

## **Hendricks County Board of Health Meeting**

**January 4, 2022 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 Tuesday, January 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners/Council Meeting Room at the Hendricks County Government Center.

### **Board Members in Attendance:**

Dr. Andrew Coughill  
Dr. Larry Caskey  
Mr. Brian Cobb  
Mr. David Hardin  
Mr. Bruce Dillon (virtual)  
Ms. Debra Campbell

### **Hendricks County Staff in Attendance:**

Dr. David Stopperich, Health Officer  
Ms. Krista Click, Environmental Health Director  
Ms. Kandi Jamison, Director of Public Health Nursing  
Ms. Nicole Oppy, Asst. Director of Public Health Nursing  
Ms. Ginger Harrington, Team Lead, Septic  
Ms. Lisa Chandler, Team Lead, Food  
Ms. Leanna Truitt, Program Manager of Healthy Families (virtual)  
Mr. Paul Jump, Environmental Health Specialist  
Ms. Sharon Mayer, Environmental Health Secretary

### **Others in Attendance:**

Mr. Eric Oliver, Attorney  
Mr. Larry Hesson, County Council Liaison  
Mr. Brad Whicker, Builder, Public

### **Board Members/Others Absent:**

Dr. Chrystal Anderson

### **Determination of a Quorum**

Dr. Coughill called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM with a quorum present.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Debi Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2021 and November 2, 2021 Board of Health meetings. Mr. David Hardin seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

### **Wishes to be Heard**

Mr. Brad Whicker, Whicker Construction, addressed the board regarding approval for a holding tank on a property where a septic system could not be installed due to weather conditions. Ms. Ginger Harrington acknowledged that Whicker Construction has been doing everything they can; however, now they must wait until the ground dries. They will need to provide escrow of funds for pumping and construction costs as well as a contract with Mr. Eric Oliver. Dr. Larry Caskey made a motion to approve after the above-mentioned items have been resolved, and Mr. David Hardin seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

### **Introduction of New Staff**

Mr. Paul Jump was introduced as the new Environmental Health Specialist for the septic program. Mr. Brian Portwood has moved from the septic program into the foods program. There is currently an open position in the foods program.

### **Unfinished Business**

Dr. Stopperich, Health Officer, reported that Hendricks County has 201 reported COVID cases per day as compared to 107 reported cases per day a month ago. Hendricks County deaths are at 38 per month as compared to 16 per month this time last month. The median age of deaths is in the 70's.

Hendricks Regional Health statistics for individuals in the hospital are 80-85% unvaccinated to 10-15% vaccinated. A small percent of these individuals in the hospitals have received the booster shot. Furthermore, he added that it is rare to see vaccinated patients in a local intensive care unit (ICU). As for inpatients, we are seeing the highest numbers since the beginning of the pandemic. There are 92 inpatients around the county – 26 of those are in the ICU which is an increase from

15 inpatients and an increase of a few more in ICU. Intensive care units from IU West and Hendricks Regional Health are on diversion and the emergency rooms have been off and on diversion.

Vaccination rates are doing well with approximately 65.5% individuals receiving two doses. The state numbers do not account for the booster shot yet. Hendricks County is still the third highest county in the state for overall booster doses for the range from school age on up. School age children from 5-11 are approximately 21% immunized, 12-15 years of age are at about 60%, and high schoolers are at 67%. The new CDC guidance has been released this week. Many students will be able to go back to school after 5 days with a mask as opposed to 10-14 days. If a student is not vaccinated, they are to be out of school for 5 days, then wear a mask for 5 days upon returning to school. If a student is fully vaccinated, then they do not have to quarantine but will have to wear a mask for 10 days.

Students participating in extracurricular activities are out for 10 days if not vaccinated and if they are vaccinated, these students can return sooner. Dr. Stopperich also added that testing sites are extremely busy, and Hendricks Regional Health has been running those sites. The health department is trying to assist, and they are looking at trying to expand capacity with volunteers.

### **New Business**

Mr. Eric Oliver administered the oath of office for Ms. Debi Campbell, Mr. Bruce Dillon, and Mr. Brian Cobb. They were sworn in to fulfill a term beginning 1/1/2022 through 12/31/2025. Mr. David Hardin nominated Dr. Andrew Cougill as Chairman and Mr. Hardin was nominated as Vice-Chairman. There was no opposition from the board for them to continue with their roles.

### **Environmental Health Update**

Ms. Lisa Chandler stated that the department is short one food inspector and will be reposting the position. She added that Ms. Harrington, Ms. Click, and herself are presently looking at new program software for environmental health.

