



## JOHNSON CO. HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Vital Records  
460 N. MORTON STE. A  
FRANKLIN IN 4613

(317) 346-4367  
FAX: (317) 736-5264  
Email: [csnider@co.johnson.in.us](mailto:csnider@co.johnson.in.us)

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### Johnson County Board of Health Meeting

The Johnson County Board of Health met on Wednesday April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am in the Health Department board room. Those in attendance from the board were, Dr. James Pease Chairman, Susie Baker, Chele Heid, Dr. Steve Stropes & Amanda Stevenson-Holmes. Others who attended were Paul Hass, Attorney, Dr. Jefferson Qualls, Betsy Swearingen, Cheryl Snider and Lisa Brown, RN.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the February minutes by Dr. Steve Stropes, the motion was second by Amanda Stevenson-Holmes. The motion carried.

Susie Baker was introduced. She was the Indian Creek school nurse and helped with the COVID clinic.

### Health Officer's Report:

**The Governor's Health Commission:** The Commissioners are not interested in taking the grant from the State. They felt the State would put too many restraints on the Health Department to make it feasible. So at this point we are opting out of said grant. We are currently looking at other grants to fund programs we would like to do. Our Health Department is doing 99% of what a health department should be doing. IODH is trying to regionalize the health departments and certainly some of the smaller health departments would benefit. Johnson County is always put with the donut counties which carries Marion and some other larger counties which regionalizes the wealth. If we were partnered with say, Brown or Shelby counties, we might be able to help those smaller counties.

Bids for the new building came in they ranged from 5.9 to 6.6 million. There were five to six bids and the commissioners are looking at details right now to decide which contractor to go with. Ground breaking for the new building will possibly be in July and by the end of 2024 we should be in our new building.

Dr. Qualls stated he was very happy with everyone who helped with the family assistance center after the tornado, Betsy had a big job trying to wrangle agencies. Jaycie was there nearly every day to help keep things running smoothly.

### Nursing Report:

We are currently contacting patients who are behind on their vaccinations. The idea is to get the vaccination rates back up. Johnson County is still not up to where needed in vaccination rates at the beginning of school. Even last fall we did not see the busy period that typically happens at the start of school. Our school liaison Shannon is going into schools offering clinics after hours and on weekends.

Lead testing is on an incline. If the child's lead level is between 3.5 and 5, there has to be a retest. Many of the test results coming from doctor's offices are between the 3.5 to 5 point range. When a nurse goes to the home to retest the child, the results are usually lower.

We are currently working with our legal department and Visionary Health Group Consulting to contract with the big insurance companies so we can bill patients. Our current company has the contract so they do all the billing of patients. The goal is to have completely electronic health records.

There has been a shortage of Rifampin and now there is an Isoniazid shortage for TB patients. Current and new patients are being switched to Rifampin. Purdue has said there is no INH to purchase however, clients are stating they can call a pharmacy and get the medicine on their own. We are looking into what seems to be going on.

We have received our grant for Narcan/Naloxone. This year we have asked for twenty five hundred doses which is the largest number ever asked by us. We started the program by giving the doses to first responders and then expanded by giving to anyone who would want to come and be trained in administering the dose.

#### Environmental Report:

Our new staff is going to take pool operator's classes. We are bringing in two colleges students to help environmentalist with their work loads. They are being trained in restaurant, pool and tattoo inspections.

Our county attorneys are investigation the new septic rule adopted by the IODH. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, we can no longer be any more restrictive than state regulations. We have three board policies that fall into that category. One is "daylighting" which lets water come out to the ground surface as long as it doesn't pond or run off on a neighbor's property. Our rule has outlined exactly what is a permissible outlet. Another is how close a septic is to the well. Also, whether or not we are to issue a permit for a septic before water is found in the well. We will have to pass an ordinance and that ordinance has to be review by a committee to see if that ordinance will stand. The IDOH's septic rule for all intensive purposes meets our needs so we will move forward.

#### Emergency Management:

We were approached to purchase baby boxes for fire departments. Edinburgh and Bargersville fire departments were informed we would purchase those boxes for them, have them installed and pay for the yearly service contract. We have made national TikTok. The fire chief in Edinburgh had a hole cut in the wall of the fire station for the box then the town council did not approve the box. The reasons being, there are strict regulations on the contract. Another reason is the installation has to be exact and the hole that was put in the wall was not right and did not trigger the alarm system. Another reason was, the first person that touches the baby in the box becomes that baby's custodian. If an eighteen year old fire fighter who just started is on duty and picks that baby up out of the box, that fire fighter is in charge of said baby until Child Services get there. The Town of Bargersville have accepted the contract and they will be getting their baby box hopefully by the end of the year.

A family assistance center after the tornado in Whiteland. Betsy stated it was basically babysitting the agencies there because they could not get along. It took a while with subsequent fighting between agencies to come together. What happens is, each agency documents what they do and then get reimbursed by FEMA. So it comes down to money dispersion. Ten years ago, boxes of supplies for reception volunteers were made up. They were stored on a shelf at the emergency management office. Boxes were brought off the shelf and within minutes had our family assistance center set up and ready to go. It was impressive to watch all of our people work together. Jaycie our Health Educator, worked just about every day to help Becky from United Way, the COAD president.

The nursing division has taken a grant that totals approximately \$193,000.00. We basically do everything the grant requires anyway. It includes Shannon's job as school liaison, and we are going to partner with "Assist" to do exams for victims of sexual assaults, we are going to use the exam rooms to help serve the minority and underserved population of the county.

We are looking at a federal grant for opioid disorders. The money can be about \$4000.00 per year for the next 5 years. We are at a disadvantage as our population is under 5000,00.00 and our opioid deaths are under a certain percentage. There are only forty grants and Marion County is also applying for one of those which doesn't help. Even if Johnson County can receive part, that would be nice.

