



JOHNSON CO. HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Environmental Health &
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October 23, 2024

The Johnson County Board of Health met on October 23rd 2024 at 7:30 am in the Johnson County Health Department board room.

Those in attendance were Dr. James Pease (Chairperson), Dr. Michael Pauszek, Dr. Chele Heid, Amanda Stevenson-Homes, Ruth Freese & Dr. Steven Stropes. Those in attendance from the Health Department were, Dr. Qualls, Betsy Swearingen, Bob Smith, Lisa Brown and Cheryl Snider.

The meeting began at 7:30 am. A motion was made by Dr. Pauszek to accept the minutes from the August meeting and Dr. Stropes second the motion.

Health Officer Report:

Dr. Qualls stated he is really happy with the new building. He feels like the new building gives the Health Department more of a presence in the committee.

He is excited about the new funding which starts at the first of the year. This is funding provided by the State Department of Health. Once the program gets going he will be asking help from the board to be an advocate and "watch dog" to make sure our partners are doing their part in using the funds appropriately.

Nursing Report:

We have 38 lead cases in different stages of follow-up. The question was asked if there were more lead cases than usual. Lisa reported the State Dept. of Health has lowered the threshold for case management from 10 to 5. Follow up falls on the local health departments. Annie is our lead case manager. We are in the process of buying a XRF machine that test the levels of lead in a home.

There are 50 latent TB cases open right now and 1 active case.

The nurses will start drawing blood for TB test. We will be charging \$25.00 per test but we will not refuse them if they are unable to pay. The State charges us \$20.00, so we charge \$25.00 to cover cost of supplies. We have had a good response from the public with people coming every week to receive the blood draw. We also still do the skin test if preferred.

Households can now get 4 free COVID test for the 2024 season through the postal service.

There is an outbreak of Marburg Virus Disease in Rwanda. As of now there are no outbreaks outside of Rwanda. Low risk travelers are receiving text to report to Local Health Departments if symptoms develop. On October 16, guidance expanded to monitor high risk travelers for 21 days for symptom development. Incubation period is 2-21 days. If detected, monitoring would be similar to the Ebola virus Disease.

Environmental Report:

We are in the process of getting the renewals out for the food establishments. This is the time of year that the Health Department finds out which establishments have closed, transferred licenses (which are non-transferable) or hold licenses of establishments that will not comply. If a business has transferred a license without informing us, we can charge them a double payment, it depends on the situation. For example, Home Run Burger has an owner, however it is listed in a corporate name. In this instance, we do not charge the extra fee but clean up the paperwork and go on. For those who have closed, we work with the Treasurer's Office to get said businesses off the tax record. Even those we close for hygiene purposes, it is not our intention to close down a business for money it's to make the business safe for those who want to eat there. Once they meet our standards they can reopen.

The septic program is in full swing.

Paul is working on an asthma program and will be speaking at the fall conference.

We have been issued a cease and desist from DHS, IDEM and IDOH about the back flow fervor. Andrew took up this cause but it is not our code to enforce, it is a plumbing code. There are portions of the plumbing code we CAN enforce in food service but they are very well defined.

ASSIST is an agency who works with emotional and mental health services for victims of domestic abuse and sexual trauma. We are currently working with ASSIST to open a child advocacy center. Jenny Lee been trained both in SANE exams in both pediatric and adult.

ASSIST will be subletting our old health department. ASSIST will be in the vital records area and the other half of the Health Department will be used as the Child Advocacy Center. New exams rooms will be installed and bathrooms among other things the State grant requires. This has been a long time coming and the project is coming to fruition. At the end of 2025 ASSIST will take over our lease of the building.

Emergency Management:

We are finishing quarter two of the grant.

Vital Records:

Deaths for August and September. There were 107 deaths in August and 99 in September

Communicable Disease:	August 1	September 2
Drug related deaths:	3	2
Suicides:	2	3
Tobacco use related:	13	9

Births for August 38 September 32

Cheryl went to the IVRA conference October 9 – 11. Many things were discussed. She was recertified in Death Records.

Breast Cancer Awareness:

The Indiana Breast Cancer Awareness Trust fund is already spent. We have been able to successfully receive and scan 188 People, and still have over 30 more we haven't scheduled as of 10/22/2024. JoEllen is in the process of sending a request to the grant committee for additional funds. She will let the board know when she receives the requested funds. We are reaching out the target population which are people without health insurance which has made the program a huge success. A group of clinics in Marion County who treat said population, started sending referrals to us in June.

JoEllen thanks you for your support in this program

Community Health:

No report at this time

New Business:

Betsy, Lisa and Dr. Qualls is going to a leadership symposium next Wednesday in Carmel.

There was no more business and meeting was adjourned at 8:05am.

James Pease MD (Chairperson)

Date