

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
JANUARY 21, 1987

The Clark County Board of Health met at the Quality Inn Riverside. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

President Herman Miller,  
Robert Lega, MD, Health Officer  
Robert McKechnie, MD, Secretary,  
Norman Wiggam, Bill Brummett.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Administrator Norman Labhart,  
Attorney Roger Lindsey.

VISITORS:

Clark County Councilmen - Clifford Meyers, George Budd IV, Ralph Stemler, Harold Satterly, Evening News Reporter Margaret Abbey.

Each member had previously received a copy of the minutes of the October 30, 1986 meeting. Motion was made by Dr. Robert Lega to accept the minutes as submitted. Seconded by William Brummett. Motion carried.

An update on Health Bill 1050, submitted to the Legislative Health Committee by State Representative Wathen, was given by Roger Lindsey. Health Bill 1050 would basically allow Health Departments, if approved by county councilmen and county commissioners, to establish independent Health Corporations. The County Council members present, felt there were several sections of the introduced Bill that needed clarification. After much discussion, the Board requested Health Department Attorney, Roger Lindsey, to notify Representative Wathen, that they felt there was not adequate time to amend the Bill to be acceptable to both the Board and the Council, prior to the Committee reading. Mr. Lindsey responded he would relay the message.

Norman Labhart presented a report of 1986 delinquent accounts from Well-Baby/Family Planning Clinic and Visiting Nurses of Southeastern Indiana, with a request that the Board approve these accounts to be declared and written off as bad debts. Motion made by Dr. Robert Lega. Seconded by Dr. Paul Cleeter. Motion carried.

A follow up report on septic system approvals for the subdivisions discussed at the last meeting was given by Norman Labhart.

On request for septic system approval on Behl Road, Leon Prall Road and Yount Road:

1. 44 Lots - surveyed in the three sections
2. 23 Lots - approval available
3. 9 Lots - alternate building sites recommended
4. 12 Lots - awaiting State survey
5. 11 Septic permit applications have been submitted.

Printed procedures and guidelines for septic system applications and approvals, has been developed, to assist the Environmental Health Section in explaining these procedures to residents applying for septic system permits. Request was made that the Board approve the proposed policy. Dr. Paul Cleeter made a motion. Seconded by William Brummett. Motion carried.

The town of Sellersburg is in the process of updating the sewage system. The areas of Hamburg and Cementville are not on sewers and it is a problem. Norman Labhart and Melvin Curtis, President - Sellersburg Town Board will continue to work together and with State Officials, on this problem.

The following report on VNA of Southeastern Indiana activities was submitted by Norman Labhart:

1. Minutes of the December 3, 1986 Professional Advisory Committee Meeting - The Committee reviewed the agency's policies, procedures and agency evaluation and requested a report be submitted to the Board of Health, that at the present time there was no need for revision. Motion made by Dr. Robert Lega to accept the Committees report. Seconded by William Brummett. Motion carried.
2. In compliance with HCFA conditions of participation, Title XX Regulations and Indiana State Board of Health Licensure, VNA of Southeastern Indiana submitted an annual activity report for 1986 and a copy of VNA's goals, objectives and proposed budget for 1987, as prepared by Herman Miller, Dr. Robert McKechnie, Norman Labhart and JoAnn Dome. Motion made by Dr. Robert Lega to accept the above information as submitted. Seconded by Dr. Paul Cleeter. Motion carried.
3. The Board reviewed the current status of the leave of absence without pay granted to staff nurse Betty Meyer. It being determined Ms. Meyer is currently residing in California and would be submitting a letter of resignation by mail, motion was made by Dr. Robert Lega to terminate her leave of absence without pay and accept her resignation forth coming. Seconded by William Brummett. Motion carried.
4. The Professional Advisory Committee discussed at length the proposed addition of the respite relief program to VNA services for 1987. The committee recommended the new program be offered on a sliding fee basis and requested VNA present the proposal to the Board Representatives for review and approval. After discussion of the proposal by Herman Miller, Dr. McKechnie, Norman Labhart and JoAnn Dome, it was determined VNA would proceed with the necessary steps to initiate the program. A request was made at the January 8, 1987 County Council meeting, that additional employee positions be added

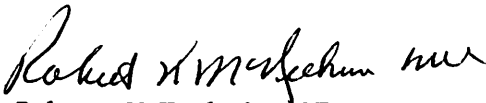
to VNA (CCHD) current budget. The Council granted the request. Final determination will follow review of the proposal by the state tax commissioners. Information on the program with the proposed funding plan is available for the Board's review.

5. The By-laws of the Good News Club, a community program of VNA of Southeastern Indiana, were reviewed and approved by the board.

