



Monroe County Health Department

Monroe County, Indiana

Health Department	Futures Family Planning Clinic	Public Health Clinic
119 W. 7th Street (812) 349-2543	119 W. 7th Street (812) 349-7343	333 E. Miller Drive (812) 353-3244

MINUTES OF THE MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING June 15, 2021

In Attendance: Kay Leach, R.N.; Stephen Pritchard, D.D.S.; Carol Litten Touloukian, M.D.; Robert Wrenn, M.D.; George Hegeman, Ph.D.

Absent: Ashley Cranor, M.P.H.; Mark Norrell, FACHE, HFA

- I. Meeting called to order at 4:38 PM by Board Chairperson, Kay Leach.
- II. Chairperson Leach noted that some members would need to leave early and suggested the agenda be revised to move voting items earlier on the agenda.
- III. **Public Comment:** No public comments were made.
- IV. **Approval of May 19th, 2021 meeting minutes:**

- Stephen Pritchard moved to approve the minutes as amended. Carol Litten Touloukian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. **Old / Continuing Business:**

- *Communal Living Recommendations: With the regulations not in effect the Board set recommendations to be effective as of June 16, 2021. Recommendations include occupancy is recommended to be up to 90% when 100% of the residents are fully vaccinated, not including IU exemptions; facilities adopt a “pod” system for those unvaccinated; facilities revise quarantine, isolation, and guest policies; monitor symptoms after you’ve been exposed to COVID and you are fully vaccinated; unvaccinated individuals who are exposed and those diagnosed with COVID still need to quarantine; employees onsite should be fully vaccinated; meal plans return to “to-go” in the case of a large outbreak; limited numbers of individuals should not be sharing sleeping spaces; and those not vaccinated should follow mask recommendation and social distancing. Discussion of including less ambivalent wording to make expectations clear occurred. Carol Litten Touloukian moved that recommendations be accepted with the one change of making wording clearer. Stephen Pritchard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

Leslie Fasone and Kathy Adams Riester, wanted to thank the Board for reviewing the



recommendations, as well as give a brief vaccination update. Since March 29, IU vaccine site has administered 38,629 total doses, 21,247 of those doses were administered in the open community vaccination site.

- *2022 Budget Process Update:* The timeline for Monroe County's budget is as follows: The personnel forms have already been submitted. These forms will then be reviewed by the council and placed into budget workbooks, along with this past year's budget. The Health Department will receive the budget workbooks June 28th and will be due back to council July 28th. Ms. Caudill proposed having the next Board meeting July 20th so there is time to make any changes requested by the Board and meet the submission deadline.

Ms. Caudill shared they are looking into where more staffing may be needed. One area is whether to keep the part time Data Entry Clerk position in the Local Health Maintenance fund or add an additional employee in Vital Records. Another employee is currently on military deployment, so there is currently a temporary position filling in. It may be beneficial to include the temporary position into the 2022 budget. This temporary position, which Ms. Caudill states is one of the top priorities, could eventually focus less on COVID-19 and more so in whatever division needs help or projects such as Watershed.

There are some possible funds from the Recovery Act for Public Health Workforce. The state health department has indicated they are anticipating funds to support local health department workforce on a temporary basis; however, not many details are known currently. If this money does come in, an epidemiologist position would be a great way to spend those funds. Once the two new positions, Environmental Services Manager and Population Health and Outreach Manager, are added, every workspace will have been filled. So, the question of where to put additional employees will have to be considered.

Staff are currently sending in their needs and will be reviewing within the next week. Along with staffing needs, staff will be looking into routine budget items; such as the syringe response funds.

As for long term planning, should IUH, B Hospital decide at some point that they no longer want to continue the nursing partnership, there would need to be a backup option. Should all staff be located in the same building, where would a clinic be located? While these are items that are very far out in the future, they are all items that should be considered.

VI. Public Health Reports:

- *Lake Monroe Watershed Management Plan Presentation – Maggie Sullivan:* After giving updates on the Lake Monroe Watershed, Ms. Sullivan brought the idea of collaboration to the Board as they are looking for assistance in identifying critical areas along with projects to include in grant application. This collaboration could be beneficial to the Health Department by creating assistance from the watershed coordinator and collaboration on workshops, signage, mailing, and outreach. Ms. Caudill explained that there will be more discussion on the collaboration and the budget. As for now, a letter of support and outreach/educational assistance is certain. Ms. Sullivan will



be sending a template to George Hegeman to assist him in writing a letter of support, due September 1st. **Stephen Pritchard made a motion that the Monroe County Board of Health make a statement of support of the watershed project. Carol Litten Touloukian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

- *Public Health Clinic – Amy Meek:* Continuing to do many vaccine outreaches, totaling 48 so far. This week, MedMark and Henderson Courts vaccine clinics are scheduled. Homebound vaccine clinics are continuing, with the assistance from City and county fire. So far, around 130 homebound residents have been vaccinated. Ms. Meek shared that the clinic is adding on two more nurses, Beth Carpenter and Debbie Robbins.
- *Administration – Penny Caudill:* Ms. Caudill shared that Vital Records is working on updating the indexes so the information can be more accessible.

Ryan Kasper-Cushman, Lead Wastewater Sanitarian, wrote a letter to Lynnette Murphy, the Environmental Health Specialist Assistant, recognizing Lynnette's efforts in improving the septic records database. Huge thank you to Ms. Murphy for her hard work and for everyone's patience. Through research of data Ryan found that septic permit numbers from January through April increased from 99 and 84 permits in 2019 and 2020 respectively, to 514 in 2021.

The Community Diversity Advisory group is continuing to meet and will be creating five goals to reach within the next year, with an evaluation to follow. This group assists with the clinics, outreach programs, education, and awareness material, all while reaching all communities within the county. Ms. Caudill shared her gratitude towards this group and the work they do.

The Convention Center Site is now closed. Huge thank you to both the Convention Center for donating their space for six months and for being great partners, as well as all of the volunteers. There are now over 800 volunteers in the Medical Reserve Corps. Ms. Caudill shared she is looking to host an event to thank everybody later this summer.

The Optum Site, funded by the State Department of Health, is going to close by the end of this month. Reason being, with more individuals being vaccinated, there is less of a need for a testing site. Looking further into how the Morton Street site can be extended as well as other testing sites around the county to share. The State webpage does still have a map of all testing sites around Indiana.

Monroe County vaccination rates include, 53.7% fully vaccinated and 53.3% have received a first dose.

VII. Board Member Comments: None.



VIII. **Next Meeting and Adjournment:** The next meeting is scheduled for July 20th at 4:30 PM.
The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas W. Sharp, M.D., Monroe County Health Officer

APPROVED

