



Rush County Health Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 20, 2016 7 pm

Attendees

Dr. Helen Steussy- Health Officer
Dr. Fred Philips - Chairperson
Tai Morrell, NP
Julie Newhouse- Attorney

Bruce Levi
Dr. Craig Fenimore
Dixie Meyer- Nursing Staff

Guests

James Buhler and son, Eli

Dr. Philips called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Last Meeting Follow-up

There was one correction to the July minutes. The vote for the Buehler's case was three to two, instead of four to two. Tai moved to accept the August minutes. Craig seconded. All members voted to accept. Motion carried.

The board went over the Nursing, Preparedness, Environmental, and Community Outreach reports. There were no changes made to the departmental reports. Craig moved to accept the reports. Tai seconded. All members voted to accept. Motion carried.

Dixie Meyer was in attendance for the nursing staff. Dr. Philips asked if she had anything new to add. She told the board that the Health Department had gotten several new Home Health patients. The number of immunizations was up this month compared to last year. She also stated that she added the Communicable Disease statistics to the monthly nursing report. Dixie informed the board she is doing the INEDSS (Indiana National Electronic Disease Surveillance System) report. She does all the reports, including the animal bites. The environmentalist was doing them, but Dixie is in charge of them now. She wanted the board to be aware of the work she does in the office.

Bruce thanked Dixie for all that she has been doing at the jail; the other members agreed that she is doing a good job..

A copy of the 2017 Budget was given to each board member. Several areas on the budget had been cut. Dr. Steussy told the board that the Health Department, along with all the departments were asked to cut their budgets by five percent. They went through the budget to see how much was cut from each account.

Dr. Steussy told the board that she had the executive meeting with the staff. She discussed the issues with the employees, and they are working on each situation

She then told the board about an environmental issue about a residence in Carthage that has a contaminated well. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management is investigating the home. They have been aware of it for awhile. They have been furnishing the residents with water. The Health Office received a call from an Indianapolis Television Station wanting to know what we were going to do about it. The Health Department has limited information on it, but they keep in contact with IDEM for any new information.

Now for some good news. In the month of October, there are two things going on concerning the Health Department. On the thirteenth, there is an award ceremony for special recognition for our PHAB accreditation in Indianapolis at the Arts Garden. They have been selected to receive the Hulman Health Achievement Award in the category of Local Health Department Exceptional Achievement. There were several individuals that nominated the department. Dr. Boersma, Dr. Steussy, and Marge Amos have been invited as guests for the ceremony.

Then on October 26, 2016, in Indianapolis, there is a Local Public Health Leadership Symposium.

They have asked Dr. Steussy to speak at this event, to talk about our PHAB Accreditation.

That was all that Dr. Steussy had at this time.

New Business.

Dr. Philips asked James Buhler if there was something that he needed to talk about, since he wasn't on the agenda.

He told the board that he had written a letter to Senator Jean Leising about the situation he had a couple of months ago. He received a letter from her and he read a little of it. She had stated in her letter that the local health department could use discretion in making a decision in certain situations. Dr. Fenimore spoke up and said he would rather follow the law. That way it would be fair across the board. That would prevent someone from implying that we did for this person and why not them. If we just follow the laws, then everyone is treated fairly. The other board members agreed. He just wanted the board to be aware of her letter. He then thanked the board for letting him attend the meeting/

There being no further business,

Craig moved to adjourn. Tai seconded. All members voted to accept. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Next Meeting

October 18, 2016, at 7:00 pm