

**Hendricks County Board of Health Meeting**

**May 10, 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, May 10, 2022 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. Nicole Oppy, Asst. Director of Public Health Nursing  
Ms. Leanna Truitt, Program Manager of Healthy Families  
Ms. Ginger Harrington, Team Lead, Septic  
Ms. Lisa Chandler, Team Lead, Septic  
Ms. Sharon Mayer, Environmental Health Secretary

**Others in Attendance:**

Mr. Eric Oliver, Attorney  
Mr. Jeff Corder, Public Health Preparedness Coordinator  
Dr. Andrew Cook, MD, Anesthesiologist & Pain Management Specialist, Public  
Mr. Robert Joe Lyle, Public

**Board Members/Others Absent:**

Ms. Kandi Jamison, Director of Public Health Nursing

**Determination of a Quorum**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Debi Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2022, Board of Health meeting. Mr. Bruce Dillon seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**Wishes to be Heard**

Dr. Andrew Cook introduced himself to the Health Board. Dr. Cook is an anesthesiologist and pain management specialist located in the Avon area.

Mr. Robert Lyle, homeowner, was present for an appeal requesting a waiver on payment for reapplying for a septic permit that had expired. Ms. Ginger Harrington, Team Leader - Onsite, explained that Mr. Lyle had a septic permit which expired in December 2021. After one year, he would have to reapply for a new permit. Mr. Lyle stated the septic system could not be installed due to the weather. Mr. Bruce Dillon inquired as to why the delay and Mr. Lyle replied it was due to soil sampling and weather. Ms. Harrington agreed that it was a very wet season that limited the number of systems that could be installed, and he has a complicated site. Dr. Cougill inquired as to whether this system will go in this year. Mr. Lyle hopes to have the system in this June. The cost of a new permit is \$250. Dr. Cougill mentioned a conditional permit. Mr. Dillon stated that they should not bend the policy. The board voted 5 -2 to enforce the current ordinance and deny Mr. Lyle's appeal to not pay a renewal fee.

**Unfinished Business**

Ms. Harrington stated that it has been a wet septic season and the holding tank policy has been utilized twice since the last meeting (three total including Mr. Brad Wicker). She added there are several more that have inquired and seem interested.

The Health Department drafted changes to the policy. Ms. Harrington is concerned about the cost associated with this process, even though it has helped homeowners. The holding tank policy is processed as a repair with a \$50 fee. She spends a great deal of time for preparing documents and speaking with Mr. Eric Oliver, Attorney, on the contracts. Ms. Harrington also expressed concerns about paragraph number five in the policy regarding the performance bonds. Mr. Oliver expressed that it has become costly with his communication regarding performance bonds.

Mr. Dillon stated that the escrow of funds really protects the County and suggested to eliminate the performance bond requirement, and Mr. Oliver agreed. Mr. Dillon stated at a minimum, Mr. Oliver's costs need to be recovered and that just like other programs there should be a fee. Mr. Dillon recommended a \$250 fee and Dr. Cougill said we can make that recommendation.

Mr. Oliver mentioned that the department had discussed other fee updates. Dr. Cougill suggested we make the recommendation to add only the \$250 fee at this time. Mr. Oliver will send a request to the Hendricks County Commissioners to amend the Health Department's Fee Ordinance.

Ms. Campbell made a motion to approve the holding tank policy with striking paragraph five to eliminate the requirement for a performance bond, and Mr. Brian Cobb seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Environmental Health Update**

Dr. Stopperich, Health Officer, provided COVID updates and added that there are about 12 cases per day in the county right now with only one death in the last month. Approximately eight inpatients are being seen in the county right now, compared to 80 to 90 at the peak in January and February. Regarding vaccinations, we are seeing many of the second booster group.

He added that he has met with Hendrick Regional Health to plan for the vaccination clinic for the fall. Due to how the vaccine is packaged it may not be feasible to have provider offices administer the vaccine, so there is consideration for another mass vaccination clinic. In addition, testing site options are being considered.

The State has provided us with 26,000 rapid, at home test kits. The vaccination clinic has been moved downstairs to the nursing department. Ms. Click added that the clinic is by appointment only, but that people can still be worked in as time slots are available. The clinic is open Wednesday and Thursday 1:30 pm to 6:00 pm. There is a transition from the state site, Zotec, to the Health Department's own link for scheduling. The clinic will be open one Saturday a month beginning in July.

