

**Hendricks County Board of Health Meeting**  
**November 14, 2023 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 November 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners/Council Meeting Room at the Hendricks County Government Center.

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Dr. Andrew Cougill  
Dr. Chrystal Anderson  
Dr. Larry Caskey  
Mr. Bruce Dillon (virtual)  
Mr. Brian Cobb  
Mr. David Hardin  
Ms. Debi Campbell

**Hendricks County Staff in Attendance:**

Dr. David Stopperich, Health Officer  
Ms. Krista Click, Health Department Administrator  
Ms. Leanna Truitt, Program Manager of Healthy Families  
Ms. Anne Archer, Outreach Team Leader  
Ms. Nicole Oppy, Public Health Nursing Team Leader  
Ms. Ginger Harrington, Onsite Team Leader  
Ms. Natalie Fausz, Admin Assistant Billing Specialist  
Ms. Kierstin Ritchey, Family Support Specialist  
Ms. Sharon Mayer, Environmental Health Secretary  
Ms. Brooke Scott, Vital Records Registrar

**Others in Attendance:**

Mr. Eric Oliver, Attorney

**Board Members/Others Absent:**

Ms. Lisa Chandler, Food Team Leader  
Mr. Larry Hesson, County Council Liaison

**Determination of a Quorum**

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

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Brian Cobb made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2023, Board of Health meeting. Dr. Chrystal Anderson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved. Roll call was conducted, and five were in favor, one abstained (DC), one not present (DH).

**Wishes to be Heard**

None presented.

**Unfinished Business**

Mr. Eric Oliver, Attorney, reviewed the onsite sewage system ordinance and questioned whether we needed a county onsite ordinance. In some ways we do not because the Commissioners have indicated that they only want to follow the State standard, but there is some argument that we do have some discretion in terms of permitting and the ability to have the Health Board hear a septic issue. These would be reasons to propose to the Commissioners to pass the ordinance. The only additional change from just mirroring the State ordinance was that we did change the fine amount to \$1,000 per day. Mr. Oliver stated that it would be up to the board if they wanted to forward the ordinance to the Commissioners. It would be beneficial to present an ordinance so we can have the ability for administrative hearings as well as providing the public with specifics for compliance. The Commissioners have wanted this type of information; therefore, this would be a reason to recommend they pass. An additional issue is regarding the property owned by the Eck's. A notice of violation was issued and then the

statue came into place which voided the septic issues, so the question was could we force a mandatory sewer hookup or some other means. He discussed the issue with the State Health Department, and they felt we did not have the means of enforcement unless the Town of Plainfield wanted to compel the sewer hookup. Mr. Oliver spoke with the Eck's attorney today to see if they connected to sanitary sewer, applied for a repair permit, or found a professional to determine if the repair was valid. They have not done any of these so Mr. Oliver informed their attorney that a notice of violation will be sent. Mr. Oliver suggested it be sent out this week notifying them of the violation and giving them the option of connecting to sewer or installing a septic system.

Mr. Oliver and the Health Department will be on the Commissioner's agenda on November 28 to discuss the Health Board make-up and the change in the statue. He added that the statute has specific individuals that need to fill board positions and the State has not provided any additional guidance. The issue that needs to be determined is whether the Town of Plainfield, County Council, and Commissioners want to use this opportunity to start from scratch, but Mr. Oliver does not believe the law will allow for the removal of members without cause. He does not believe the Commissioners want to start from scratch at this time, but the issue needs to be addressed.

Mr. Oliver added that in 2025 we will need to begin livestreaming the meetings based on changes in statute. Mr. Brian Cobb inquired as to whether individuals who were noted as wishes to be heard could livestream or need to be present. Mr. Oliver stated that would be addressed by a policy of the board.

