



# EAST CHICAGO HEALTH DEPARTMENT

100 W. CHICAGO AVENUE, SUITE 100A, EAST CHICAGO, IN 46312

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**ANTHONY COPELAND, MAYOR**

**Dr. Paula Benchik Abrinko, Health Officer**

**Diana Garcia-Burns, Health Director**

## MINUTES

### HEALTH BOARD MEETING

**March 1, 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

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One Tap Mobile

312-626-6799

I. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Dr. Libiran called the meeting to order at 5:43 pm.

II. **ROLL CALL:**

Roll call was taken and in attendance were Dr. Matthew Libiran (in-person), Dr. Sabrina Reed (in-person), Dr. Rev. James Wade (in-person) and Brenda Walker (in-person). Natalie Adams (in-person) arrived after roll call was taken. Also in attendance were Dr. Paula Benchik-Abrinko (in-person), Diana Garcia-Burns (in-person) and Attorney Jewel Harris (in-person). Absent was Loretta Parker.

III. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

IV. **DISCUSSION:** None

V. **DIRECTOR UPDATE:**

Diana Garcia-Burns updated the Board in regards to Senate Bill 4. She stated the bill is still being worked on at the State level and there is a possibility of it being adopted this session. She explained that one of the requirements in the bill is having an afterhours contact for emergencies as part of the Governor's core responsibilities. She also reminded the Board of the change in funding to be processed through the County as part of this bill as well. Attorney Harris explained that this bill is subject to change as it gets to the House, but it will likely pass in some form. It will affect how the Health Department currently operates. Attorney Harris stated that the bill requires the City to establish a fund to support the core public services. Attorney Harris will send out the complete Senate Bill 4 as only the abbreviated version was available at the time of the meeting. Attorney Harris again stated that as the bill goes through Committee Hearings and people read through and question some of the items in the bill changes may be made. Attorney Harris stated the real purpose of this being brought up is Diana letting you know that this is being looked at. He explained the city has a lobbyist and if the board wants to come up with the concerns we can see if the Mayor wants to authorize the lobbyist to make those comments for us at the Committee Hearings. Diana

explained that Dr. Walker reached out to the Mayor because he wanted to speak to the Mayor regarding this and how it affects East Chicago and Gary. Diana sent an email to the Mayor's Office with Dr. Walker's telephone number.

Diana stated that Hector Segura will no longer oversee the Vector Control so the Health Department will need to find someone. Diana has already been calling companies. Natalie Adams requested to get an RFP (Request for Proposal) and publish it to get competitive quotes.

Diana stated the new Animal Control officer has started and is working out well. She would like to get him full-time by next month so she does not lose him.

Diana stated there is a coyote problem in Roxanna. She has reached out to DNR who referred them to some companies. There is company out of Valparaiso who would come out to set a trap, but the price is a little high.

Diana stated that she reached out to someone who is willing to be a vendor to help complete the upcoming deliverables. She stated we still have grant money from 2021 to present that we can use. This is a mandated position. He is requesting about \$2,500.00 per month. He will do the meetings and training for everything we need. He is also willing to do training of the new person. Attorney Harris and Diana will work on the contract to bring to the Board for approval at April Meeting.

Diana stated that the Immunization Nurse resigned because she needed full-time employment with benefits so today was her last day.

VI. HEALTH OFFICER UPDATE: None

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.