

Hendricks County Board of Health Meeting

May 9, 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 Tuesday, May 9, 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
Mr. David Hardin
Dr. Larry Caskey
Mr. Bruce Dillon
Ms. Debra Campbell
Mr. Brian Cobb
Dr. Chrystal Anderson

Hendricks County Staff in Attendance:

Dr. David Stopperich, Health Officer
Mr. Paul Jump, Environmental Health Specialist
Ms. Nancy McGarry, Public Health Nurse
Ms. Leanna Truitt, Program Manager of Healthy Families
Ms. Ginger Harrington, Onsite Team Leader
Ms. Lindsey Tomaw, Public Health Education Specialist
Ms. Anne Archer, Outreach Team Leader
Ms. Nicole Oppy, Public Health Nursing Team Leader
Ms. Sharon Mayer, Environmental Health Secretary

Others in Attendance:

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

Board Members/Others Absent:

Krista Click, Health Department Administrator
Lisa Chandler, Foods Team Leader

Determination of a Quorum

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms Debi Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2023, Board of Health meeting. Mr. Brian Cobb seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Wishes to be Heard

None presented.

Unfinished Business

Anne Archer, Outreach Team Leader, introduced Nancy McGarry, Public Health Nurse, and Lindsey Tomaw, Public Health Education Specialist.

Dr. Stopperich, Health Officer, provided COVID updates with Hendricks County reporting about 4 cases daily with approximately one admission per day. Hendricks Regional Health (HRH) has 3 inpatients between the two HRH hospitals with COVID. IU West is utilizing a different database and it is more difficult to get their information. HRH has one inpatient with flu.

The immunization rate for COVID has stabilized at 16%. Two people have passed away from COVID in Hendricks County in the past month and 17 people since January. During the latter part of 2022 there were 77 deaths which reveals this year is better than last year. There were five individuals during flu season that passed

away last year. Mr. Bruce Dillon inquired if the department was giving the latest COVID vaccine and Dr. Stopperich replied that we were administering the bivalent vaccine. Dr. Stopperich believes that COVID and flu cases will not spike during the summer and that there will only be a few cases, especially since people will be outside and in open spaces. Ms. Debi Campbell inquired as to who is becoming ill and Dr. Stopperich replied that most people who became ill that received the vaccine were the elderly aged 85-90.

New Business

Dr. Stopperich stated that the legislation passed for the Governor's Public Health Commission Recommendations, and this will help place money in public health across the State of Indiana. The budgets will begin to increase in 2024. He is not sure on the dollar amount Hendricks County could receive but it is based per capita, and he feels the county will receive \$1 million in the first year and 2-2 ½ million in the second year. Our present budget is approximately 2-2 ½ million in expenditures. These funds would provide many opportunities and he has begun to talk to staff about potential needs. He feels the general thought is to extend the staff to some degree with potential positions focusing on infant mortality, school liaison, and vital records. Also, there is a need for additional space. The State would like a budget by September 1.

The local government, County Council and Commissioners, do have the option of opting out of receiving the funds. There will be meetings to be sure everyone has the same thoughts and ideas. The annual reports will provide a great opportunity to show the Commissioners exactly what the health department does.

In summary of the annual reports, COVID deaths did decline from 105 to 77 in the last year and Dr. Stopperich does foresee a further decline in the next year. Death due to liver failure has increased, which is most likely due to obesity. Pulmonary embolism has been included in the top twenty causes of death for the first time of which there were twenty deaths. He feels overdoses were underrepresented and is a main topic when they talk to schools. It was just outside of the top ten and he feels it will be in the top ten this year.

Mr. David Hardin inquired about additional positions and Dr. Stopperich replied there could be a need for a tobacco prevention position, an individual to focus on sexually transmitted infections, a statistician or matrix specialist, and an opportunity for healthy homes. Dr. Stopperich is excited about doing additional things for the community.

There was consensus approval to share the annual report information with the public.

