

**Hendricks County Board of Health Meeting**

**March 12, 2024 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 March 12, 2024, 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. Chrystal Anderson  
Mr. Brian Cobb  
Mr. Bruce Dillon  
Mr. David Hardin  
Dr. Larry Caskey

**Hendricks County Staff in Attendance:**

Dr. David Stopperich, Health Officer  
Ms. Krista Click, Health Department Administrator  
Ms. Leanna Truitt, Program Manager of Healthy  
Ms. Nicole Oppy, Public Health Nursing Team Leader  
Ms. Ginger Harrington, Onsite Team Leader  
Ms. Lisa Chandler, Foods Team Leader  
Ms. Anne Archer, Outreach Team Leader  
Ms. Susan Henry, Public Health Nurse  
Mr. Jeff Corder, Preparedness Coordinator

**Others in Attendance:**

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

**Board Members/Others Absent:**

Is. Debi Campbell

**Determination of a Quorum**

Dr. Cougill called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm with a quorum present.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Mr. David Hardin made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2024, Board of Health meeting with amendment to Mr. Cobb's spelling of name on page 2, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph. Mr. Bruce Dillon seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**Wishes to be Heard**

None presented.

**Unfinished Business**

**Swearing in of Dr. Caskey**

Mr. Eric Oliver, Attorney, administered the oath of office for Dr. Larry Caskey who was re-appointed to the Health Board for 2024-2027.

**HB 1402 (2023) and Proposed Onsite Sewage System Ordinance**

Ms. Ginger Harrington informed the Board that Indiana officially has one county ordinance approved. Floyd County's Ordinance was approved by the Technical Review Panel (TRP) in February. She has heard that 5 or 6 ordinances are up for approval at the March meeting. If they are approved, she would like to move forward with the adoption of an ordinance for Hendricks County. Our current draft has been reviewed by the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH). Changes have been made based on their comments, removing many items from the original draft. Ms. Harrington asked the Board if there is consensus to move forward before the next meeting,

or if they would like to wait and review the draft before it is sent to the Commissioners for approval. The Board stated that as long as items were removed from the ordinance and not added, they would like the ordinance to move forward by sending it to the commissioners.

### **Implementing Health First Indiana in Hendricks County**

Ms. Krista Click reported that the Health Department continues to work with Hendricks Regional Health (HRH) to obtain additional office space. Eric Oliver has reviewed the potential lease with HRH. Our department would like to learn more about how best incorporate an accompanying agreement to support a community project, such as GoVan transportation, with the help of Senior Services. The Health Department is currently making room for five additional desks between Environmental Health and Nursing. Staff is working on our health plan, providing more details about how we will address core services and better outlining goals. In addition, staff is beginning to document activities in state tracker. The department is also preparing the process for community partners awards, including the application and approval process. Ms. Click stated we still need to write job description for Office Manager. Many job descriptions are already written, including those for Public Health Nurses and Public Health Education Specialists. The department can promote job postings through both the county job posting site and state job portal. Dr. Stopperich added that up to 13 positions could be filled over quarters 2-4 of 2024. We are eager to be able to address some core services that we just can't fully address currently. Significant amount of background information may be found at [healthfirstindiana.com](http://healthfirstindiana.com).

### **COVID and Flu Updates**

Dr. Stopperich stated that numbers overall are improving. COVID numbers are now down to about 5 cases per day, and Hendricks County had 2 deaths in the last month. As of this morning, no one is hospitalized at Hendricks Regional Health with COVID. Flu season started about 3 months ago, has not progressed significantly, but hasn't gone away. Influenza-like visits are monitored; the 2% threshold was met in December and has been hovering at 3.5-4% since then. He hopes this remains stable and drops off with spring. There has been 1 flu death this season. RSV spiked in December and January. Currently in the United States, for every 100,000 people, there is just under 1 RSV admission. For every 3 children, there is one person 65 years or older with RSV.

### **New Business**

Jeff Corder, Preparedness Coordinator, addressed Solar Eclipse Planning. Mr. Corder provided the Board with a handout and background information. Our state and local agencies are learning from those communities who have recently experienced a solar eclipse and the resulting traffic and safety considerations. For example, other areas were faced with gas stations and food establishments that had insufficient supplies and overwhelming traffic causing gridlock. Phone interruption could be an issue as visitors use their mobile phones for communication and directions. The Health Department had purchased an AM radio transmitter and streaming service with COVID grant funds. This resource is now a vehicle for broadcasting public safety messaging, with the help of a Public Safety Committee comprising of Health Department, Emergency Management, County IT, and Communications Center. Audio files are created and uploaded for broadcasting. Severe weather preparedness messaging is currently airing.