Review of all financial reports concerning expenditures and receipts of the Clark County Health Department were reviewed prior to the meeting, by Herman Miller, Dr. Robert McKechnie and Norman Labhart, and found to be satisfactory in every way.

There being no further business to come before this Board, motion was made by Dr. Robert Lega to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dr. Paul Cleeter. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert McKechnie, MD  
Health Officer  
Clark County Health Department

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES AS PRESENTED:

REFERENCE - " UPDATE ON HEALTH BILL 1050 " - PAGE ONE

Roger Lindsey contacted Representative Wathen per request. However, Representative Wathen felt there was adequate time to amend current Health Bill 1050 to meet the required standards of both the Board of Health and the Clark County Council. Dr. Robert McKechnie met with the Clark County Council and revisions acceptable to both parties were drafted. The revised amendments to the Bill were submitted to Representative Wathen. He subsequently submitted the Bill amendments to the Legislative Health Committee reviewing the Bill.

REFERENCE - "LEAVE OF ABSENCE" - 3. PAGE FOUR

Information received from Ms. Meyer by mail indicated she desired her employment be terminated by VNA-Southeastern Indiana.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MAY 20, 1987

The Clark County Board of Health met at the Quality Inn Riverside. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Herman Miller, President, Robert McKechnie, MD-Health Officer, Secretary; Robert Lega, MD; David Jones, MD; Paul Cleeter, DDS; Norman Wiggam.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Norman Labhart, Administrator; Roger Lindsey, Attorney; JoAnn Dome, RN-Director VNA of Southeastern Indiana

Each member had previously received a copy of the minutes of the January 21, 1987 meeting. Motion was made by Dr. Robert Lega to accept the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Dr. David Jones. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES:

A. Vital Statistics

Norman Labhart presented the following recommendation to the Board: The policy of issuing typed copies of death certificates be revised to - issuing a reduced xeroxed copy of the actual death certificate - which would include the attending physicians signature and the seal of the Clark County Health Department. These certificates are required by insurance companies and funeral directors. The Indiana State Board of Health has no objection to this procedure and it was determined this is standard procedure for most counties throughout the state. Herman Miller made a motion to accept the proposal for discussion, seconded by Dr. Lega. After much general discussion it was proposed by the Board, that the recommendation be accepted with the addition of a clause stating: all attending physicians will be notified, in writing, of the change in procedure. Dr. Cleeter made a motion the revised proposal be accepted; seconded by Dr. Lega. Motion carried.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

A brief report of a recent survey of property for acceptable septic tank permits was given by Norman Labhart. It was reported that the applications recently submitted for subdivisions have been on good soil, decreasing the number of denials for permits. The health department sanitarians are now trained to do mound systems and alternating fields, which allows the applicants to receive a determination on their request for a permit, in approximately 10 days.

C. Public Health

Norman Labhart reported on the recent co-operative efforts between the Clark County Hospital and the Clark County Health Department's Public Health Division to provide education to the public, on the most recent developments in the prevention, detection and treatment of AIDS.

D. MCH - Family Planning

A proposal for Title XX funds for the 1987-88 fiscal year is being prepared for submission to state. Plans are under way for preparations of screening and immunization of pre schoolers for the upcoming school year.

E. WIC

Effective May 1, 1987, the state increased the designated allocation of clients for the WIC's program to 1000. Their current census is approximately 965. Due to the increase in clerical duties, WIC is interviewing for a part-time clerical position, which will be funded with state monies.

F. STD

The state has requested the Clark County Health Department consider the possibility of establishing an AIDS testing site. The state would furnish all necessary equipment and supplies, and personnel would be employees of the Clark County Health Department. After general discussion by the Board, with general approval being noted, Dr. Cleeter made a motion that the Health Department pursue the establishment of an AIDS testing site. Motion seconded by Dr. Lega. Motion carried.

G. VNA

The following report was given to the Board by JoAnn Dome, RN-Director of VNA:

1. VNA is preparing a Title XX 1702 proposal to submit to the Council for Aged & Aging for funds to provide respite care in their 5 county area. They have also applied for Older Americans Act funds for Scott County. These funds will be used to institute a new program of companion care on an intermittent basis, to full time unpaid caregivers.
2. A proposal for Title XX 0100 funds for home health aides is also being prepared to be submitted to state.
3. The community programs are growing with a current membership in the Good News Club of 415. VNA continues to provide blood pressure screening at 9 sites monthly and will be participating in Senior Olympic games and United Way Awareness Day in June.

