

Hendricks County Board of Health Meeting

September 9, 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 September 9, 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 (virtually)
Dr. Larry Caskey
Mr. Brian Cobb
Dr. Andrew Cougill
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. Dixie Doub, Office Manager
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

Determination of a Quorum

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Dr. Cougill stated he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2025 Board of Health meeting. Mr. Dillon made that motion, and it was seconded by Dr. Anderson. All present voted in favor; Ms. Campbell and Mr. Hardin had not yet joined the meeting. The motion was approved.

Wishes to be Heard

None to be heard.

Unfinished Business

Infectious Disease Updates

Dr. Stopperich stated infectious diseases are at minimal levels at this time, including Flu, RSV, and measles. The community is reporting about 4 cases of Covid a day, with 1 person recently admitted in the hospital.

2026 Budget Requests

Ms. Click reported that the Hendricks County Council seemed supportive of the Health Department budget request during their workshop hearing. The Office Manager position will be moved from fund 1161 Health First Indiana to 1159 Health (county budget).

New Business

Termination of a Secondary Septic Field Easement (SSFE)

Ms. Lien stated that due to legislation changes in July 2023, all local, city, and town ordinances were deemed void if they were stricter than the state rule. SSFEs used to be required on developed properties. The Health Department can no longer require a SSFE during development, but also no longer has enforcement capability if the area is not maintained in a way that would support a replacement system. The department has developed a policy on how to deal with these situations. Mr. Eric Oliver drafted a consent to termination of SSFE letter that may be signed by Dr. Stopperich upon owner request. Mr. Oliver added that Mr. Greg Steuerwald reviewed this as well and agrees it should be recorded so it goes with the property. Upon amendment to the original motion, Dr. Caskey made a motion to approve the policy, and Mr. Cobb seconded the motion. All were in favor by roll call vote.

Mid-year Status of Death Certificate Statistics

Dr. Stopperich reported that when he and Ms. Click were in the Council budget workshop, a question arose regarding the Coroner being especially busy, so he researched why. At first look, he did not see any red flags but there was slightly more of the common causes of death in our county. It appears the county will have higher totals this year. He is getting worried about access to healthcare and theorizes that people are getting to the hospital too late. Pancreatic cancer is of significant concern, being the second most common kind of cancer, and there is no great screening guidance for it yet. Smoking and alcoholism increase risk. Bladder cancer has also increased, and smoking is a big risk factor for this disease as well. Dr. Cougill asked if population growth may have a bearing; that is a possibility to some degree. Mr. Hardin asked if there was any age related; those reports are not that detailed but median age of death is about the same as last year's annual report. Mr. Cobb pointed out that dementia and malnutrition are related to aging. There are not as many overdoses noted so far this year.

Updates

Environmental Health Foods Team Update- Ms. Lisa Chandler

Ms. Chandler reported that she is representing our Congressional District for House Bill 1577 (statewide mobile permit) Workgroup and has attended 2 meetings with next meeting scheduled for October 7th. Staff continue to be extremely busy with temporary events and keeping up with the increasing number of new restaurants opening. An administrative hearing is scheduled for Noodles & Company in Plainfield on September 18 regarding pests.

Environmental Health Onsite Team Update- Ms. Kristen Lien

Ms. Lien reported that regarding vector control, we found some recent positive West Nile mosquito samples found in Hendricks County. No human cases in Hendricks County have been noted on the dashboard update today. The department has had a vacant Environmental Health Specialist position that was tasked with treating for larvae, but we did get some sites treated earlier in the summer. Continuing to set traps as we can for surveillance. Posted a social media post regarding community members doing their part in protecting themselves and reducing mosquito breeding grounds. Tire Amnesty Day was a great success! 2894 tires were received with 140 vehicles served; this is about 200 more tires than last year but 30 less cars. The next Tire Amnesty Day is scheduled for August 8, 2026. Regarding pools, 30 outdoor pools remain open at 24 locations. The department will keep one seasonal technician on for a bit longer this season to help with those inspections. Onsite install season is in full swing. It has recently been dry, although we had a late start, two months later than usual. In August, staff conducted over 80 inspections, compared to conducting about 80 in June and July combined. Staff are still trying to hire an Environmental Health Specialist to specialize in onsite.

Healthy Families Update- Ms. Leanna Truitt

Ms. Truitt reported that Healthy Families is fully staffed for the available funding. Referrals are high. State put out information regarding an uptick on unsafe sleep deaths; notifying and renotify families about safe sleep practices. As of October 1st, the program area is in the last year of our current DCS contract. The request for proposals (RFP) for the next contract is expected soon.

