

Cass County Board of Health May 13, 2015 Minutes

Board Attendance: Dr. Ciotta, Ms. Corn, Ms. Birnell, Dr. Zimmerer, Dr. Dity.
Excused absence: Mr. Davis

Also in attendance: Dr. Martin, Mike Collins, Dan Musselman, Jeff Stanton

Meeting was called to order at 7:06pm and adjourned at 8:06pm. The meeting was held in the Cass County Commissioners Room, Cass County Government Bldg, 200 Court Park, Logansport, IN 46947.

Issues Discussed:

1. We discussed the need for a needle exchange program in Cass County and the advisability of doing so. Cass County is in the second tier of Hepatitis C rates for Indiana primarily from patients who acquired the disease before residence at State custodial facilities rather than acquisition while living in the country. There are concerns that making drug use safer and less hassle will tempt additional new users at the price of lowering the disease burden on individuals who will still be at exceptionally high risk of bad health outcomes. We are awaiting the state's decision if Cass County qualifies under a new law permitting needle exchange.
2. What to look for in the next department administrator and the hiring process to follow were discussed. The board expressed a desire for emailed monthly reports on vaccines administered, septic and restaurants inspected.
3. Which ordinance is in effect for restaurants was discussed. The 2004 ordinance is in effect according to lawyer Stanton. Stanton suggested the state model ordinance to be adopted by the county council. He attempted to read the entire current ordinance but was advised to bring the model ordinance with Cass County's information filled in to the next meeting.

4. The appropriate discipline philosophy for penalizing repeat scofflaws at dirty restaurants was discussed with the sanitarians. They were told of the changes desired by the board.
5. According to Jeff Stanton, the budget appropriation for the health department is set by legislative fiat by the county council, not state law. There is no statutory tax dedicated to the health department by the state. The rate published in the newspaper is at the council's discretion.
6. The Cass County website is in error in saying the health department nurses are appointed by the commissioners. They are at will employees and can be fired or hired like the rest of employees in the department.
7. The acting administrator will be Susie Bennett until the permanent administrator is on board which is anticipated to be in early June.
8. The new administrator will likely require health benefits which will add \$15,156 to the budget costs for the department. The new administrator's salary will be marginally lower than Bob's salary. The salary will be \$35,000 per year.
9. The proposed budget for the 2016 year was discussed. Current spending plus inflation is the guiding idea at this time. The budget for 2016 is due to Ms. Ide on 6/26/2015. The leadership of the department will keep the commissioners and county council aware that the carryover money from the county will be used up in 2016 and a higher rate of new taxpayer support will be necessary in 2017 or employee layoffs will be needed to balance the budget.
10. Dr. Martin suggests the department switch to the new HPV's vaccine which has activity against more of the cancer causing strains of human papilloma virus when it becomes available to health departments in Indiana if the cost is reasonable. The board was in agreement.

Submitted by,

David Martin MD, Cass County Health Officer