Ms. Oppy, Public Health Nursing Team Leader, requested that the Board authorize the continued use of the nursing policies. The policies have not been changed since last year, they were reviewed this year and need approval for continued use. Dr. Chrystal Anderson made a motion to approve the nursing policies as presented, and Mr. Dillon seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **Updates**

Ms. Lisa Chandler, Foods Team Leader, updated that the new Food Code is still on track to be published this summer. IDOH is planning regional trainings for inspectors, one being April 18 in Plainfield. There will be several challenges with the new code including updating our inspection reports/food system, learning the new

code, training inspectors on the new inspection report, teaching owners/operators changes, and updating almost every single letter/form we use that has old code number on it.

The new Environmental Health Food Secretary, Erin Williams, starts March 18.

Several temporary food inspections will need to be completed on the day of the Solar Eclipse, April 8, which could prove challenging. Events with food are being held at Lucas Oil Raceway Park, Murphy Aquatic Park, Brownsburg Public Library, Hummel Park, Beasley's Orchard, Gibbs Park, and Avon Christian Church.

Illegal food operations in homes seems to be increasing. Eric Oliver sent a "cease and desist" letter to one person who has been operating out of her home since last summer and who has ignored our letters. In the past two weeks, we've received 2 more complaints, one of which was false, and the other was using DoorDash to deliver their food.

Ms. Harrington stated that there were 2 bills that were passed this session which affects septic systems and their inspections in Indiana. HB 1329 places restrictions on bond requirements; however, we currently have no requirements for bonds, so this bill does not affect us. HB 1352 on the other hand, dictates when we can do inspections of Onsite Sewage Systems. Ms. Harrington, with Ms. Click's assistance, worked very closely with Indiana Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association (IOWPA) to try and address the issues in the proposed language. IOWPA has hired a legislative liaison and being part of their Legislative Committee provided us with a voice that was presented to the Legislators drafting the bill and the legal representation. Although all our wishes were not incorporated into the language of the bill, we feel that the approved wording does not change the way we run our program or complete our inspections.

Ms. Harrington is planning a Tire Amnesty Day utilizing the Health First Indiana funding. It will be held on September 14, 2024, at the Hendricks County Fair Grounds. We are planning to accept residential tires that are either on rim or off rim. We are going to accept any size and any amount that is brought in. During Tox-Away Days last year, over 800 tires were accepted. We are planning for at least 1000 tires and possible up to 2000 tires. We are currently accepting bids from vendors for disposal of the tires.

Our seasonal position has been posted. Both of our seasonals from last year have stated they would like to return. We will be hiring 1 additional person to focus on vector control.

We are currently working with Mark Christy to create a new pool database and inspection program. He has the program created and Ms. Chandler and Ms. Harrington are reviewing the program and sending comments back to Mr. Christy with the hopes that the program will be up and running before the Seasonal staff starts.

Ms. Leanna Truitt, Program Manager of Healthy Families, updated that the program is in the middle of its accreditation cycle. State auditing is expected in April. Healthy Families is working hard to keep up with the increasing number of referrals. Funds are currently available to cover the costs of increasing need for language services. Ms. Truitt also reminded the Board that April is Child Abuse Awareness Month.

Ms. Oppy, Public Health Nursing Team Leader, stated that they are working on finding more resources for translation services. Ms. Oppy, Ms. Click, and Ms. Truitt have had meetings with different vendors to look at products. One is with LUNA, now GLOBO. We currently have a contract with them and are looking into their new video translation service. The nursing team participated in a community clinic with the Indiana Immunization Coalition on February 27<sup>th</sup> at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds. It was well attended. We do not have official numbers of vaccines administered. The immunization grant proposal was submitted to the state for the 2024-2025 grant year. Kandi Jamison officially retired March 1<sup>st</sup>. We have been conducting interviews to hire a new nurse. Ms. Susan Henry, Public Health Nurse, introduced herself. She has been with the Health Department since 2019 and she works on communicable diseases, tuberculosis, and administers immunizations.

Ms. Anne Archer, Outreach Team Leader, updated the Board about attendance at the latest Stop the Bleed training – 49 people, and the most recent Safe Worship training – 42 people. The next Stop the Bleed training will take place at the Made Center in Plainfield on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

We still have a large supply (roughly 1000) of COVID test kits that are available for distribution for those in need. Also, there is a limited supply of eclipse safety glasses available for viewing the event.

The Health Department has a new intern through AmeriCorps, Olivia McIntosh, who will be with us until fall of this year.

Ms. Click informed the Board that billboards will be going up with the support of our immunizations grant. One billboard on I-70 and a front and back billboard on I-74 will display the Don't Wait, Vaccinate! message.

Dr. Stopperich provided more background on the GoVan community service. The Health Department will also be meeting with HRH leadership to review STI kits to determine how services may be improved. This is the type of public health project that is possible due to Health First Indiana funds.

**Adjourn**

Dr. Larry Caskey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm, Brian Cobb seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

David Hardin

[Signature]

[Signature]

Anderson

[Signature]

Brian Cobb

\_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]

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

5/14/24

**Date Minutes Approved**