



Clark County Health Department

Dr. Eric B. Yazel, Health Officer

1201 Wall Street | Jeffersonville, IN 47130 | (812)282-7521
www.clarkhealth.net

CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES MARCH 2nd, 2022

Board members present: Dr. James Howard, Dr. Harold Martin, Ms. Fay Allen, Mr. Denny Hill, Ms. Teresa Natterman, Dr. Thacker.

Staff members present: Eric Yazel, Health Officer; Zach Stewart, Atty; Doug Bentfield, Administrator; Drew Roudenbush, Patti Smith, Idannia Portugal, Jessica Shields, Bridget McCurdy.

Dr. Howard called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

Dr. Howard made a motion to approve the minutes from December 1, 2021 meeting. Mr. Denny Hill approved minutes, Ms. Fay Allen second. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comments:

Katelyn Blessitt, Clark County resident and a Master's Prepared Nurse, made a request to the Clark County Health Department to add some things to the website. She requested that minutes from prior meetings, agenda be uploaded prior to the meetings, and any information about grants should be uploaded to website.

Douglas Bentfield, Clark County Health Department Administrator, responded by letting Katelyn Blessitt know that agenda and minutes from past and prior meetings will be uploaded to the Clark County Health Department website.

Old Business:

COVID-19 Response

Dr. Yazel began this section by mentioning that a lot of changes have been happening, but mainly good. We are beginning to see a massive drop in Covid-19 rates. Hospital admissions went from 40 -50 to 9 in-patients, as of today, March 2nd, 2022. Dr. Thacker added he sees many people still taking precautions, and thinks it's good that at risk areas are being monitored



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and make sure they are taking the appropriate precautions. Dr. Thacker then had questions regarding new home tests: how are these results documented for travel, for example? Dr. Yazel responded by saying that it depends on the travel organization and what type of proof they are asking for, given that they all require different requirements. There are sites and applications where a person can log into and document their results in order to comply with these requirements.

New Business:

2021 Annual Report

Vital Statistics/ Records:

Idannia Portugal, Registrar, began by looking at Attachment B, which shows the number of births in 2021 being almost the same as 2020 numbers. Deaths also kept a steady rate given COVID-19. Covid-19 continues to be the main contributing cause of death for 2021. There are misconceptions associated with death reporting, COVID-19 may be listed as a primary or a contributing cause of death on a death certificate. Overdoses and Suicides are numbers that unfortunately continue to rise. To better understand these issues the Vital Records team joined the Fatality Review meetings with the purpose of looking into different trends, backgrounds, and drugs that are currently being used the most across the community.

HIV/STI/SSP:

Jessica Shields began with attachment C, discussing information from 2020-2021 on positivity rate, people getting tested, etc. There was a change in educational programs due to a position that was open for a few months in 2021. This position was changed by IDOH to an outreach tester position in the past year. This led to a decrease in educational presentations. Clients involved in the Care Coordination program also showed steady numbers. Service hours decreased due to decreasing staff members from 4 Care Coordinators to 3 in 2021. However, CCHD provided the same services for the same number of clients just with fewer staff members. There was an increase in Syphilis and Gonorrhea cases and follow-ups in the



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community, but the numbers stayed consistent with national increases in those infections from 2020-2021. CCHD is currently looking to add a new Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) for the year of 2022, which will help with high rates of infections in the county.

The Syringe Exchange Program for 2021 brought in 9% more syringes than what were handed out, this is a success since it is keeping as many syringes out of the community as possible. In 2021 we continued our services, and increased our community outreach with our mobile unit.

Dr. James Howard inquired about the suggestion that our Syringe Exchange Program was distributing free needles thereby promoting drug use. Dr. Yazel suggested that statistics show that a person who is involved in the Syringe Exchange Program is 5x more likely to enter into recovery, and also this program aides in the reduction of syringes on the streets. There is no viable information demonstrating that giving out free needles to an individual causes drug use more frequently. These participants are also given free tests such as HIV and Hepatitis C every 90 days, in which we collect each participant's data as well. In 2021 44.5% of participants reported to the Health Department that they were engaged in some sort of substance use treatment, which is a significant success for our community. These interactions allow CCHD to keep clients engaged in treatment programs and also intervene in infection transmission. As we follow up with these participants, we also ensure our outreach professionals talk with them about all the resources we offer such as safe sex education, testing, clothing, housing, transportation, and so on. Dr. Yazel added that we are looking into changing the name of the program from Syringe Exchange Program to Syringe Service Program. The program is not just about exchanging dirty needs for clean ones, but rather to allow the Health Department to engage with participants and provide them as many resources and help as possible.