Mr. David Hardin added that he likes the idea of sending the onsite sewage system ordinance to the Commissioners. Mr. Bruce Dillon did want clarification that the \$1,000 per day fine for the sewage ordinance does not exceed the State amount and it was verified that it does not exceed the limit. Dr. Cougill inquired as to why Ms. Ginger Harrington, Onsite Team Leader, had previously requested to postpone further conversation regarding the septic ordinance and she responded that she just attended the Plan Commission Meeting where it was mentioned that there were some unanswered questions about our ordinance, and it may need to be reevaluated. It was determined to table this item for the next agenda.

Ms. Krista Click, Health Department Administrator, provided an update on Health First Indiana. She added that there was a meeting with Dr. Weaver on November 3 with a turnout of 40-50 people attending. She also stated that office space options are being researched. The team is looking for space to lease. Ms. Debi Campbell added that Commissioner Dawes was asked a question at the meeting with Dr. Weaver regarding sustainability of the program after two years and he believed that the Council would provide the funding needed and hopefully the State would continue their funding depending on the outcomes.

### **New Business**

Dr. Stopperich stated that future Health Board appointments will be addressed at an upcoming Commissioner's meeting. Staffing updates included the introduction of three new employees who are Ms. Kierstin Ritchey, Family Support Specialist in Health Families, Ms. Natalie Fausz, Administrative Assistant Billing Specialist for Nursing and Ms. Brooke Scott, Registrar, Vital Records. Proposed future meeting dates were discussed and were set for January 9, March 12, May 14, July 9, September 10, and November 12.

### **Updates**

Ms. Leanna Truitt, Program Manager of Healthy Families, stated that they are training new staff and Rebecca has been enrolling new families. Their self-study has been submitted. It is now with the Department of Child Services who will determine which counties will get a peer review onsite or by proxy. The department is also working on holiday planning with sponsorships for the kids.

Ms. Ginger Harrington updated that there are water issues which have opened an opportunity for education on chlorinating wells. Also, there is a water rights battle in Brownsburg with DNR and the town. The Town of Brownsburg purchased water from Citizens and the wells in the neighborhood nearby rebounded; therefore, they are looking for a more permanent solution. Mr. Hardin inquired as to where the wells were located, and Ms.

Harrington responded that most were in Arbuckle and the permanent solution being considered is placing the neighborhood on city water. There was also another water-related complaint about a chemical that was used in gasoline being present in well water and IDEM is getting involved. State legislation is requiring Putman County to test wells in six townships due to a fear of contamination. A sewer line is being installed this week for the McKenzie property.

Ms. Nicole Oppy, Public Health Nursing Team Leader, updated that they started walk-in flu/covid clinics on October 4 and will be continuing these on Wednesdays through the second week of January from 8:30a-3:30p. Since September, they have administered 416 flu and 391 Covid vaccines. A new freezer will be delivered in December for storing more frozen vaccine. Nursing students from Chamberline University have been shadowing nurses in the department.

Ms. Anne Archer, Outreach Team Leader, added that the team conducted a flu clinic at MADE@Plainfield and vaccinated approximately 15 people. The hat and glove drive will continue through next week and COVID tests are still being distributed.

Ms. Click stated that there is a webpage that has been created for Health First Indiana that provides general information.

Dr. Stopperich stated that COVID is present in the community, but it is not hitting the hospitals very hard. Hendricks County is at 6 cases per day with the state numbers based on water results being more accurate. At the end of 2021 there were 75 cases per day in our county with 46 of those being in the hospital. Today, there were no hospitalizations. He attended a leadership symposium with Ms. Click a few weeks ago. Ms. Debi Campbell inquired as to if he was looking to keep all employees in a central location and Dr. Stopperich added that he is trying to look at a former HRH physician's office which was used for the drive thru COVID clinic. However, they are still actively looking for space.

Mr. Bruce Dillon commented about stepping up the hiring process with a concern of getting good applicants to take advantage of May graduates.

**Adjourn**

Mr. David Hardin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm. Dr. Larry Caskey seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

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

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**Date Minutes Approved**