Hendricks County Board of Health Meeting
March 1, 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, March 1st, 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. Larry Caskey
Mr. Brian Cobb
Mr. David Hardin
Mr. Bruce Dillon
Ms. Debra Campbell
Dr. Chrystal Anderson

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. Leanna Truitt, Program Manager of Healthy Families
Ms. Sharon Mayer, Environmental Health Secretary

Others in Attendance:
Mr. Eric Oliver, Attorney
Mr. Larry Hesson, County Council Liaison
Ms. Robin Wilson, Public

Board Members/Others Absent:
Ms Lisa Chandler, Team Lead, Foods

Determination of a Quorum
Dr. Cougill called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes
Mr. Bruce Dillon made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2022, Board of Health meeting. Mr. Brian Cobb seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Wishes to be Heard
Ms. Ginger Harrington, Team Lead, Septic, stated that Robin Wilson, homeowner, is getting ready to move into her new house and would like to utilize a holding tank. She applied for a septic permit in September of 2021 and the weather has not been cooperative. The house is finished, and she is hoping to move into the house. She asked the board if she could just pay the remaining balance of the install to the contractor rather than placing money in escrow.

Mr. Eric Oliver, Attorney, stated that the purpose of the policy is to assure the work gets completed and he feels the risk is low in her situation if the funds for pumping are in place. Ms. Wilson feels it will be May before the work is complete and that she would like to move in the first week of April. Ms. Harrington added that no inspections on the property have been conducted. Mr. David Hardin feels it is in the best interest to follow the policy with 1½ times the value of the remaining work to be completed and conduct necessary inspections. Mr. Bruce Dillon made a motion to accept the pumping option with the policy as it stands and the escrow amount on the construction be 1½ times of the amount of the incomplete work as determined by the contractor. Mr. Hardin seconded the motion and the board moved to approve the motion.

Mr. Dillon mentioned a previous discussion of Dr. Stopperich having the ability to approve the full policy if this issue is brought forth and therefore, it will not need to be heard at a board meeting. If the approval by Dr. Stopperich is denied, then the exception to the policy can be heard in a meeting by the board.

Mr. Dillon mentioned a letter that was sent to Mr. Arrington, homeowner, and he was concerned about the strongly worded language. Ms. Harrington stated that this was a standard template and formatted letter that is sent when there is no response from the homeowner.

Mr. Oliver stated that there was not a response from the homeowner after of month of attempting communication and therefore, this letter was sent. Ms. Harrington added that the issue has been resolved since the well driller was not able to find a well. Mr. Oliver and Ms. Harrington each sent Mr. Arrington correspondence that the issue has been resolved.

Unfinished Business
Dr. Stopperich, Health Officer, stated a month ago there were 203 COVID cases per day in the county as opposed to 18 cases in the county today. There were approximately 14 deaths per week a month ago with no deaths reported last week. The positivity rate went from 35.4% a month ago to the present 6.3%. Over the last month, 22 people passed away in the county with 7 of those being in long term care with the median age of 77 years old. Over 90% of these individuals were not fully vaccinated. Over a month ago, there were 94 inpatients in the county, and we are presently at 19 inpatients and ICU beds went from 24 down to 1. Numbers are dramatically improving. A month ago, we were at 67% vaccination rate with two doses in our county for those 5 and older, and now we are at 67.8%. Furthermore, Dr. Stopperich added that the State of Indiana is at 56.6% and Hendricks County is still in the top three for vaccinate rate in the state. Booster statistics are 40-45% across the state. School age children statistics show approximately that 20% of high schoolers have been boosted and about 8% of middle schoolers. Mr. Hardin inquired as to how long after the second shot an individual can receive the booster. Dr. Stopperich replied that it was 5 months after the second dose. He also stated that vaccinations have plateaued. Mr. Dillon inquired if the CDC has provided information on a second booster and Dr. Stopperich stated not at this time.

Dr. Stopperich stated that very close to 100% of the ICU patient admissions in the county did not receive any Covid vaccine. Hospitalizations revealed that 95-98% of the patients were not up to date with vaccinations. He feels the vaccine is working and keeping people from getting sick.

CDC eased the mask guidance last week. Hendricks County is considered a medium risk county which is interpreted to include not only positivity rates and number of cases per 100,000, but also the number of hospital admissions and hospital capacity levels. Hendricks County is yellow and considered in the middle zone for risk meaning only the highest risk people are recommended to wear masks.

New Business
Ms. Krista Click discussed the proposed organizational chart for the department which depicts a department administrator over environmental and nursing reporting to Dr. Stopperich, who added that most health departments are structured in this manner. There will be a position added for a team lead over outreach and the modification of a few job descriptions. Dr. Cougill stated that this is not a health board issue of which they will be involved. Mr. Larry Hesson, County Council Liaison, stated that the department will work with human resources on developing the job description and then will move to the County Council.

Environmental Health Update
Ms Click stated that with the declining number of COVID cases, the Brownsburg testing site run by Hendricks Regional Health has been closed. The Danville site is still open, but they are looking at modifying the hours.

The department is still interviewing for two food positions and will be conducting three interviews on Thursday. Mr. Brian Portwood, a former septic inspector, is in the foods program and has been released to conduct food inspections for lower risk menu item facilities.

Ms. Click will be the vice president of the Indiana Environmental Health Association (IEHA) this year and will be planning the spring educational conference which will be held on April 28th in Plainfield.

Ms. Harrington added that the well on the Bronger property has been filled and that issue has been resolved.

Healthy Families Update
Ms. Leanna Truitt, Director of Healthy Families, shared that they are getting ready for spring training which will be held in-person for the first time in two years. They are still conducting virtual visits and being reimbursed by Department of Child Services, but she is not sure how much longer that will last. The department is preparing for their state audit in four weeks, and they are interviewing to fill a part time position. Dr. Cougill asked about the value of the virtual visits and Ms. Truitt commented that virtual visits have allowed for the opportunity to reach families they would not normally have been able to reach.

Nursing Update
Ms. Kandi Jamison, Director of Nursing, requested approval for a change in wording in the interpretive service policy. Ms. Debi Campbell made a motion to approve, and Dr. Chrystal Anderson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Ms. Jamison shared a map from Centers of Disease Control of US COVID-19 Community Levels by County. She shared that the vaccination clinic numbers are decreasing, and the department is considering transitioning to a smaller space in the regular clinic with extended hours. Zotec will not be available after June.

Ms. Jamison has placed a request to the Council for funds from the Action Response Plan to receive $100,000 per year for five years. This money is geared towards home visiting programs such as Healthy Families.

Health Officer Update
Dr. Stopperich thanked Mr. Hesson for the dedication with his participation with the County Council addressing wages and grades.

Comments from County Council Liaison
Mr. Hesson added that the Council is still working on wages and that there will not be any action taken until April.

Comments from County Attorney
Mr. Oliver stated that he will be working on the holding tank policy subject to approval by Dr. Stopperich. The board agreed to move forward with this decision. Mr. Oliver added that the body modification ordinance needed to be reviewed and Ms. Click stated that the pool and spa ordinance needs to be brought up to date as well.

Adjourn
Mr. Cobb called the meeting to adjourn at 8:02 PM. Dr. Larry Caskey seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Brian Cobb

C. Anderson

Debra Campbell

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

5/10/22
Date Minutes Approved