Public Health Nurse:

Bridget McCurdy, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, began with Attachment A, reviewing the number of immunizations and TB evaluations done throughout 2021. Covid was the consuming event in 2021 as well. The goal every year is to improve immunization numbers and we intend to continue to increase immunization rates every year. CCHD is striving to ensure vaccines are accessible for everyone in the community. We have both full-time and part-time nurses that are readily available to provide these services and have been throughout the year, 6 days a week.



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Environmental:

Drew Roudenbush, Environmental Health Supervisor, stated Covid-19 had affected the Retail Food program staff over the last 2 years. The staff are returning to normal duties. In 2020 there were 475 initial/ routine inspections and in 2021 there were a total of 592. The number increased but it is low compared to previous years. We hope to reach the 900 numbers as we move forward. By the end of 2021 we had a total of 575 open facilities, which is an increase compared to 2020 which had a total of 567 open facilities.

The Swimming Pool Program is also beginning to stabilize, going back to inspecting municipal pools every other month. Rabies and Animal Bite Program numbers reported for 2021 were lower due to having fewer cases to investigate.

For 2021, tattoo facilities are mandated by commissioner's ordinance to inspect facilities twice a year; which our department has begun. No other changes have been made to this program.

On Site Sewage Program/ Septic Systems numbers increased through Covid-19 due to the new development throughout the county.

The Emergency Response Program or environmental contamination emergencies seem to be getting lower and lower every year, with only 12 total for 2021.

Only had 1 office hearing in 2021, which is where we meet with owners or management in our regulated facilities to figure out how to fix issues and fulfill their obligations such as failing septic systems, sewage issues, ongoing complaints, etc.

Our Lead Program is mainly handled by State, since the equipment needed is very costly.

The Mosquito Control Program traps increased for the year of 2021, focusing on different areas in the community after receiving complaints or known areas where we have found a history of West Nile Virus. We set traps, collected the mosquitoes, and then sent the samples to the State Department of Health Laboratory. IDOH checked them for various diseases they may carry and



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transmit in the community. One Hundred and Twenty one traps were set throughout mosquito season, which is around April-May and ending in October. There were 28 mosquito sites throughout the county, with 79 samples sent to the State laboratory for testing. These resulted in 6 mosquitoes coming back positive for West Nile Virus. Larvicide treatment in the water to prevent eggs hatching will continue to increase in number over the years. We hired 2 new employees, allowing us to be fully staffed in the Environmental Department. These individuals have been trained, which will increase our numbers and meet goals for the upcoming year.

Mr. Denny Hill asked if we received any complaints on drinking water. Drew Roudenbush responded saying we mainly receive well water complaints or brown water.

Dr. Howard asked if construction sites receive an open burning permit from us, in which Drew Roudenbush responded that we do not permit them, but they might receive those permits from IDEM. We do receive open burning complaints, especially when it's treated wood, and try to work with these companies when we do receive them. Bans on open burning can depend on each municipality.

Grants:

Douglas Bentfield and Dr. Yazel began by thanking supervisors and their staff for their hard work and dedication throughout this pandemic, with a total of 33,495 Covid-19 Vaccines and 8795 tests.

There are a few grants currently being evaluated but have not been fully approved or signed off yet. For example, a new Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) position as mentioned by Jessica Shields, will be covered by this new grant. Another grant we are currently working on will cover obesity, diabetes, hypertension; which are risk factors that we know played a large part in Covid-19. We will have this nurse go out in the community along with supplies needed, such as blood pressure monitors for each participant. We will do follow ups and stay engaged with these participants as well.



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Petty Cash Increase:

The Vital Records Department made a request to increase petty cash for both Vital Records and the Environmental Department. Currently each department holds a total of \$30 for petty cash. When customers come in with large bills it is difficult to make change. CCHD is requesting to raise the petty cash of \$30 in each department to \$100 in order to facilitate the process when giving out change to a customer. Teresa Natterman made a motion to approve this request, Mr. Denny Hill second. Unanimously Approved

Election of Officer:

All officers were retained in their respective current positions. Dr. Harold Martin made a motion to approve election of officers, Teresa Natterman second. Unanimously Approved

Adjourn:

Dr. James Howard made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Teresa Natterman second.
Meeting ended at 9:28 AM.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 1st, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Bentfield, R.E.H.S.
Administrator

James E. Howard DVM
President