

Hendricks County Board of Health Meeting

May 13, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Hendricks County Government Center
Commissioners/Council Meeting Room
355 S Washington St.
Danville, IN 46122

The Hendricks County Board of Health met on May 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners/Council Meeting Room at the Hendricks County Government Center.

Board Members in Attendance:

Dr. Chrystal Anderson
Ms. Debra Campbell
Dr. Larry Caskey
Mr. Brian Cobb
Dr. Andrew Coughill
Mr. Bruce Dillon
Mr. David Hardin

Hendricks County Staff in Attendance:

Dr. David Stopperich, Health Officer
Ms. Krista Click, Administrator
Ms. Lisa Chandler, Foods Team Leader
Ms. Kristen Lien, Onsite Team Leader
Ms. Leanna Truitt, Healthy Families Program Manager
Ms. Nicole Oppy, Public Health Nurse
Ms. Anne Archer, Outreach Team Leader

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Eric Oliver, Attorney
Mr. Larry Hesson, County Council Liaison

Determination of a Quorum

Dr. Coughill called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with a quorum present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Cobb made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2025, Board of Health meeting. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Mr. Hardin and Dr. Anderson were not yet present for this vote. All present voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Wishes to be Heard

None to be heard.

Introduction of New Staff

None to be introduced.

Unfinished Business

Covid and Flu Updates

Dr. Stopperich stated numbers are looking very good. Covid wastewater levels are the lowest they have been in a year. No one is in the hospital with Covid, flu, or RSV. No Covid deaths in about 3 months or any flu deaths in a couple months. No cases of measles reported in Hendricks County. Our department worked with schools to ensure all were prepared.

Health First Indiana Community Award Advertising

Ms. Click reported that due to funding issues, potential community awards will not be as heavily advertised as previously planned. Although we will not have as much funding to distribute, community awards are an essential part of Health First Indiana and will continue. The department has received a proposal from a local media company to improve and increase advertising in general, and specifically for Health First Indiana services, with videos and social media posts.

2024 Hendricks County Health Department Annual Report

Dr. Stopperich highlighted that we switched from average age to median age of death for a more accurate representation. The median age of death has held steady for the last several years.

Analysis of 2024 Death Certificate Data

Dr. Stopperich has provided death certificate reports to the Health Board members. He appreciates the Coroner's Office and the report they share and the work they do. County suicides had the highest prevalence among 20-30 year olds with another peak around 55-65 year olds. 19 of the 25 suicides were by gunshot wounds, mainly involving males. Overdoses which were at 52 in 2021 were down to 19 in 2024. There have been significant efforts in awareness and education throughout the community. The Health Department and others have participated in Narcan programs. The death reports are more accurate in the last few years which has provided for better analysis. Looking at 2023 to 2024, alcohol-related deaths went from 5 to 23. We may need to look at educational campaigns to address alcohol abuse. Renal failures have also increased. There has been a decrease in deaths due to overdose or Covid. Regarding cancer deaths, the county has seen decreases in colorectal and breast cancers, and a bump in prostate and bile duct (likely due to difficulty in treating) cancers. The top 5 cancers in 2024 include lung, hematologic, colorectal, prostate, and pancreatic cancers. It is difficult to screen for pancreatic cancers.

New Business

Draft Food Ordinance

A new Food Ordinance was drafted due to the new Indiana Administrative Code that became effective April 16th. A summary of changes was provided, mainly due to the state rule changes. There is also proposed change regarding late notice and late fees requiring Mobile Retail Food Establishments, Temporary Food Establishments, and Farmers Market permit applications/payment to be submitted to our office one week prior to the start of an event, otherwise there is a \$25 late fee. Applications/payment submitted less than 48 hours prior to the start of the event will not be accepted. Health Board members suggested the department may raise late fees to help address delays in applying for these permits. Ms. Chandler said the foods program will provide education to operators prior to taking enforcement on rule and ordinance changes. Dr. Caskey made a motion for the new ordinance to be forward to the Commissioners for adoption. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. All Health Board members were present at this time of the meeting and voted in favor of the motion.

IDOH Immunization Grant Funding

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) notified our department at the end of March 2025 that some immunization grant funding was no longer available. We lost about half of the funds available at that time. This grant runs through June 30, 2025, at which time we do not expect it to be renewed. Two of the three positions supported by this grant that have been vacated will not be filled at this time.

Health First Indiana Updates

Throughout the legislative session, \$100 million was expected to be allocated to Health First Indiana for local health departments across the state. In the end, Health First Indiana received \$40 million. Prior to Health First Indiana beginning last year, local health departments received a little less than \$7 million. In 2024, the Hendricks County Health Department received about \$1.7 million, and in 2025 received about \$3.4 million for these efforts. In 2026 and 2027, Hendricks County will be allocated \$913,965 each year. The department has been reviewing and prioritizing where to cut back and will use carryover funds to stretch as much as possible to fund programs. There is currently a self-imposed hiring freeze for any grant positions in our department. In addition, tobacco prevention and cessation was removed as a core service of Health First Indiana. Tobacco education may be done through school health efforts or with other funding. Change in legislation also ensures that Health First Indiana dollars are only used for Indiana residents who are lawfully present in the United States. We do not have any Health First Indiana funding directly addressing those who are not Indiana residents or are not in this country lawfully. However, we do not ask for this status when providing services. Mr. Eric Oliver suggested that clients answer by checkbox that they are a lawfully present Hendricks County resident. Other services, such as tire amnesty, should include a disclaimer that addresses this requirement. General education should not be an issue, but staff should avoid tailoring any Health First Indiana materials to the population excluded.