Public Health Nursing Team Update- Ms. Nicole Oppy

Ms. Oppy stated that Tuberculosis packets have been sent to providers in the community with information on latent and active tuberculosis, reporting, and medication. At the June 18th IIC clinic at the MADE @ Plainfield, they administered 101 vaccines to 28 people. The next IIC clinic is scheduled for October 7th. We hosted A-Z immunization training conducted by the Indiana Department of Health in which 57 people registered. Met with our Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) and discussed best practices to help our patients between the time we see them and DIS contacts them. Staff are preparing for our offsite vaccine clinics with MDwise on September 11th and the Plainfield Multilingual Department on September 25th. Walk-in clinics for flu and hopefully Covid vaccines will begin in October.

Outreach Team Update- Ms. Anne Archer

Ms. Archer reported that our School Health Public Health Nurse will be spearheading some offsite vaccine clinics. We are expecting to have a program where we can offer vaccine in school clinics during the school day. Our Public Health Educator with experience in tobacco prevention recently attended an informative conference. Another Public Health Educator reported that the Hendricks County Community Resource Guide usage has been up 67% in the last two months. Since the last Health Board meeting, 1,897 diapers have been distributed, and 23 children have been served. Our Public Health Preparedness Coordinator has proposed the creation of a peer support network that involves our MRC volunteers; the goal is to help the helpers.

Health Department Administrator Update- Ms. Krista Click

Ms. Click stated that our Health First Indiana advisory team will be meeting tomorrow, September 10th, to consider the next (fourth) round of community partner funding awards. Five applications are being considered, with a potential total of \$627,341.33. About \$700,000 is still available to be awarded from this year's budget and 2024 carryover funds. Only \$156,500 for community awards was budgeted in 2026 due to the reduction in Health First Indiana funds. More is expected from unspent 2025 budget. Ms. Click is participating as co-chair of the Local Health Department Managers Association. This group will now focus on local health department conversations, and then follow-up between the co-chairs and representatives of the Indiana Department of Health and state organizations. The Indiana Department of Health has put out a survey to all local health departments to gather information to be able to share the impact of Health First Indiana funding reduction. The department is close to offering a candidate the Foods Secretary position.

Health Officer Update- Dr. David Stopperich

Dr. Stopperich asked that all keep promoting flu shots. We have been receiving a lot of questions regarding the Covid vaccine and look forward to receiving more guidance.

Dates to Remember

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

Comments from County Council Liaison – Mr. Larry Hesson

Mr. Hesson stated that although most of the work has been done, the County Council is still finalizing the 2026 budget. There are some outstanding questions about performance pay. All in all, Hendricks County is in pretty good shape.

Comments from Health Board Attorney – Mr. Eric Oliver

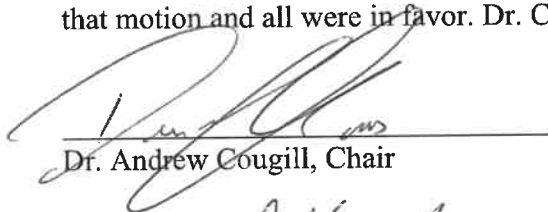
Mr. Oliver stated that he has now completed the SSFE documents.

Special Recognition of Mr. Bruce Dillon

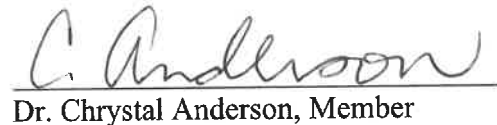
On this his last meeting, Mr. Burce Dillon was recognized for his expertise and support as he served as a Hendricks County Health Board member from 2013-2025.

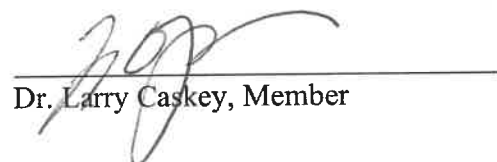
Adjourn

With no further business before the Board, Dr. Cougill requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dillon made that motion and all were in favor. Dr. Cougill adjourned the meeting at 7:36 pm.


Dr. Andrew Cougill, Chair

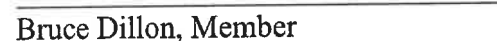

David Hardin, Vice-Chair

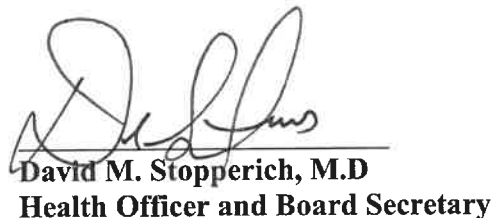

Dr. Chrystal Anderson, Member


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