

Ripley County Health Department

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July 12, 2022 5:00 p.m.

Ripley County Health Board Meeting Minutes

HEALTH BOARD MEMBERS Present:	Jason Smith, Chairman
Suzanne Martini, M.D., Health Board Member	Cynthia Lauber, NP, Health Board Member
Donna Pitts, Health Board Member	Lynn Fledderman, Health Board Member
Jarred Meinders, Health Board Member	Amy Glaser-Carpenter, M.D.
STAFF Members Present:	
David J. Welsh, M.D., Health Officer	Candy Guenther, Public Health Nurse
Frankie Geary, Environmental Assistant	Lexi Bushhorn, Administrator, MCH/PHEP
Megan Meyers, Sanitarian	Elisha Forwalt, Data Management Clerk
Missy Byrd, Public Health Assistant	

- 1. Call To Order:** The Ripley County Board of Health meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m., presided by Jason Smith, Chairman.
- 2. April 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes:** The Ripley County Board of Health received the minutes prior to the meeting via email. Lynn Fledderman moved to approve the Minutes: Donna Pitts seconded the motion; on call of the roll, motion carried.
- 3. Health Officer's Report: Dr. Welsh**
 - Dr. Welsh reported that the July meeting is always a really good meeting because it is right before fair week. Staff will be ensuring that all the food sites will be safe. He was able to attend both Osgood and Versailles fireworks that both had excellent fireworks.
 - Dr. Welsh reported that monkey pox is still remaining low numbers and as the common source for Ripley County population is low. Monkey pox can be transmitted easily, through clothing, skin contact, and bedding. Those who have received a smallpox vaccine will be better off. Isolation is longer than what we have seen the last 2 and a half years. There used to be allegations that people would take blankets from a smallpox patient and give it to

people they don't like during the last outbreak- he loves history. Regular laundry should help prevent any spread.

- Dr. Welsh reported that he is very proud of the staff to always take on new projects and encourage surrounding counties to do the same projects. Other counties will utilize the safety seats. Lead detections, restaurant safety, and social media posts have been great. People across the country are sharing posts that originated from RCHD- encourage the staff to keep up the great work.
- Dr. Welsh reported that he has been working with the Governor's Public Health Commission. He had the staff send the 105 paged report to the board. This is an idea of what is truly going on. There has been some misinformation posted on media regarding state licensing board. There are 6 main points that they are trying to focus on. Once the report is finalized, it will go to the governor. The state house will then decide which & when the areas selected will be put into place. There is a large area with emergency preparedness and government infostructure. There is little revenue based for local health department; therefore, they are looking to deliver resources with counties. Example, local health departments can't afford an epidemiologist, but a district may be able to. This would allow local health department to continue their daily duties, not to eliminate them, but to enhance the departments. Funding is a challenge and their hopes are to improve this. He is happy to go over specific areas with local media, staff, public, anybody. All public comments were considered from all agencies at the local, county & State Level. When COVID first hit, Fairbanks School of Public Health was looking at how we do public health infostructure in Indiana. Recommendations were shared and were taken to AMA and it was looking at public health in rural settings. Public needs to know the report is only recommendations and some will take money and some will take legislation.
 - i. Amy Glaser- Carpenter- "Have you seen anything controversial?"
 - ii. Dr. Welsh- "Yes, some didn't like some of the public health tools for intervention- as in masking. If somebody has an infectious disease, they will need to do isolation. There are gaps of delivery of care and everybody deserves access. This will help deal with poor counties and encourage students to go into public health. Some people will not be happy and will want less, but we will then advocate more"
 - iii. Jason Smith-" Figures from other states and how little Indiana spends on public health compared to others"
 - iv. Dr. Welsh- "The goal is trying to get Indiana to match National levels"
- Dr. Welsh reported that within the scope of their work, they are focusing on a statewide trauma system. There is going to be another survey coming out for the hospitals. Those who have the trauma systems have improved mortality and morbidity and the length of hospital stays. There are 2 area hospitals that do fantastic work and it is logical for them to pick up the trauma.

4. Old Business:

A. COVID Update

- Lexi Bushhorn reported that COVID cases are on the rise, but hospitalizations seem to remain low. RCHD is still offering vaccines every Thursday. The department is monitoring the new variant that has been discussed.

B. MCH Update

- Lexi Bushhorn reported that RCHD did 22 safe sleep courses, 17 of those were home visits. The department has done 12 car seat checks, with a lot of those being boosters. It is a goal to bring booster seats to the schools to encourage parents to keep their children safer for longer.

