

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EXECUTIVE BOARD
January 10, 2024

The in-person and virtual (Microsoft Teams) meeting of the Executive Board of the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) was called to order at 10:31 am in the Robert O. Yoho Executive Board Room of the IDOH building by Dr. Stephen Tharp, Chairperson. The following Board members were present for all or part of the meeting:

Amelia Clark, DrPH, MA
Brenda Goff, HFA (virtual)
Robin Marks, DVM, JD
Joanne Martin, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Rex McKinney, FACHE (virtual)
Shelley Rauch, HFA (virtual)
Holly Robinson, MD
Suellen Sorensen, PharmD, BCPS
Armando Soto Rojas, DDS
Patricia Spence, PE
Stephen Tharp, MD (Chair)
Troy Weirick, MD (virtual)
Lindsay Weaver, MD, FACEP (Secretary)

Those not able to attend:

Matthew Sprunger, MD

The following staff members were present for all or part of the meeting (in-person or via teams):

Guy Crowder, MD, MPHTM, Chief Medical Officer
Amy Kent, Deputy Health Commissioner & Chief Strategy Officer
D. Shane Hatchett, Chief of Staff
Pam Pontones, MA, Deputy Health Commissioner of Local Health Services (virtual)
Mike Sutton, Central Regional Director, Local Health Services
Sheila Paul, Northern Regional Director, Local Health Services
Michelle Matern, Southern Regional Director, Local Health Services
Kristi Linson, MLD, Director, Children's Special Health Care Services

Guests:

Dan Cutshaw, PE, MS Consultants
Rebecca Bartle, Hope/Leading Age Indiana

Call to Order

Dr. Stephan Tharp, Chair, stated that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:31 am. He then asked if Board members had any known conflicts of interest to declare. Hearing none he proceeded with the meeting. Dr. Tharp then asked each Board member to introduce themselves.

Minutes

Dr. Tharp asked for discussion and/or corrections to the minutes of the November 8, 2023, Executive Board meeting. Hearing none, he entertained a motion for approval. On a motion made by Suellen Sorensen, seconded by Joanne Martin and passed by majority roll call vote of in-person and virtual attendees, the Board approved the minutes as presented.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Secretary's Report

Dr. Weaver reported that Shane Hatchett, Chief of Staff, is leaving the agency for other career opportunities. His last day in the office was January 5; however, he is staying on in an as needed basis until February 5 to help with the transition. Amy Kent, Deputy Health Commissioner & Chief Strategy Officer, will serve as the Interim Chief of Staff and Jon Ferguson, Director of the Healthy Hoosiers Foundation, will serve as the Interim Deputy Chief of Staff at this time. Shane received a Sagamore of the Wabash from Earl Goode on behalf of the Governor at his thank you reception held on January 4. Shane thanked the Board members for their contributions to further public health in Indiana. Brenda Goff stated she was honored to work with Shane. This sentiment was expressed by all the Board members.

Dr. Weaver presented the updated Health First Indiana dashboard to the Board members. She demonstrated the populations and community tabs. The priorities tab is still being built out. She asked them to scroll through the information and provide feedback on what might be missing that communicates would want to know. Joanne Martin suggested it would be good to capture which counties are working together on specific priorities. Dr. Weaver stated that we are working on that for the budgets. Dr. Amelia Clark stated she has had very positive conversations with the Allen County Health Department. Dr. Tharp asked why some counties opted out of the HFI funding and Dr. Weaver stated that some counties needed more staffing and local support before opting in.

Dr. Weaver then asked the Local Health Services Regional Directors to introduce themselves and give an update on their respective regions. Mike Sutton, Central Regional Director, introduced himself and stated that he has the following positions filled: Finance Analyst, Core Service Quality Coordinator, Health Services Director, and School Health Liaison. He is still interviewing for the Data Analyst, MCH Specialist and Disease Intervention Specialist. Sheila Paul, Northern Regional Director, introduced herself and stated she has the following positions filled: Finance Analyst, Core Service Quality Coordinator, Health Services Director, School Health Liaison, and Disease Intervention Specialist. She is still interviewing for the Data Analyst and MCH Specialist. Michelle Matern, Southern Regional Director, introduced herself and stated that she has the following positions filled: Finance Analyst, Core Service Quality Coordinator, Health Services Director, MCH Specialist, and School Health Liaison. She is still interviewing for the Data Analyst and Disease Intervention Specialist.

They provided some examples of partnerships between counties such as the 3-to-Pre Program developed by Vanderburgh County which Dubois County is currently implementing; the Clark County partnership with the Purdue Extension on education opportunities; both Knox and Pike Counties contracting with Daviess County on their TB Refugee Clinic; and Delaware County staff experience with tattoo and body piercing facilities are training other county staff.

The main goals of all the Regional Directors is to support LHDs with whatever they need, help with implementation of HFI recommendations and core public health service delivery, encourage community partnerships, and collect LHD success stories.

Pam Pontones, Deputy Health Commissioner for Local Health Services wrapped up by thanking the Regional Directors. They just started this work in June of 2023 and have made great strides. Other states are reaching out to find out how Indiana was able to accomplish this and get information they can use in their respective states.

Health and Human Services Commission

Children's Special Health Care Services Division Update

Kristi Linson, MLD, Director, Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) presented a division update. The CSHCS is a diagnosis-specific supplemental medical coverage that acts as a payor of last resort for children younger than 21 years of age residing in Indiana who meet certain financial and medical eligibility criteria. Their mission is to provide financial assistance for medical treatment of children with special health care needs and facilitate and promote family-centered, community-based comprehensive, coordinated systems of care for these children through a medical home. Their vision is to promote the health and well-being of children with special health care needs in Indiana. State funding covers sickle cell collaboration, visually impaired pre-school services, IU pediatric ophthalmology, and an office at Riley Hospital for Children to help families with applications if a child meets the qualifications. Title V is federal funding that supports interventions that lead to improved pregnancy outcomes, positive youth development, and children's health and well-being. Staff are currently touring the state to make sure physicians know about the program. Social workers across the state can help families with the application process.

Eligibility requirements are younger than 21 (with exception of cystic fibrosis), a resident of Indiana, family with income before taxes of no greater than 250% of the federal poverty line, and diagnosis included in one of the CSHCS categories and meet criteria as a severe chronic medical condition.

Challenges include collaboration among others who serve similar populations, staffing within the program and throughout the state serving this population, rural community services (transportation issues), providers who will take participants, and increase in medication costs.

Distribution

Dr. Tharp thanked staff for professional new hire and separation reports and summary of final orders.

Adjournment

Dr. Tharp asked for any other business to come before the Board. Patricia Spence, PE, announced that she is planning to step down from the Board before July 2024. She introduced Dan Cutshaw, PE, who is in the process of his appointment to the Board by the Governor. Joanne Martin and other Board members thanked Patricia for her valuable contributions during her tenure on the Board.

Hearing no additional comments from the Board, staff and/or public, Dr. Tharp adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am. The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2024, at the IDOH Laboratory, 550 West 16th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.