

Hendricks County Board of Health Meeting

July 8, 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 July 8, 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
Mr. Bruce Dillon (virtually)
Mr. David Hardin

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Eric Oliver, Attorney

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
Ms. Dixie Doub, Office Manager

Determination of a Quorum

Mr. Hardin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with a quorum present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hardin stated he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes of May 13, 2025, Board of Health meeting. Ms. Campbell made that motion, and it was seconded by Dr. Anderson. All present voted in favor by roll call vote. The motion was approved.

Wishes to be Heard

None to be heard.

Unfinished Business

Infectious Disease Updates

Dr. Stopperich stated that overall, things are going well in the county right now. The county is reporting about one case of Covid per day, and the last Covid-related death was 5 months ago. No one is in the hospital with Covid, flu, or RSV. Wastewater levels are low for Covid, and we are beyond flu season. Our last flu season experienced 12 flu-related deaths in the county, which is more than we have had in the last 10 years. Ms. Archer and Ms. Oppy stated that it was just announced that Putnam County has identified one case of measles.

Food Ordinance Update

Ms. Chandler reported that the Hendricks County Commissioners heard the Food Ordinance at the June 10th meeting. As this Ordinance mostly reflects new rule change, there are not a lot of changes. There is a change to time frame when temporary, farmers market, and mobile applications are late, and a late fee

assessed. Commissioners asked if the late fee was too low and we said we were fine with this fee but wanted to encourage timelier application submissions. Education will occur on ordinance changes throughout the end of this year prior to enforcing the changes. A public hearing was set for July 8, 2025. On July 8th, no public comments were heard, and the Commissioners passed the Ordinance unanimously.

2026 Budget Requests

Ms. Click reported that the 2026 Health First Indiana budget has been submitted to the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH). The 2026 Health Department budget has also been submitted to the County Council, including wages, benefits, and other account items. With recent funding changes, there is a decrease in the total wages of Health Department employees. The department's Hendricks County Council budget workshop hearing is scheduled for August 6th.

New Business

Health First Indiana Legislative Effects

Ms. Click stated that the Hendricks County Health Department is not filling some of the planned Health First Indiana (HFI) positions. The department has a self-imposed hiring freeze on grant positions and is now down five (5) positions from the original plan. There are currently 32 positions in our department. Carryover funds from the legacy funds (state funds prior to HFI) and the 2024 HFI budget are being utilized to cover one Public Health Nurse position due to the loss of IDOH immunization grant funds and upcoming HFI reduced budget. Some carryover funds will be allocated to community awards. Mr. Hardin asked if the Health Department has reached out to partners already awarded, stating funds would be decreased. Ms. Click stated that funds for contracts already awarded have been allocated and set aside for those contract periods. In addition, it was made clear upon application that future funds were not guaranteed, and we have had open conversations with partners about the status of funding.

MOU with Local Fire Depts for Equipment Sharing

Mr. Jeff Corder, Preparedness Coordinator, had prepared and Mr. Eric Oliver, attorney, had reviewed a template memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Hendricks County Health Department and local fire departments to share equipment that had been acquired with grant funding. The County Commissioners approved the template, and Pittsboro Fire Department was the first to sign this MOU. Ms. Click stated that the MOUs will be created for about two years, although there is no guarantee if the equipment is no longer available or the Health Department has a need for it at the time of request. Examples of shared equipment use are using the inflatable shelter or LED signs for an incident or event.

Updates

Environmental Health Foods Team Update- Ms. Lisa Chandler

Ms. Chandler reported that the Foods Team continues to be busy with educating operators on the New Food Code. Operators have had several questions. We have also been extremely busy inspecting temporary food stands and mobile units at the many events being held in the county. Lisa Chandler will be representing our congressional district on a work group for House Bill 1577, the state-wide mobile food permit bill. The first meeting is August 11th.

Environmental Health Onsite Team Update- Ms. Kristen Lien

Ms. Lien reported that the program continues to set mosquito traps for surveillance. IDOH increased submission sample requirements from 10 to 20 mosquitoes this year. There is an open Environmental Health Specialist position focusing on onsite wastewater, and interviews will begin later this week. Staff have been working on updating the Registered Installer list to be in line with our Ordinance and to

include contractors that still perform work in Hendricks County. Seasonal technicians are doing a great job inspecting pools in a timely manner. The septic season has been very wet. Only a handful of systems have been installed this year, and it is very site specific.