Updates

Ms. Ginger Harrington, Onsite Team Leader, provided an update on behalf of Ms. Lisa Chandler, Food Team Leader. A provider for a new food database has been selected and the program should be available soon. Inspections of food trucks are ramping up as well as the number of temporary events so inspectors have been busy with those. Farmers markets are also opening, and some will be opening as early as the first part of June. There are six in Hendricks County with inspections being at least monthly.

Staff will be busy opening outdoor pools in May which require a satisfactory bacterial water sample and an inspection with no violations. She is hopeful to have two seasonal pool staff members to help take over these inspections. One seasonal staff member is returning and there is a potential prospect for a second position. The department has an intern joining the staff this season, sponsored by a scholarship from the Indiana Public Health Association, who will be focusing on vector control and outreach.

Ms. Harrington updated that the McKenzie property has been sold. As directed by Mr. Eric Oliver, Health Department Attorney, a letter was sent to the new owner who in return immediately contacted Ms. Harrington. The new owner reassures Ms. Harrington that nobody is living in the house despite the fact that trash is out every week. The new owner is working with Dale Kruse to design sewer connection.

Ms. Harrington also addressed a complaint regarding a rental company who stated they would fix a septic issue, but they are to connect to the sewer. The concern is if an affidavit should be recorded on the property or just reserved for unfit properties. Mr. Oliver stated that it could pose liability to cloud a title and inquired how aggressive the Health Board chooses to be regarding this issue. Presently, we only issue an affidavit for an unfit property where the owners are not taking action to fix issues or when the property comes up for sale. Appeals are never brought to the board. The department will continue to consult with Mr. Oliver.

Legislation was not kind to the septic program with the two bills that were passed. One bill allows for an illicit discharge and another bill makes our county ordinance null and void July 1, 2023. Counties may not be stricter than the state without future ordinance review. A difference between the county ordinance and the state rule is that anyone can design and install a system.

Ms. Leanna Truitt, Program Manager of Healthy Families, added that they are very busy prepping for their accreditation year. Healthy Families did receive additional funding which will help offset the cost of hiring new staff. They also received money for translation services which can include translation reimbursement or buying technology to help with translating. Ms. Truitt and Ms. Click are looking at making the available part-time positions full-time.

Ms. Nicole Oppy, Public Health Nursing Team Leader, updated that in February the staff met with school nursing coordinators from Avon, Plainfield, and Brownsburg to discuss back to school clinics. The Indiana Immunization Clinic will be providing clinics from July to September. The Indiana Department of Health will also be providing one immunization clinic. The staff attended World TB Day where Susan Henry, Public Health Nurse, presented a case she managed. She also received the TB excellence in TP preventions and care award. The department filled a vacant Administrative Billing Specialist position and is waiting for further processing from human resources.

Ms. Anne Archer, Outreach Team Leader, and Lindsey attended the Infectious Disease Summit today. She added that they will have a table set up at the Plainfield Public Safety Day, are doing a presentation this weekend for a teen group at the Danville Public Library, are planning for the Hendricks County Fair which they will be there the entire week. Two staff members will be attending car seat training so our health department can begin inspecting and fitting children in car seats. There is a Tox-Away Day on May 20th and a tabletop for the family assistance center on June 8. The team is working on their second food drive where there is almost 250 pounds of food.

Dr. Stopperich added that he was able to join Commissioner Dawes, the Sheriff, and others from around the county to discuss the opioid settlement. Over 8-10 years our settlement will be \$3-\$4 million and the team will be meeting every other week.

Dates to Remember

Tox-Away-Day will be held at the Hendricks County Fairground on May 20 and the Family Assistance Center Tabletop exercise will be held on June 8.

Comments from County Council Liaison

Mr. Larry Hesson, County Council Liaison, added that the Council discussed the Opioid Settlement and reimbursement that the State may advance the monies to counties and cities. He added that the priority of expansion was getting the jail operational and next is new facilities for the probation department and then an extension for the Ronald Regan Parkway. After a plan is in place, it needs to be presented so the health department can utilize the funds when they become available.

Comments from Health Board Attorney

Mr. Oliver commented that Ms. McKenzie sends emails periodically; however, she did do well on the sale of the property.

Adjourn

Mr. Hardin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Dr. Anderson seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

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

Date Minutes Approved