Ms. Click asked if there was a need to address any potential changes for the septic holding tank policy that was discussed earlier this evening. Ms. Debi Campbell stated that Mr. Brian Cobb and herself had spoken with a Hendricks County Commissioner regarding a few issues to consider. One of the issues related to the details of the septic holding tank policy. Another suggestion was that the Health Board meet more often to address public concerns. For example, the Board could meet once a month so concerns can be addressed, and if there are not any concerns or a deadline to meet, that meeting can be deferred and not meet that month. Mr. Hardin inquired as to how often people come to have an issue heard. Mr. Oliver responded that if it is a denial of a permit or a revocation of a permit, they have the right to appeal and under the ordinance there is a specific timeframe for it to be set. There is an option for both parties to waive the timeframe and set a meeting. It can happen relatively fast, but it has not yet been requested. Dr. Cougill feels it is a reasonable process. Mr. Oliver has spoken with the county attorney, Mr. Graham Youngs, and was going to report to Mr. Gentry what is in place and that the public does have the opportunity to be heard in a timely manner. Mr. Hardin believes that when people leave a hearing that they should understand the process and know what is expected of them. Mr. Oliver suggested in few cases (ex. pump and haul) the board could pass a policy that says subject to certain requirements the Health Officer could grant approval and that could alleviate a hearing. Dr. Cougill felt it could be a reasonable addition to the policy and could be considered. Mr. Oliver will call Mr. Gentry.

Ms. Harrington stated there has not been a response from Mr. Wynkoop since he was present at the last health board meeting. A permit for the neighbor's septic was issued and they can install when the weather is dry.

Ms. Harrington also added that there is an ongoing issue with a tattoo parlor, Prestige Body Arts, regarding spore testing of their autoclave. Our ordinance requires spore testing once a month and the Health Department is having difficulty getting those spore test results. A meeting was held on December 3, 2021. The operator stated they would provide results of the autoclave and cease piercings until they had the results. After conducting an inspection on December 16<sup>th</sup>, the facility has not provided spore test results and they are still piercing. The last spore test result provided was in August. Currently, they are operating without a permit because their permit expired at the end of the year, and they have not reapplied. Additionally, the lab did receive a spore test, but it will take two weeks for results. Ms. Harrington feels that there are opportunities to close gaps in our ordinance in the future. Mr. Oliver stated it appears in the ordinance we can request injunctive relief by asking the court to issue an order for closure. Dr. Cougill feels it is reasonable for the attorney to send a letter to the facility.

Ms. Harrington inquired about the status of the Bronger case and Mr. Oliver replied that he has not had a response.

### **Healthy Families Update**

Ms. Leanna Truitt, Program Manager of Healthy Families, stated that funding for the department has not had an increase for approximately ten years plus. She will be putting together more data for justifying an increase in allocations for the new grant. Currently, the program is running at maximum capacity. They still have a part time position available. The holiday assistance program was successful with all families having matches.

### **Nursing Update**

Ms. Kandi Jamison, Director of Nursing, added that this week there are 137 individuals scheduled for Wednesday and 116 for Thursday for the COVID clinic, and this does not include walk in appointments. She also added that we are providing pop up clinics if companies call for the request. In October, our department provided 1,446 doses and in November, 886 COVID vaccine doses were administered. Ms. Debi Campbell added that on Thursday, January 13, 2022, Hendricks Regional Health will be offering a clinic. Ms. Click also stated that there was a survey conducted through the schools regarding clinic interests, needs, and suggestions; however, we have not received a lot of feedback. Dr. Cougill stated that an issue with testing facilities is with individuals who receive a rapid test, then go for a PCR test before they can receive an infusion. By the time they receive PCR results, they are out of the time frame for the infusion. Mr. David Hardin asked if it was as bad as the August surge, and Dr. Cougill commented that there are probably more people with COVID, but they are not as "hospital" sick.

### **Health Officer Update**

Dr. Stopperich stated that Hendricks County will be moving from orange to red with a 21% positivity rate. Omicron is just hitting Indiana and data provided by the state is lagging by a week. The State will be conducting random testing and sequencing for the type of variant.

### **Comments from County Council Liaison**

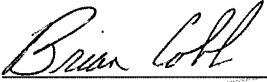

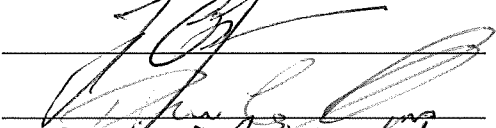
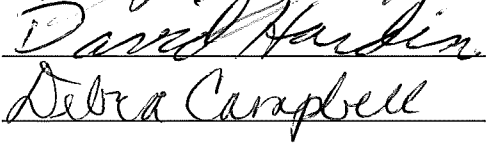
Mr. Larry Hesson did not have any Council updates.

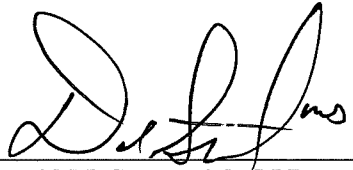
### **Comments from County Attorney**

Mr. Oliver attended Continuing Legal Education administered by the Indiana Department of Health.

### **Adjourn**

Dr. Cougill called the meeting to adjourn at 8:07 PM. Dr. Larry Caskey approved the motion and Mr. Brian Cobb seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

  
David M. Stopperich, M.D  
Health Officer and Board Secretary  
3/1/22  
Date Minutes Approved