



## JOHNSON CO. HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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August 23, 2023

### Johnson County Board of Health Meeting

The Board of Health met on August 23, 2023 in the conference room of the health Department.

Those in attendance from the Board were Dr. James Pease, Chairperson, Dr. Michael Pauszek, Chele Heid, Dr. Steven Stropes, and Amanda Stevenson-Homes. Others in attendance were, Paul Hass Attorney, Dr. Jefferson Qualls, Betsy Swearingen, Lisa Brown, Bob Smith and Cheryl Snider.

A motion was made by Dr. Stropes to approve the minutes of the June meeting and Dr. Pauszek second the motion. The motion carried.

### Health Officer's Report:

Dr. Qualls reported on the Governor's Health Fund. We are doing approximately 95% of what is required of the Health Department according to the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH). When we get to our new building, we hope to expand on our services to better cover what is needed in the community. Access and linkage to care is one area we would like to work on. Should we get more active TB cases we might have to get some help as of now we have an excellent TB nurse.

As far as funding. We are opting out of the Governor's health grant. We will keep what we have and not lose anything. Our current budget is about \$1.4 million with other grants such as Tobacco grant settlement it comes to about \$1.5. In 2025 the fund will need to be revisited and explain there is potential should we take the funding. The surrounding smaller counties are struggling to meet core standards. The initial funding coming down from IDOH looked really great until the legislature go hold of it. They then added "hoops to jump through" such as paperwork, forms and whatnot to fill out in order to take this grant where as Commissioner Baird and others disagreed with. So far, 22 counties have opted out of the funding. It is not up to us as a public health department to accept or reject this funding. It all goes through the commissioners and they make the decision. Right now our commissioners have autonomy.

Dr. Weaver from IDOH is coming today to try to "hard sell" the funding. The commissioners have been invited to attend the meeting. The question was raised on what we were doing to raise awareness of trauma and injury which is one of the segments of the report. The Health Department has education on helmet safety, seat belts, car seats etc. Also it was asked about chronic disease prevention, it was mentioned we have a couple of signs north and south of town by which we offer information for vaccines and other programs.

Amanda had mentioned the article in the paper she had been asked about at an event. She had not known about the article and asked we give her "heads-up" so she is not taken off guard. She also offered any help at getting the word out for programs of the Health Department. Betsy stated she was asked to do the article and she did so to try to put some rational behind why the grant was not taken.

### Nursing:

We currently have 21 patients being treated for latent TB and 59 open cases. Kiley is currently working with physicians getting medicines ordered, getting chest X-rays and waiting for reports to come back. All 59 will soon

be on medication. This goes back to the report last month of the back log in reporting by doctor's offices to the Health Department.

Vaccination schedule is very busy right now with back to school immunizations. Most schools in the area have an October 1<sup>st</sup> dead line. Clark Pleasant does not. They are already excluding students September 1st for not having the vaccination records updated.

September 1<sup>st</sup>, the nursing division will be taking over the COVID vaccines as well as Flu and RSV. The Flu vaccine is to be shipped to the Health Department sometime after Labor Day.

The bi-annual school nurse meeting will be soon. There will be a meeting in the fall as well as spring. Our school liaison will be at this meeting. She has done a wonderful job working with the schools, holding clinics after hours and weekends to get kids caught up on their shots.

#### Environmental:

Summer pool program is winding down. We had summer interns this year that helped inspect pools. Bob stated he was at a pool he had to close as the chlorine measured way too low. There are a couple of apartment complexes on the east side of Franklin that are opening pools, also on Emerson Ave. just south of County Line Road that is opening a pool. The new fad is called a "Plunge" pool. This is a bath tub filled with ice water and an athlete will sit in it for therapeutic reasons. The IDOH has issued a new rule that these tubs have to have continuous running water and must be cleaned regularly with disinfectant. For Johnson County to have these ice baths, there will need to be some research completed for an ordinance to regulate these tubs.