2026 Budget Requests

The 2026 Health First Indiana budget must be submitted to the Indiana Department of Health by June 1st. County budget requests will also be due prior to the next Health Board meeting.

Updates

Environmental Health Foods Team Update- Ms. Lisa Chandler

The new Food Code 410 IAC 7-26 became effective April 16, 2025. Local health departments had been told it would not be effective until July 1st, so we had to scramble a bit to update forms, the ordinance, website, our food inspection program, and train staff. Things are going smoothly with all the changes. Inspections are taking longer as we are spending time educating staff about new code provisions and answering questions. Reports also take longer to complete as the form is different with more details that get documented. Only one of the House Bills we were watching closely during the legislative session passed. House Bill 1577 regarding a state-wide mobile permit has been signed by the Governor. The Indy Tattoo Expo will be held on June 6-8 at the Fairgrounds with 195 artists from 79 studios attending.

Environmental Health Onsite Team Update- Ms. Kristen Lien

Ms. Lien reported that Erin Williams and Zach Godsey had completed their CPO course and are now Certified Pool Operators. The pool season is underway. A handful of seasonal outdoor pools are now permitted for the 2025 season; 14 locations as of today. Mosquito surveillance will begin at the end of the month. The IDOH Lab is not yet accepting mosquitoes for testing. Testing usually begins after Memorial Day. The Lab tests for West Nile, Lacrosse, and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Hendricks County usually receives positive West Nile Virus report(s), but not until the fall. Mr. Godsey will be working on surveillance and larvicide this season. HB 1052 passed during the legislative session. This bill addressed breaking tied votes on the Technical Review Panel (TRP), sets number of times they can meet in a calendar year, voided all local ordinances passed after January 1, 2025, and gives IDOH deadlines on updates to the rules and inspection guidelines for residential by July 1, 2026, and non-residential by January 1, 2027. No septic installations have been completed yet, but Paul Jump has had phone calls for plasticity tests later this week.

Healthy Families Update- Ms. Leanna Truitt

Ms. Truitt reported that Kierstin Ritchey resigned from her position, which will not be filled. Now the program is adjusting home visit allocations and will refer some referrals elsewhere if we do not have openings. Interpreter services funding is expiring (from DCS) as expected. The transition to the new office has gone smoothly and everyone is transitioning well.

Public Health Nursing Team Update- Ms. Nicole Oppy

Ms. Oppy stated that Susan Henry has put together risk reduction kits to give to our patients. The Health Department will offer these kits to all patients seen in the STI clinic and any other patient that the nurses feel would benefit. Our office received information that the IIC administered 573 vaccines to 140 patients at the October 29, 2024, clinic. Kassi Oussey's last day with us was March 14th. Staff are working on strategies to improve immunization rates. Specifically, staff has collaborated with Lindsey in Outreach and put together an immunization packet for Vital Records to give out to those picking up birth certificates for anyone 18 years or younger; is working on an access to care flyer, helping people find physicians that are accepting new patients; will run reminder recalls quarterly for age groups to catch those missing vaccines, they will receive a letter; and are working on increasing our immunization advisory board participation. The state has stopped a lot of the assistance they were providing for local health departments with communicable disease investigations. Our staff was planning to start taking back investigations, so we are just doing that sooner than we expected. Communicable disease nurses are busy with their active and latent tuberculosis and following up on other communicable diseases.

Outreach Team Update- Ms. Anne Archer

Ms. Archer stated that Adrienne, Michael, and Danielle recently presented at a high school and an elementary school to address handwashing, tobacco prevention, and food safety. The team was at the Eggs and Kegs event, which was well-attended, to advertise the STI clinic and answer public health questions. Jeff attended the NACCHO Preparedness Summit. Adrienne completed 88 tobacco assessments, surveying establishments throughout the county, and forwarding the data to IDOH. 23 referrals have been received for diapers. Outreach also launched our suicide/overdose fatality review (SOFR) team meetings. Olivia has done a great job, and partners are eager to participate.

Health Department Administrator Update- Ms. Krista Click

Ms. Click stated that in addition to preparing budgets, staff performance reviews are due by June 1st. Tire Amnesty Day is planned for August 9th at the 4H Fairgrounds. This week we learned that the preparedness grant is expected to have reduced funding, reduced by at least \$5,000. The next grant period is expected to begin July 1st, but since IDOH has not yet received confirmation from the CDC, a delay is expected.

Health Officer Update- Dr. David Stopperich

Dr. Stopperich stated with all the funding changes, the department will be creative with funds and prioritize services. We have a great crew, and staff have been flexible in adjusting their focus to meet the new requirements.

Comments from County Council Liaison – Mr. Larry Hesson

Mr. Hesson stated the legislative session's resulting budget will be challenging for many. A meeting is upcoming with the county's financial advisor, and the Commissioners and Council will address how we will meet the crisis created. With those who serve the county, and with patience and cooperation, we will overcome these challenges. Hendricks County is in good shape compared to others.

Comments from Health Board Attorney – Mr. Eric Oliver

Mr. Oliver recognized it was good that we passed the septic ordinance when we did. If it were passed after January 1st, with the new law changes, it would be void.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Board, Dr. Cougill requested a motion to adjourn, provided by Mr. Hardin. All in favor, Dr. Cougill adjourned the meeting.

Dr. Andrew Cougill, Chair

David Hardin

David Hardin, Vice-Chair

Chrystal Anderson

Dr. Chrystal Anderson, Member

Larry Caskey

Dr. Larry Caskey, Member

Debra Campbell

Debra Campbell, Member

Brian Cobb

Brian Cobb, Member

Bruce Dillon, Member

David M. Stopperich

David M. Stopperich, M.D
Health Officer and Board Secretary

7-8-2025
Date Minutes Approved