



EAST CHICAGO HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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ANTHONY COPELAND, MAYOR

Dr. Paula Benchik Abrinko, Health Officer

Diana Garcia-Burns, Health Director

MINUTES

HEALTH BOARD MEETING

January 18, 2023 at 5:30 pm

Health Department Lobby Conference Room

100 W. Chicago Avenue

East Chicago, IN 46312

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88327632089?pwd=aCt3eVZZUm1pS3BKNHc4ZWlvZDAwdz09>

Meeting ID: 883 2763 2089

Passcode: 367457

One Tap Mobile: 312-626-6799

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Libiran called the meeting to order at 5: 45 pm.

II. ROLL CALL:

Roll call was taken and in attendance were Dr. Matthew Libiran (in-person), Loretta Parker (in-person), Dr. Sabrina Reed (virtual) and Dr. Rev. James Wade (in-person). Also in attendance were Dr. Paula Benchik-Abrinko (in-person), Diana Garcia-Burns (in-person) and Attorney Nick Snow (in-person). Absent was Brenda Walker.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

Natalie Adams expressed the requirement to complete any contracts and resolutions in the Board Meeting and stated the Finance Committee can only approve payroll and claim warrants.

- Review and approve Contract for Services between the City of East Chicago Health Department Covid Vaccination Clinic and Ryan Jongsma
 - Dr. Libiran requested a motion to approve the Contract for Services between the City of East Chicago Health Department Covid Vaccination Clinic and Ryan Jongsma.
 - Dr. Rev. James Wade made a motion to approve the contract and Loretta Parker second the motion. Vote was taken, all in favor. The motion carries.

- Review and approve Resolution Authorizing and Approving Grant Funding through Public Health Emergency Fund
 - Dr. Libiran requested a motion to approve Resolution Authorizing and Approving Grant Funding through Public Health Emergency Fund.
 - Dr. Rev. James Wade made a motion to approve the resolution and Loretta Parker second the motion. Vote was taken, all in favor. The motion carries.

IV. DISCUSSION:

- East Chicago Health Department Grant Procedure
 - Natalie Adams stated that it states this is only for grants that require an application and asked if there are grants that the Health Department does not apply for at all. Diana Garcia-Burns explained that there are such grants such as the Covid money - when we are in a pandemic or emergency in the country and they just push everything out. We are not allowed to decline if it compromises the health and safety of the community. Natalie asked if there were any other questions as the plan is to get this on the agenda for the next meeting to get it approved. Attorney Nick Snow stated that we make sure we will get everything compiled together and send final version out to give enough time to review before the next meeting. If there are any questions on it, the board members are welcome to contact him at any point in time. Natalie Adams stated she has already sent the documents to Administration and Corporate Council, Attorney Allegetti.

V. DIRECTOR UPDATE:

Diana Garcia-Burns reported that the Health Department had a great year. The Health Department issued about 2300 birth certificates and about 1675 death certificates. There was a total of 34 Covid deaths in East Chicago. The Inspections division completed over 438 inspections and 251 follow-ups. Immunizations numbers are up at 885 and 96 lead cases in East Chicago. Six homes with high lead levels were forwarded to the Building Department. The Indiana Department of Health sent inspectors up to inspect these homes and they have high levels of lead. Nursing administered 521 TB tests and out of those 57 were positive. There were 5 Monkey Pox cases in East Chicago. The Health Department administered 2,833 Covid vaccines and completed 4,585 Covid tests. Accomplishments were Covid testing, vaccinating and surveillance and sustained heightened levels of services even during Covid. We also supplied

homebound services to our residents. We amplified our immunization rates and we increased lead surveillance. Our challenge was workforce fatigue because of Covid. We are still working on the billing solution with VaxCare. It would be nice if we had an electronic health record that way we could gather data more easily. We still have a vaccine hesitancy in our community. We still are having problems retaining staff in our Animal Control. The most recent Animal Control Officer resigned on Monday and we are trying to secure staff for Emergency Preparedness.

VI. HEALTH OFFICER UPDATE:

Dr. Benchik-Abrinko stated the Animal Control Officer resigned on Monday and she is still working on finding a Veterinarian. There was further discussion on the current number of staff at Animal Control and hiring process.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Natalie Adams made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Dr. Rev. James Wade. The meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.