

MINUTES AND MEMORANDA  
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

January 15, 2020  
Regular Meeting

Present at the Meeting:

Heidi Beidinger-Burnett, Ph.D, MPH	President
Jason Marker, MD.	Vice President
Emily Dean	Member
Ilana T. Kirsch, M.D., FACOG	Member
John Linn	Member
Michelle Migliore, M.D.	Member
Amy Murray, MSN, RNC	Member

Also Present at the Meeting:

Mark Fox, M.D., PhD, MPH	Interim Health Officer
Jennifer S. Parcell	Executive Administrative Asst
Mark Espich	Environmental Health Director
Carolyn Smith	Food Services Director
Betsy McCue	Epidemiologist, Epidemiology/ Emergency Preparedness
Denise Kingsberry	Vital Records Assistant Director
Nancy Pemberton	Nursing Assistant Director
Dyllan Tiburzi, M.D.	Memorial Hospital Family Medicine Residency
J. David Keckley	Attorney for Dept. of Health

**I. AGENDA AND MINUTES:**

On motion made by Dr. Kirsch, seconded by Dr. Marker, and unanimously approved, the agenda for the January 15, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was adopted as presented.

Upon motion made by Dr. Marker, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, and unanimously approved, the Minutes of the December 11, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Health Board were approved as presented.

At the request of Board President, Dr. Beidinger-Burnett, Board Members introduced themselves to the new Board Members. The Board was then introduced to Dr. Michelle Migliore, replacing Dr. Deardorff. She provided some background information to include practicing Family Medicine in Michiana for more than 20 years. She is currently the medical director at the Activate Health and Wellness Center providing a broad scope of primary care services to employees and spouses covered by the Mishawaka City Health Plan.

Amy Murray, MSN, RNC, a nurse replacing Sharon Imes, RN, introduced herself next. She is currently the Administrative Director for Maternal Child Services for the St. Joseph Health System. She also holds the position of Adjunct Clinical Instructor at St. Mary's College. Previous assignments included Prenatal Education Coordinator at Memorial Hospital; Manager, Patient Care

Services, Childbirth Unit at Memorial Hospital; and Emergency Department Charge Nurse at St. Joseph Medical Center.

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett and Board members welcomed these two new members.

## **II. INTERIM HEALTH OFFICER PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Fox presented an update regarding the following areas:

### **1. Lead Action Report.**

- The lead report for November, 2019 was presented. The number of children tested continues to trend upwards, however, the rate of abnormal tests continue to be about the same.
- Efforts continue to emphasize more venous tests than capillary.
- Board Members noted and discussed that a number of children (5) had elevated lead levels that involved one particular home. Dr. Fox explains that work was being done on that home that resulted in a lot of dust. The children are all involved with case management, and that their lead levels are coming down.

### **2. Immunizations.**

- The number of immunizations and the number of patients seen continues to increase. The Mishawaka office opened in January and there will be posted days and hours in both the South Bend Clinic (Monday – Tuesday – Thursday) and the Mishawaka Clinic (Monday – Wednesday – Friday).
- It is anticipated that VaxCare will be available in February. This will enable the Department of Health to provide services to persons that have private insurance.
- Dr. Fox reviewed with Board Members the November 2019 and December 2019 Health Officer's reports. He answered questions regarding the activities noted in these reports.

On motion made by Mr. Linn, seconded by Dr. Kirsch, and unanimously adopted, the Board approved the November, 2019 and the December, 2019 Health Officer's reports.

- Dr. Fox explained that the Department of Health has a personnel policy manual and that St. Joseph County also has a personnel policy manual. At times, there are discrepancies noted with regard to the same subject matter when referring to these manuals. He will endeavor to prepare an update, with the staff's help, for the Board's consideration. He has just started the process and will keep the Board advised with regards to this project.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **20-03 Introduction of new Board of Health Members.**

Introductions were made at the start of the meeting.

#### **20-04 Establishment of SJCDoH 501(c)3.**

Dr. Fox provided an update with regard to the efforts being made to establish a 501(c)3 foundation that would permit the Department of Health to receive contributions from various entities and individuals. Dr. Fox has been working with the incoming Health Officer, Dr. Robert Einterz, who is scheduled to commence his duties as Health Officer February 18, 2020, and County Attorney, Jamie Wood. The proposal has been sent to the commissioners for their approval.

Additional information regarding the progress of this project, as well as information regarding the specific workings of this type of foundation, will be presented at next month's meeting.

#### **20-05 Update on Plan for CountyWide Lead Initiative Budget.**

Included in the materials presented to Board Members was a hand-out outlining the revenue and the projected expenses for the fund that was created with the help of the auditor, commissioners and St. Joseph County Council for FY2019.

Dr. Fox explained that it was anticipated that there would be a greater demand for lead testing, remediation and case management. The City of South Bend and St. Joseph Health System donated funds for the purchase of some equipment and plans are continuing to provide community health workers, especially in Mishawaka and other areas of the county, to act as a liaison for home owners and families with children to promote lead testing and remediation of homes with lead paint. A part-time social worker is also being considered which could identify health related social need assessments to include emphasis on providing lead testing to pregnant women.

Dr. Fox expects to provide more plans at next month's meeting to include job descriptions and respective staff positions within the department. The focus will be to create a health community team, perhaps staffed with a social worker and other department staff, that would decide how best to implement the resources available to the Department of Health to help alleviate lead poisoning in children. The goal is to boost community outreach work to better engage families to test their one, two and three-year olds for lead levels and to provide help in finding the cause if elevated levels are noted.

#### **20-06 Update on Plan to Re-Vamp Health Officer Report.**

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett noted and thanked Dr. Fox for the improvements made in the monthly Health Officer's report.

Dr. Beidinger-Burnett invited Board members to send to her any suggestions, requests, or comments they may have with regard to the information contained in these monthly reports.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

**19-48 Harm Reduction Strategies to Reduce HIV Outbreak Risk and Relationship to Opioid Epidemic.**

Dr. Marker continues to work with representatives of the Marshall County Health Department to prepare a Harm Reduction Plan and Strategy for implementation in the seven counties of northwest Indiana comprising of District II. One of those counties, Starke County, is listed by the CDC as one of the 70 counties in all of the United States to be at serious risk for a HIV outbreak due to the high opioid use in that county. A needle exchange program has been implemented and has been successful in other Indiana counties. However, such a program has to be approved by the commissioners in a particular county and this type of program is very controversial. Efforts continue to change the way such a program is implemented at the State level. The goal is to work with state representations and lobbyists to endeavor to create a pilot program in District II. Dr. Marker will continue to meet with other Health Department administrators to pursue this project and report on the progress, if any being made.

**V. BOARD NOTIFICATIONS:**

The Board noted the hiring of Angelica Macedo Carranza for the position of Bilingual Vital Records Registrar.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mark Espich, Environmental Director, noted that January is radon action month. Test kits are being distributed, at no charge, at the County-City Building. Plans are being made to partner with certain grade school science classes to distribute these tests and promote awareness to test for radon in our homes.

**VII. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

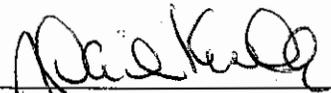
The next regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Health Board is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 4:30 p.m., at the St. Joseph County Department of Health, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room.

ATTEST:

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Fox, M.D., PhD, MPH  
Interim St. Joseph County  
Health Officer



J. David Keckley  
Attorney for St Joseph County Health  
Board