Healthy Families Update- Ms. Leanna Truitt

Ms. Truitt reported that Healthy Families had a Family Support Specialist (FSS) leave in April and that position will not be refilled. Adjustments are being made. The program receives on average 25-30 referrals a month but is only able to offer assessment (intake) to 3-5 a month with just two full-time FSS caseloads now. The program ran out of interpreter services money, but the Department of Child Services (DCS) was able to utilize some unspent dollars intended for onboarding that we never used. DCS has communicated the goal of releasing requests for proposal (RFP's) this fall. The last contract extension starts 10-1-2025.

Public Health Nursing Team Update- Ms. Nicole Oppy

Ms. Oppy stated that the Nurses attended the Public Health Nurse Conference on June 24th and 25th, and Susan presented regarding our STI Clinic at the conference. There was a follow-up planning meeting with MDwise for the Back on Track event to be held September 11th. The Indiana Immunization Coalition (IIC) held an immunization clinic on June 18th at the MADE center in Plainfield. Our next clinic with them is scheduled for October 7th. Staff have toured HRH and IU West pharmacy areas to see the units to store vaccine if needed in an emergency. Staff have been working on strategies to improve immunization rates by collaborating with Michael in Outreach to create a postcard to help people access healthcare and insurance, recruiting 5 new members for our immunization advisory board, and working with Danielle to create a resource for pregnant families to learn more about immunizations and the immunization schedule. The program has scheduled A-Z Immunization training for providers in the community on August 26th in the Hendricks County Government Building.

Outreach Team Update- Ms. Anne Archer

Ms. Archer stated that this is also a busy time of year for the Outreach team. The team has participated in National Night Out in Danville, Public Safety Day in Plainfield where a lot of people stopped, and at the Hendricks County PRIDE event which proved to be another good event for sharing educational materials. The Fatality Review Educator attended the American Public Health Association conference in Washington, DC. The diaper pantry is effective with 1,494 diapers distributed in May and June. Danville Christian Church has donated a significant number of diapers.

Health Department Administrator Update- Ms. Krista Click

Ms. Click stated that in addition to one of the Environmental Health Specialists moving out of state and vacating her position, two employees have moved on and are no longer with the Health Department. The department is seeking to fill two positions, those of the Foods Secretary and an Environmental Health Specialist. The department will not be filling the Environmental Health Specialist position that was supported by HFI and focused on lead and healthy homes. Multiple staff are covering more than one job right now and this is an especially busy season. Staff are thanked for their commitment, expertise, and patience. The next round of HFI community award applications is due August 15th and will be considered by the advisory team in September. The Health Department is working with a local media company to address marketing needs.

Health Officer Update- Dr. David Stopperich

Dr. Stopperich stated that he is pleased that we are so active in education and outreach efforts and he is all for advertising the services and resources of our department. Next Monday Dr. Stopperich will be working with representatives of Hendricks Regional Health, Willow Treatment Center, and others to

host and event at Danville Cinema to show a video on mental health called Paper Tigers. The goal is to develop strategies to address mental health in teens and those in their 20s. The purpose is to elevate awareness and ultimately involve school leadership.

Dates to Remember

The dates noted on this meeting's agenda were reviewed.

Comments from County Council Liaison – Mr. Larry Hesson

Mr. Hesson was not able to join us this evening.

Comments from Health Board Attorney – Mr. Eric Oliver

Mr. Oliver stated that the Board will need to address Mr. Bruce Dillon's replacement and consider the Indiana Code that addresses the make-up of a Health Board. Some discussion occurred regarding the details of those requirements. Mr. Oliver has contacted Mr. Todd McCormack, and the Commissioners would appreciate a recommendation. Dr. Stopperich may have a person in mind to fill the Health Board vacancy in January. No recent enforcements have been needed. Mr. Oliver will be meeting with Krista and Dr. Stopperich every other month to address any outstanding questions or issues.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Board, Mr. Hardin requested a motion to adjourn. All in favor, Mr. Hardin adjourned the meeting at 7:39 pm.


Dr. Andrew Cougill, Chair



David Hardin, Vice-Chair



Dr. Chrystal Anderson, Member



Dr. Larry Caskey, Member


Debra Campbell, Member



Brian Cobb, Member



Bruce Dillon, Member



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



Date Minutes Approved