Mr. David Hardin inquired as to what the current age range was for the second booster and current recommendations for the age groups for the second booster. Dr. Stopperich added that we are still waiting for those under age five to qualify for the vaccination and the second booster is for those 50 years and older.

Ms. Click updated that we are in the final review of job descriptions which will be sent to human resources and then forwarded to the County Council to approve the Health Department's reorganization.

Ms. Click provided an update that the team is stretched thin and understaffed. The department will be making an offer to a potential Environmental Health Specialist and looking for an additional candidate.

### **New Business**

Mr. Jeff Corder, Public Health Preparedness Coordinator, provided an update as to how we can improve the department's response plan. A contractor sent out a survey to volunteers, staff, and community partners and that

provided documentation for a COVID after-action report. We relied on guidance from the State in many areas. Overall, he feels that we did a very good job in Hendricks County regarding our COVID pandemic response plan.

A few things that were brought up in the after-action review included our capability to store materials, such as personal protective equipment (PPE). The department has been aware that we were lacking on storage space, but this became evident during the pandemic. We must consider future storage needs for emergency cots, PPE, and vaccination clinics. We have one trailer and would like to get another one to address storage needs and a means to get items to where they are needed. Another item that was brought to attention was decision making and strategy. We were aware of incident command, but we will need to address who is in charge within the clinics more specifically and update these plans. Next Tuesday this plan will be presented to the Commissioners, ESF 8 members, and community partners.

Conflicts regarding the July 5 meeting were discussed. Mr. Dillon suggested moving the meeting to July 12 and Dr. Cougill stated that the meeting will be moved to July 12.

### **Healthy Families Update**

Ms. Leanna Truitt, Program Manager of Healthy Families, updated that the department is still short staffed and continues to serve more families. There continues to be an increase of families moving from Marion County into Hendricks County. There are 6 to 10 transfer families per month from Marion County.

The Indiana Department of Health will be rolling out a new program this fall that will allow for referrals to be made directly from the state department of health. The nurse navigator will be able to determine if the referral is appropriate for Healthy Families or another home-based program. With these additional referrals coming in the program may have to move the age of service from 5 years to 3 years to allow for more enrollments. The department had a state site review, and it went well, but there is concern about the case load management for the program manager. At this time, it isn't a concern, but it may be scrutinized more in an accreditation review.

The department is reviewing the policy manual which is done on an annual basis. The Department of Child Services just approved the 2022-2023 state manual. They are waiting to hear some feedback regarding the virtual home visiting requirements.

### **Nursing Update**

Ms. Nicole Oppy, Assistant Director of Public Health Nursing, requested a revision of the Policy for Waiting Period after Vaccination/Treatment for individuals receiving treatment to sign a waiver releasing the county from any liability if the individual ops not to wait. Ms. Debi Campbell made a motion to approve, and Dr. Larry Caskey seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Ms. Oppy added that on March 21<sup>st</sup> they received their site review for the Vaccine for Children and the review went well.

### **Health Officer Update**

Dr. Stopperich provided a handout with causes of death and stated that the number of deaths in 2019 was 1,458 and increased to 1,795 in 2020. There were 197 COVID deaths with several others cardiovascular related deaths as well. COVID deaths have decreased from 197 to 105 from 2020 to 2021. The dementia/malnutrition deaths of 247 were in the long-term care category. Sepsis went up from 44 deaths to 74 deaths from 2019 to 2020, which indicates people were getting to the hospital too late. Overdoses went from 23 to 42 from 2019 to 2020 and 40 in 2021. The coroner's report states approximately 70% of these have a fentanyl base. Furthermore, alcohol intoxication was noted in the top twenty causes for the first time. Cancer data has been consistent over the years. Lung cancer is still the leading cause.

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

Mr. Larry Hesson,, County Council Liaison, added that the jail will be completed in December of this year, the highway department will be relocated in the next few years, and the public defender's office will be relocated soon. There is an awareness that the health department needs additional space and there is consideration to move in upcoming years.



Mr. Dillon inquired about the status of the review of staff salaries and Mr. Hesson responded that salary scale was passed for this year.


**Comments from County Attorney**

There were not any additional comments from Mr. Oliver.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Cobb called the meeting to adjourn at 8:07 pm. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

  
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Brian Cott  
David Harden  
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David M. Stopperich, M.D  
Health Officer and Board Secretary  
7/12/22  
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Date Minutes Approved