#### H. Financial Reports

1. A review of each department as well as the entire health department budget was conducted by the finance committee prior to the board meeting. Norman Labhart reported for the committee that all departments are operating within their budget in an efficient and effective manner.
2. As previously mentioned, MCH-Family Planning and VNA of Southeastern Indiana are preparing proposals to submit for Title XX and OAA funds. Mr. Labhart ask if there were any objections from the Board. There being none Dr. Lega made a motion that the MCH-Family Planning submit a proposal for Title XX funds and that VNA of Southeastern Indiana submit a proposal for Title XX and OAA funds with the following resolutions being incorporated into the minutes of this meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED, that as the Board of Directors of the Clark County Health Department - D/B/A MCH-Family Planning and VNA of Southeastern Indiana are desirous of entering into Agreement No. 10-88A-0720 with the Indiana Department of Human Services, we hereby accept the terms and conditions set forth in the agreement and authorize the Chairman/President/Vice President/Executive Director to execute said agreement as representative of, and on behalf of this corporation. The Board approves the above motion as presented by Dr. Lega. Seconded by Dr. Paul Cleeter. Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED, that as the Board of Directors of the Clark County Health Department - D/B/A VNA of Southeastern Indiana are desirous of entering into Agreement with the Area 14 Council for Aged & Aging - Respite Care - Clark and Scott Counties, we hereby accept the terms and conditions set forth in the agreement and authorize the Chairman/President/ Vice President/Executive Director to execute said agreement as representative of, and on behalf of this corporation. The Board approves the above motion as presented by Dr. Lega. Seconded by Dr. Paul Cleeter. Motion carried.

3. Mr. Labhart requested the Board declare nominations for the Finance Committee for the upcoming 1987-88 period be opened. Dr. Lega made a motion the present committee of Herman Miller, Robert McKechnie, MD and Norman Labhart be reappointed for the 1987-88 period, seconded by Dr. Cleeter. Motion carried. The duties of the committee will be to meet, establish the proposed budget for each department and submit the budget to the Clark County Council for approval, as well as review and make recommendations to the Board any revisions necessary in the financial operation of each department, on an ongoing basis throughout the fiscal year.

OLD BUSINESS

Revision of the Clark County Health Department Personnel Policy Manual

The Board reviewed the proposed revisions of the personnel policy manual. Several Board members were concerned with the legal aspect of some of the revisions. After much discussion Herman Miller requested that Roger Lindsey, Health Department Attorney, review the policy revisions and submit a report to the Board at their next regularly scheduled meeting. The revisions will be considered for approval at that time.

NEW BUSINESS

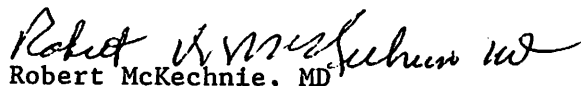
Consideration of establishing VNA of Southeastern Indiana as an independent free standing non-profit corporation.

Mr. Labhart reported that it is becoming more difficult for VNA to comply with the many rules and regulations of federal and state government and remain competitive in a highly competitive field and still adhere to the rules and regulations of county government. He reported that he and Ms. Dome had approached the Clark County Commissioners with a request of their opinion on the proposal of establishing VNA as a free standing, non-profit corporation. The Clark County Commissioners voiced no objection and requested Mr. Labhart submit a proposal of the prospective transfer. The Clark County Council was also requested to voice their opinion at a meeting attended by Dr. McKechnie and Ms. Dome. They suggested a proposal be submitted to the Commissioners per request. After general discussion by the Board a motion was made by Dr. Lega that Mr. Labhart and Mr. Lindsey work jointly on the proposal to the Commissioners, seconded by Dr. Jones. Motion carried.

The date of the next board meeting has been set for July 30, 1987 at 8:00 p.m.

There being no other business to be brought before the board at this time, motion was made by Herman Miller to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Cleeter. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Robert McKechnie, MD  
Health Officer  
Clark County Health Department

RKM/db

AGENDA  
CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
JULY 30, 1987

- I Meeting called to order
  
- II Approval of minutes of May 20, 1987
  
- III Departmental updates
  - A. Vital Statistics
  - B. Enviromental Health
  - C. Public Health
  - D. MCH-Family Planning
  - E. WIC
  - F. STD
  - G. VNA
  - H. Financial reports
  
- IV Old Business
  - A. Revision of Clark County Health Department Personnel Policies
  
- V New Business
  - A. Letters to Editor
  - B. Leave of absence
  
- VI Setting the date of next board meeting
  
- VII Adjournment

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
OCTOBER, 1987

The Clark County Board of Health met at the Ramada Inn Riverside. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Herman Miller, President  
Robert K. McKechnie, M.D., Secretary  
Robert Lega, M.D.  
Paul Cleeter, D.D.S.  
Emmett Speith, D.V.M.  
Norman Wiggam  
Bill Brummett

HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Norman Labhart, Administrator  
Roger Lindsey, Attorney

GUESTS PRESENT:

David Cundiff, M.D., Director  
Steven DeMougin, Asst. Commissioner  
Bureau for Local Services -- I.S.B.H.