The Sale Barn south of Franklin was purchased last year by a plumbing company. The septic was a mound system and never had a recorded failure. However, now, since it has turned a business, the mound system has been approved by the IDOH. The mound system now has to be taken out of service, the mound removed and be replaced with another mound.

The planning and zoning office also wants us to approve accessory buildings put up on a property to make sure the building is not being put over the septic area. Some of these buildings have plumbing in them so the building will have to be hooked up to the septic system. If the building has a bedroom added, the septic may have to be enlarged.

There are seven or eight new food facilities that have opened or are under construction. Every once in a while there is a revision in the state code for food facilities. One rule states you need to put movable equipment in while there is no weight limit. What would be easily moved by one person may not be able to be moved by another. There is also a change at the State level for food temperatures.

Bob mentioned he is on a committee for youth smoking prevention. There is talk with the farm bill that Hemp THC be raised from 0.3 to 1%. The other issue is to allow synthetic THC be legal to sell.

#### **Emergency management:**

We just ended our grant year June 31<sup>st</sup>. Connie is in the process of budgeting those funds. Many of these funds are shared with our different partners such as EMS and public safety agencies. One item we have helped our Fire Department with is purchasing a baby box. The city of Carmel has had 4 babies dropped off at one of their boxes. We have purchased a box for Bargersville and one for Edinburgh. Edinburgh however, rejected theirs due to legalities. We will be purchasing equipment for the Franklin Fire Department. We will be buying 3 machines that do the compressions on a body rather than the EMS having to do them. A person is 50% more likely to survive with one of these machines.

The Health Department has been asked to sit on the Incident Management Team for the solar eclipse that will be occurring next spring. We will be the logistic team for the team.

The area is likely to see an influx of approximately 300,000 people in a four day period. Johnson Co. in in the line of totality and one of nine in that area. We will be in total darkness for about 12 minutes. This will tie up traffic for hours. People are likely to pull in anywhere and set up tent and stay for three days. The county will plan to set up EMS all around the county as well as some on foot. Hotels in the area are already booking rooms with a 3 night minimum for the price of \$900 minimum. Hotels from Kentucky to Chicago are already booked, and Air B&Bs are going for \$1000 per night minimum. NASA has already rented IMS and the Speedway for the week of and the week after for educational purposes.

**Vital Record report:**

Births: May-26                  June-27

Deaths: May- 90                June-89

**Cause of Death:**

May: Tobacco 9      Suicide 2      Drugs 2      Homicides 1

June: Tobacco 11      Suicide 1      Drugs 1      No Homicides

We had planned to process out of county death certificates from out of county to help our funeral directors. The IDOH put a stop to this practice stating issues needed to be worked out before further issuances. Those issues were not listed.

**Breast Cancer Awareness:**

This year we have helped 69 ladies receive screening or diagnostic mammograms and have use nearly half of our \$24,000.00 budget.

We had our information displayed at the Johnson County fair in the Health Department tent. Also, we have added the breast cancer awareness information to the JC Resource Drop-in Days sponsored by Upstream Prevention. This is located at Herring Hall inside the Johnson Co. fair grounds. Drop-in Days is held the second Tuesday of each month for the remainder of the year. It is open to all Johnson County residents and is a one stop shop to gather helpful information.


We are planning a second event at Major Hospital later in the fall and would love to have events at a couple of other locations as well.

**New business:**

Friday October 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a celebration at the Garment Factory through Upstream who we partner with. It will be celebrating sobriety from addiction, and a thank you for all those who have chosen sobriety over addiction. Upstream is an organization that supports overdose prevention and sobriety. The Health Dept. will have a table reserved for attendance. Upstream provides our survivor coach.

Dr. Qualls received an update on the Governor's Health fund that 85 counties have opted in for the grant. Johnson County accounts for the bulk of the funding. This report was coming from the Indiana Business Journal.

There was no more business and the meeting was adjourned.



Dr. James Pease Chairperson

Date