaths happened prior to using to Narcan Programming. Peter Zaleski stated that pharmaceutical and drug treatment programs also are requiring Narcan to be given out. Simons Stated the Health Department received the HIV prevention grant for \$168,080.00 up from last year. With that the services will continue for another year!

Stinson goes over with the board on how important our contact tracers are. She stated we have three contact tracers that work 40 hours a week with a lot of phone calls and sending letters out. If we lose the funding for the tracers that are contracted, we will then have to pull the staff in the Health Department off their regular duties such as the harm reduction program or the inspectors from the restaurants and housing. Stinson would like for the board to recommend to the commissioners to find funding for our current contact tracers not out of the Health Department budget but rather from other budgets for the next 6 months or at least for the first quarter of 2021. She stresses how important and how much we need their services with all other calls coming in. The County does half if not more of the contact tracing outside of what the State does. Peter Zaleski made a motion that the funding for contact tracing be continued for another 6 months, seconded by Jon Igelman, and was passed unanimously.

Stinson goes over POD plans and volunteers for vaccinators. She stated phase one A & B will be going through Reid Hospital with assistance from the Health Department if needed. Phase two the Health Department will take the lead. We will set up at least two different Pods in the County. With future meetings to take place on planning for whom the vaccinators will be. Dan Burk our environmental health specialist and emergency preparedness coordinator has been working on getting all contacts in making sure if we have the sub frozen vaccine that we will have a dry ice provider. We will need everyone on board to get the vaccine distributed. Stinson stated we are looking at the Kuhlman Center to run a site and hopefully a site West like Cambridge City or Hagerstown and maybe even a smaller one in Fountain City. Stinson also mentions if we get our mobile unit in, that it will be instrumental in helping Stinson's opinion is that by late Spring the general population will have access to the vaccine.

**New Business:**

Dr. Rider stated that before Dr. Jetmore agreed to take his position as the new Health Officer it was pre pandemic with assurance his hours would be 3 hours a week at max. Since then, his hours have expanded significantly with over more than 10 hours per week. That inclines with 42 weeks this year a total of 52,500.00 and Peter would like to make a motion for recommendation to the Commissioners and Council to pay the additional stipend, seconded by John Lebo and was passed unanimously.

The next Health Board meeting will be Thursday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 12:00pm. Location will be in the Commissioner's and County Council Chambers via a Zoom/Telecon meeting.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Peter Zaleski made a motion and seconded by Jon Igelman with no objections.



Paul Rider, MD

1-21-2021

Date