Each member had previously received a copy of the minutes of the July 30, 1987 Board Meeting. Motion was made by Dr. Lega to accept the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Wiggam. Motion carried.

Mr. Labhart introduced the two guests in attendance, Dr. David Cundiff and Steven DeMougin, representatives from the I.S.B.H. They were attending the Board Meeting in response to a letter sent by Dr. McKechnie to Dr. Woodrow Meyer, Jr. Indiana Health Commissioner, requesting assistance in solving the problems of unsigned grants for current programs and the 43% decrease, by the local County Council, in the Clark County Health Department's submitted 1988 budget. These matters were discussed in depth later in the meeting.

Mr. Labhart noted there are 2 current Board Members whose term will expire December 31, 1987. Herman Miller, President and Bill Brummett. Dr. Lega made a motion that Dr. McKechnie submit Mr. Miller and Mr. Brummett's name to the Clark County Commissioners with the recommendation, from the Board, that they be re-appointed for a term of 4 years. Seconded by Mr. Wiggam. Motion carried.

Mr. Labhart stated setting the dates for the 1988 Board meetings and the election of Board officers must be done at this meeting. Dr. Lega made a motion the nominations for Board President be opened and subsequently nominated Herman Miller for President. Mr. Brummett seconded the motion. There being no other nominations, Dr. Cleeter made a motion the nominations be closed. Dr. Lega made a motion the nomination be accepted. Mr. Brummett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dr. Cleeter was nominated as Vice President, on a motion made by Mr. Brummett. Mr. Wiggam seconded the motion. There being no other nominations, Dr. Speith made a motion nominations be closed. Mr. Brummett made a motion the nomination be accepted. Dr. Speith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

As mandated by state law, Dr. McKechnie will retain the position of Secretary of the Clark County Board of Health.

The Board meeting dates for the year 1988 are set as follows: January 21, April 28, July 28 and October 27.

Mr. Labhart requested the Board consider the proposal to transfer the title and ownership of a Dodge/Van from the Clark County Health Department, to the County of Clark, Clark County Commissioners or the State of Indiana, whichever is appropriate. After Board discussion of the proposal the following is entered into the minutes:

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Lega, seconded by Dr. Cleeter and unanimously passed, it is hereby resolved that the 1974 Dodge Van, VIN #B34B4X133739, now in the possession of the Clark County Health Department, shall be transferred and titled back to the County of Clark, State of Indiana or the Clark County Commissioners, (which ever is appropriate) and that the Clark County Health Officer, Dr. Robert K. McKechnie, shall be, and is hereby, duly authorized to execute any and all documents, titles, etc., that may be required by the State of Indiana, the County of Clark or any appropriate agency or agencies thereof, that may be required to effectuate said transfer of title and ownership.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES:

A. Vital Statistics

The state is proposing to develop a software computer program, to compile and record birth and death data by computerization. We will pursue the purchase of this package when it becomes available. Mr. Labhart submitted copies of birth and death certificates recently revised by the State. These revised forms must be used by all local health departments effective 1/1/88.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL:

In the past there has been some confusion regarding the specific requirements for farm exemptions, when applying for septic tank permits. Permits were denied because the selected building site was less than 1000 feet from an existing system. This fact had not been mentioned in the denial letter sent to the applicant. In the future, the environmental department will list the specific reasons for denial of the septic tank permit when responding to the applicant by mail. We feel this will eliminate any possible confusion.

C. PUBLIC HEALTH:

The implementation of the proposed AIDS testing program and treatment clinic has been delayed, pending the return of the signed contract from the Auditors office.

D. MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH/FAMILY PLANNING:

In order to comply with MCH grant requests, a nutritionist has been obtained on a contractual basis. The MCH contract runs from 10/87 - 10/88. The Board of Health Finance Committee reviewed the proposed contract and recommended it be renewed for FY 87/88. The contract was signed by President Miller and submitted to the County Auditor for signature. This contract has not been signed by the Auditor and returned for submission to state. This matter was discussed later is this meeting.

E. WOMEN, INFANT, CHILDREN:

Joy Williams, Registered Dietitian, has assumed the position of Director of the WIC Program, replacing Jackie Simms, who resigned, due to a transfer of residence to Frankfort, Ky. This program now has over 1000 clients enrolled. The contract for FY 10/87 - 10/88 was received and reviewed, in August 1987, by the Board of Health Finance Committee. It was their recommendation that the contract be renewed. The contract was signed by Herman Miller, President, submitted to the County Auditor for signature and returned to State in September, 1987.

F. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES:

The STD program consists of 3 grants, namely: 1. \$2000.00 grant for equipment and education. (this is a one time only grant.) 2. a grant equivalent to 25% of the STD Director's salary which runs from 9/87 - 4/88. 3. A grant equivalent to 75% of the Program costs which runs from 12/87 - 11/88. All of these grants have been considered by the Board of Health Finance Committee with the recommendation to submit the contracts to the Auditors office for signature and submission to state. At the present time all of these contracts are awaiting the Auditors signature.

G. VISITING NURSES - SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA:

In accordance with Indiana State Board of Health and HCFA Guidelines a revised organizational chart has been submitted to State indicating the changes in supervisory positions.

Sheila Weddle- RN Supervisor resigned 9/15/87 replaced by Staff Nurse Terry Uhl.

Carolyn Barnes- Head Nurse resigned 9/11/87 replaced by Staff Nurse Patty Wollman.

Gwen Beck, RN and Denise Andresen, RN have replaced Terry Uhl and Patty Wollman in the Staff positions.

Tammy Vest, RN Staff Nurse resigned 10/12/87 and will be replaced by Phyllis Ehalt, RN 11/2/87.

Mr. Labhart reported that he, Dr. McKechnie and Ms. Dome are concerned with the turn over of key personnel and have discussed at length proposals to alleviate the problem. We have presented a request to the County Council for an increase in the base salary of VNA nurses, to compensate them for taking call. VNA services must be available to all patients 24 hours a day. The increase in base salary would be in accordance with other home health agencies in this area. We should know the Council's decision at their next meeting November 12.

Extensive turn-over of key personnel is one criteria the intermediary uses to target agencies for frequent clinical and financial on site reviews.

Agency Clinical Records reviews were conducted this month. The results will be submitted to the Professional Advisory Committee for review and comment. Results of their determination will be submitted to the Board at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

It has been mandated by Congress that peer review organizations conduct quality assurance reviews of home health agencies, as well as hospitals and nursing homes. VNA, as required by law, submitted a signed agreement with Peerview effective October 1, 1987. Actual review of Indiana home health agencies will begin August 1988.

VNA has received their final notice of amount of program reimbursement. Our intermediary determination was that we owed Medicare \$44,167. We disagree with this finding and will follow standard appeal procedures to request a review.

H. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Financial reports of all departments of the Clark County Health Department were reviewed by the Finance Committee of the Board of Health, with a report to the Board that all records were found to be satisfactory. It was also noted each Board member is mailed a Health Department monthly activity and financial report.


I. PENDING GRANTS:

The Board discussed at great length the problems they are currently experiencing in regards to the delay in getting the grants for MCH and the STD Programs signed. Dr. McKechnie has attempted several times to resolve the controversy involving the County Council, the Auditor's office and the Health Department. The Finance Committee requested Dr. McKechnie submit a letter to Dr. Woodrow Meyer, Jr., Indiana Health Commissioner, informing him of the problems the health department is now having, obtaining the Auditors signature on the above grants. A letter was sent October 21, 1987 with a copy being sent to each Board member. If the WIC and STD programs continue without the grants, they will have to be funded with county tax monies. Dr. Lega made a motion the health department continue with the 2 above programs and requested Dr. McKechnie continue to attempt to resolve the problems with the Auditors' office and report back to President Miller. Dr. Cleeter seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Labhart and Dr. McKechnie thanked the guests from the I.S.B.H., for their interest in the health departments grant problem and for attending this meeting.

The next meeting of the Clark County Board of Health will be January 21, 1988. There being no other business to be brought before the Board, Dr. Lega made a motion the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mr. Brummett. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robert K. McKechnie, M.D.  
Health Officer  
Clark County Health Department



# Clark County Health Department

1220 MISSOURI AVENUE  
P. O. BOX 69  
JEFFERSONVILLE, INDIANA 47131  
812-282-7521

October 1, 1987



Mr. Richard P. Jones  
Clark County Auditor  
508 Cherokee Drive  
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

RE: Public Health Program Grants

Dear Mr. Jones:

As the Clark County Health Officer, and at the request of the Clark County Board of Health, we respectfully enjoin you to reconsider your current failure to sign the grants, which monies do not have to be matched locally, for the public health programs needed for the protection of the citizens of our (and your) county. Clark County and its citizens enjoy better health and are protected in part by the same grants that you are currently reluctant to sign (ie, venereal disease control, AID's control, nutrition of poor people, immunizations for newborns and children entering school, family planning, counseling, nutrition, etc.).