C. Harm Reduction Update

- Frankie Geary reported that Ripley County is watching the syphilis outbreak as it is in Jefferson County. Harm reduction at the state level has been working very hard on the outbreak; therefore, our training for testing in office has been put on hold. RCHD has found a partnership with "letsgetchecked". Individuals would come into the office, our staff will register them, the patient will receive a kit in the mail 2 days later. Once the patient sends their tests in, it takes about 5 business days for results where if they are positive, they will be able to look up resources. This program is free and will start in August

5. New Business:

A. Public Health Nurse Update

- Candy Guenther reported that the state is starting a state childhood vaccine campaign. This will send letters to any children who are behind on vaccines. Our office will host clinics the last week of July from 8:00am-5:00pm. August 3rd- Candy and Lexi will be at National Night Out in Batesville, August 18th- Southeastern Career Center, August 27th- Sunman Senior Expo.

B. October Meeting Date Change

- Lexi Bushhorn reported a request to move the October meeting date due to fall breaks. The October meeting will now be October 4th at 5:00pm.

C. Current Employees

- Lexi Bushhorn presented all of the current staff as there are new hires and was able to present faces with names. As follows:
 - Lexi Bushhorn: **Full Time Administrator**- Payroll, Office Management, Claims, Collections, Medical Billing ; **Maternal-Child Health**- Car Seat Checks/Replacements, Safe Sleep classes, Child Fatality Review & Fetal Infant Mortality Review. **Preparedness Coordinator**- District 9 Meeting, Preparedness plans, LEPC, Vaccine Clinics
 - Candy Guenther: **Full Time Public Health Nurse**- TB Tests, COVID Tests, Lead tests, Pregnancy Tests, All immunizations, communicable disease case investigations & we are also working on getting STD testing
 - Erica Hicks: **Part Time Clinic Assistant**- COVID tests, TB tests, pregnancy tests, immunizations, communicable disease investigations ; **School liaison (Co-Ag Grant)** offering services to school as needed (ex. Nutrition/antibullying/vaping/smoking/stress/fitness). Communicable disease tracing, TB test, immunizations.
 - Sara Bowling: **Part Time School liaison (Co-Ag Grant)** -offering services to school as needed (ex. Nutrition/antibullying/vaping/smoking/stress/fitness). Offering COVID services as needed to the school (ex: testing, information, and contact tracing).
 - Megan Meyers: **Full Time Environmental Health Specialist**- Septic Inspections, Housing Complaints, Water Samples, Site Surveys for new Septic, Septic Complaints

- vi. Frankie Geary: **Part-Time Environmental-** assisting sanitarian with septic inspections, water samples, pool inspections, housing complaints, **Harm Reduction-** Naloxbox, Naloxone, drug Screening kits, condoms, hygiene kits, SHARPS Exchange
- vii. Traci Bauman: **Full Time Environmental Health Specialist, Food Specialist-** food inspections, Housing Complaints, Dog Bite Follow Ups, Meth home inspections
- viii. Elisha Forwalt: **Part Time Data Management Clerk-** front desk; Vital Records- Birth & Death Records & Paternity Affidavits
- ix. Missy Byrd (starting in May): **Full Time Public Health Assistant-** Birth & Death Records & Paternity Affidavits – Help entire department as needed – Secretary for the office
- x. Debbie Schmaltz: **PRN COVID Clinic Assistant-** Assist with administrating COVID Vaccines as needed
- xi. Sara Kolb: **PRN COVID Clinic Assistant-** Assist with administrating COVID Vaccines as needed

D. Closing Remarks

- Amy Glaser-Carpenter-“Is there anything that I can do to help you guys?”
- Lexi Bushhorn reported discussion on mental health and how to prevent and any ideas from the board that they would like to see to be noted and let the staff know.
- Cindy Lauber reported that nursing students need project hours and they may be a great avenue to reach out with and partner with schools to help with a mental health project.

6. **Public Comments**

E. **Adjournment:** Motion was made and seconded to adjourn; on call of the roll, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m. Amy Glaser-Carpenter moved the motion, Lynn Fledderman seconded the motion; on the roll of the call, motion carried.

F. **Next Meeting-** 10.4.2022

Respectfully submitted,

Lexi Bushhorn, Administrator, Maternal Child Health Coordinator, Preparedness Coordinator

Jason Smith, Chairman

David J. Welsh, M.D., Health Officer

Suzanne Martini, M.D.

Jarred Meinders

Amy Glaser-Carpenter, Physician.

Donna Pitts, Pharmacist

Lynn M. Fledderman, Attorney

Cynthia Lauber, RN