Although, as you should recall after the Clark County Board of Health extensively looked into the matter as to whether the County Auditor's office could be reimbursed for its expenses which may be generated by a public health program grant, only the Federal WIC guidelines for the WIC program would allow a small reimbursement for that program only, however the State refuses such reimbursement in all of its public health grant guidelines, including the WIC Program. Therefore, State public health grants do not provide funds for or allow local Boards of Health to reimburse County Auditor's Offices for carrying out the Auditor's statutory duties which are already required by state law to be performed by County Auditor's Offices.

When a county agency or department receives such State grant monies for public health programs, the participating County also accepts some of the financial responsibility for the fiscal administration of these programs. Such grants do not reimburse local Health Departments for their own internal administrative and bookkeeping costs of these programs, nor do such grants reimburse the County Auditor's Office for such expenses as explained above.

County Auditors are required by State law to process the claims of each department of the county and is not, and should not, be involved in the administration and policy functions of the boards of these other departments. All entitlement grants for public health programs must be signed by all County Auditors of the counties which have an agency or department participating in these programs in order for the State funds to be received and used by such participating county agency or department. We simply cannot understand your reluctance in signing these State grants for the public health programs administered by the Clark County Health Department and we appeal to your good judgment to sign these grants and let the Clark County Board of Health continue to work with you and move ahead in helping protect the health of the citizens and future generations of Clark County by continuing to provide a safer and healthier environment in which to live.

CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

BY: *Robert K. McKechnie*  
DR. ROBERT K. McKECHNIE, M.D.  
CLARK COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

cc: Paul L. Kraft  
James H. Gillenwater, Sr.  
Harold Satterly  
Ralph C. Stemler  
George A. Budd, IV  
Perry Smith  
Clifford Myers

Clark County Board of Health:  
Herman Miller, Pres.  
Roger L. Lindsey, Atty.

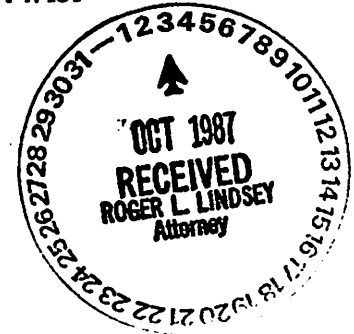
Dr. Woodrow A. Myers, Jr., State Health Commissioner



# Clark County Health Department

1220 MISSOURI AVENUE  
P. O. BOX 69  
JEFFERSONVILLE, INDIANA 47131  
812-282-7521

October 1, 1987



Mr. Paul L. Kraft, Pres.  
Clark County Council  
525 Spicewood Drive  
Clarksville, IN 47130

RE: Clark County Health Dept.'s  
1988 Budget

Dear Mr. Kraft:

As the Clark County Health Officer, and at the request of the Clark County Board of Health, I and the Board wish to inform the Clark County Council that although we understand the need for fiscal restraint, we reluctantly turned in a budget to the County Council based on a 4¢ local property tax rate in compliance with the County Council's request that the initial proposed budget turned in and based on a 6.5¢ local property tax rate (the same as the 1987 rate which had been reduced from the 1986 rate of approximately 7.9¢) be so reduced. This current reduction of approximately 40% (resulting in approximately a 55% cut in local funding) will cause a severe strain within the Clark County Health Department and many programs will have to be phased out as our funds are depleted.

The Health Department's Public Health Programs prevent many health problems from occurring in our (and your) community (ie, disease control, rat and mosquito control, rabies, communicable diseases, etc.). The Clark County Health Department is also responsible for birth and death records required by State law. Only because of public health programs, life expectancies have more than doubled from approximately 35 years to over 70 years during the last century, allowing you and me to be alive today. I am sure that you will agree that we certainly wish to provide this same healthy environment and care for our children, grandchildren and future generations of Clark County. Your unwise reduction of funds will put all citizens of our community in much more jeopardy concerning their health. The longer tenured members of the Council have been aware of what the Clark County Health Department has done to help in public health matters.

For some reason the Health Department seems to be looked upon as merely monitoring and checking septic tanks under State

Law. This is but a fraction (less than 2%) of the Clark County Health Department's workload. Of course, this substantial reduction in funds will also cause the citizens of Clark County to have to seek State approval for questionable sewage disposal systems and will most likely delay approval for up to three (3) months rather than the current average of approximately ten (10) days through the local Health Department. That of course will take us back in time to previous building and economic problems throughout the county as you should well remember.

The Board of Health of your County is concerned about the future health of its citizens. Both the legal and moral implications of failing to protect the health of the County's citizens will be a County liability that will rest directly on your shoulders. If we are unfunded to protect the children and future generations of Clark County from hepatitis, venereal disease, measles, meningitis, etc., you are going to be held, if not legally at least morally, responsible by the citizens of your County.

CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

BY: *Robert K. McKechnie*  
DR. ROBERT K. McKECHNIE, M.D.  
CLARK COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

cc: James H. Gillenwater, Sr.  
Clifford G. Myers  
Perry Smith  
George A. Budd, IV  
Ralph C. Stemler  
Harold Satterly  
Richard P. Jones, Clark County Auditor

Clark County Board of Health:  
Herman Miller, Pres.  
Roger L. Lindsey, Atty.

Dr. Woodrow A. Myers, Jr., State Health Commissioner





## Clark County Health Department

1220 MISSOURI AVENUE  
JEFFERSONVILLE, INDIANA 47130  
812-282-7521

October 5, 1987

Dr. Woodrow A. Myers, Jr., M.D.  
Indiana Health Commissioner  
Indiana State Board of Health  
1330 W. Michigan St.  
P.O. Box 1964  
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1964

RE: Clark County Health Dept.'s  
1988 Budget & Public  
Health Grants

Dear Dr. Myer:

Hopefully you have received a copy of both our letter to the Clark County Council and our letter to the Clark County Auditor, both of which were dated 10/1/87 and forwarded to you last week, concerning the above-referenced matters. These letters detail the problems that the Clark County Board of Health is currently experiencing concerning its 1988 budget and the public health programs maintained by the Clark County Board of Health through State grants. In addition to these local problems, there is always the possibility that the State Board of Tax Commissioners could reduce the Health Department's budget even further during its review of Clark County's proposed tax rate. However, on behalf of both myself and the Clark County Board of Health, we wish to extend our sincere desire to continue to serve Clark County as well as we can with this terribly burdensome reduction in funding. The specifics contained in the above-mentioned letters were disseminated to the members of the Clark County Board of Health at a special meeting held on the evening of 9/28/87. The Board members, in expressing their unanimous concern, have requested my recommendations as to what services may be continued on the local level.

In the very near future we will be informing the appropriate local authorities of what services are not funded and cannot be continued by the Clark County Board of Health. I would expect the local Board of Health to take whatever action may be necessary in these regards at its last regular meeting of the year which is currently scheduled for 10/29/87. It has been suggested that the Clark County Board of Health approach the County Council and County Commissioners with the proposal that they donate all of the assets of the Health Department's Visiting Nurses Association's and various grant programs' assets,

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including both personal properties and monies to a nonprofit corporation which would be established to administer the visiting nurses and grant programs. Your thoughts in these regards would be greatly appreciated.

Thanking you in advance for your time and consideration, I am,

Yours Truly,

  
DR. ROBERT K. McKECHNIE, M.D.,  
CLARK COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

cc: Herman Miller, Pres., Clark County Board of Health  
Roger L. Lindsey, Attorney



## Clark County Health Department

1220 MISSOURI AVENUE  
JEFFERSONVILLE, INDIANA 47130  
812-282-7521

October 21, 1987

Dr. Woodrow A. Myers, Jr., M.D.  
Indiana Health Commissioner  
Indiana State Board of Health  
1330 W. Michigan St.  
P.O. Box 1964  
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1964

RE: Clark County Health Dept.'s  
1988 Budget & Public Health  
Grants

Dear Dr. Myers:

At the request of the Clark County Health Board President, Mr. Herman Miller, this letter is to ask for your expertise and guidance on what the Clark County Board of Health finds as being of the utmost urgency and monumental importance. For your consideration, please find enclosed a local newspaper article (front page) published 9/30/87 that describes the Clark County Health Department's budget and grant problems very well.

The County Auditor, who acts as an adviser to the County Council, continues to refuse to sign any grants which are or may be available for any county agencies or departments, including the Clark County Health Department. This is resulting in the Clark County Health Department being unable to continue to operate its Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) programs, or to receive the Health Educator entitlement grant (5% State cigarette tax legislation) or the \$2,000.00 AID's grant for material & supplies, all of which grants have been approved for the new fiscal year that began October 1, 1987, but all of which grants the County Auditor refuses to sign. In addition, it is our understanding that the County Auditor will not sign any grants in 1988 which will then prohibit the continuation of our other health grant programs, such as the Women and Infant Children's (WIC's) program, which are not beginning a new fiscal year at this time.

The reason which has been expressed by the County Auditor for his refusal to sign any grants is that he does not have the personnel to administer the claims and payroll of the employees

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required by these grants. The County Council has indicated to the County Auditor that the Health Department should supply the personnel needed for the administration of its grants either through the grants themselves and/or the Health Department's local budget. As you may be well aware, the State's grant guidelines for all State health grants (even the Federal WIC Program) prohibits the use of any health grant monies for this purpose. Additionally, the Clark County Health Department's local budget made up of local property tax monies has been cut by the County Council more than 43% for the 1988 calendar year, thereby dramatically decreasing and severely curtailing the County Health Department's ability and efficiency in carrying out its duties required by statute and definitely prohibiting the use of any employees funded by the local property tax budget from being available for use in the County Auditor's Office.

As Clark County Health Officer for over 20 years, this is the only time I've been confronted with such local governmental fiscal and administration problems. The Health Department's attorney has tried to work with the County's Attorney, but to no avail. Our next (fourth quarter) County Health Board meeting will be on 10/29/87, and any assistance, information and guidance you may be able to provide concerning the above so that it may be presented to the Clark County Board of Health members at that time, would be greatly appreciated. Please advise.

Thanking you in advance for your time and consideration, I am,

Yours Truly,

  
DR. ROBERT K. MCKECHNIE, M.D.  
CLARK COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

cc: Clark County Board of Health  
Herman Miller, Pres.  
Dr. Paul D. Cleeter, Vice Pres.  
Dr. Emmett W. Spieth  
William Brummett  
Dr. Robert E. Lega  
Norman B. Wiggam  
Dr. David H. Jones  
Roger L. Lindsey, Attorney

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1987

# Budget cuts could reduce Health Dept. services, says board

The Clark County Board of Health, in special session last evening, said it could be forced to cut programs if the Clark County Council holds to a 45 percent reduction in its budget.

The board met in special session to disseminate information to members before its regularly scheduled meeting Oct. 29 at the Ramada Inn in Jeffersonville.

The health department submits a proposed tax rate instead of a line item budget as do most other units of county government. This year, a rate of 6½ cents was sought to fund the department.

The council faced making massive cuts as it trimmed the proposed 1988 budget, starting out around \$1 million over the maximum allowable tax levy. Cuts were effected to lower budgets, and at the end of the session, the county had trimmed all but around \$400,000 of the excess.

Cuts were deep as the county had to face elimination of some workers.

At the end of the session, the health department rate was dropped from 6½ cents to 4 cents. The Board of Health said last evening that the reduction in the budget could have a devastating effect on the health department since most programs are operated with grant funds designated for specific applications and cannot be shifted to general operational expenses.

The reduction could force reductions in as many as 11 areas, said County Health Officer Dr. Robert McKechnie. Listed as possible areas for cuts are:

- ✓ Complaint department — Unless an emergency existed, complaints would have to go on a waiting list until they could be gotten to.

- ✓ Septic tanks — Site surveys would be sent to the State Board of Health for approval instead of processed locally. That could result in delays of up to 6 to 12 weeks as compared to 8 to 10 days at present.

- ✓ Solid waste — Complaints would be referred to the state. Local officials would not be able to check out dumps and order their abatement.

- ✓ Rabies control — Reports would be handled by telephone only. At present, the department makes a visual contact with the animal to ensure that it is alive as well as a check at the end of the quarantine period. These checks would become telephone checks.

- ✓ Air pollution — Reports of violations of air pollution standards could not be checked locally. The state is presently understaffed and unable to conduct these checks and asks the local health department to investigate.

- ✓ Sewage — Complaints could not be processed at the initial report stage. Only when an emergency

situation developed would the department be in a position to intervene.

- ✓ Drinking water — Testing well water would be referred to the state. At present, results can be returned in 7 days. The Board of Health predicts it will take the state 6 to 12 weeks to do the same testing and return results.

- ✓ Housing — Joint inspections with local housing inspectors would be eliminated. The county is the only housing inspector at present in certain areas of the county.

- ✓ Rodent control — This service would have to be eliminated. It is now performed as a preventive service throughout the county.

- ✓ Emergency response — Staff members on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week will be eliminated.

- ✓ Burning permits — These permits would have to be issued by the state.

McKechnie said today the cuts will create an unfair reduction of services for the people of Clark County, and he hopes there is still room for the health department to re-establish some of the funding.

"The way it looks now, when the money runs out we will have to cut programs," McKechnie said.

He went on, "People here don't seem to understand what it is the health department does. We are here to protect the people of Clark County as best we can. We're not going to be able to do that if these programs are cut."

The Board of Health will be faced with the decisions of what programs to cut. McKechnie said, "That will be a difficult decision because of some of the threats to public health and inconvenience that will be created."

McKechnie said in addition to the problems with the budget, the county is faced with delays on grants it has received for the operation of other programs. He noted that the state will fund operation of programs but not administration.

When the council approves a program, the responsibility for auditing and fiscal responsibility fall on County Auditor Richard P. Jones.

McKechnie said Jones, who is already overloaded and facing reductions of his staff, has been reluctant to sign grant forms which will place an even stiffer burden on his office.

The two sides have agreed to work together to see if it is possible to include some form of funding in grants to help eliminate the problem rather than go to battle over the issue.

McKechnie said the Board of Health will consider what cuts must be made at its October 29 meeting. That session is open to the public.