



## Clark County Health Department

Dr. Eric B. Yazel, Health Officer

1201 Wall Street | Jeffersonville, IN 47130 | (812)282-7521  
[www.clarkhealth.net](http://www.clarkhealth.net)

### CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

Board members present: Mr. Denny Hill, Ms. Fay Allen, Ms. Teresa Natterman, Dr. Charles Kemper.

Staff members present: Dr. Eric Yazel, Health Officer; Doug Bentfield, Administrator; Zachary Stewart, Attorney; Patti Smith, Idannia Portugal.

Mr. Denny Hill called the meeting to order at 8:32 A.M.

Mr. Denny Hill made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 6th, 2024 meeting. Dr. Charles Kemper seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### Public Comments:

Kaitlin Blessit, Clark County resident, stated how we have lost a number of our Health Board members since Covid-19. It was explained this is an appointment process where the Clark County Commissioner's make the final decision on who will get appointed to the board. Mr. Denny Hill believes we may need to get in touch with Clark County Commissioner's to get this process to move forward. Doug Bentfield stated Commissioners and their attorney, Scott Lewis, are working on getting individuals appointed to the health board.

Kaitlin Blessit also stated her concern regarding EMS status in Clark County. She referenced the situation with Floyd County being under contract with New Chapel. As everything has come to light regarding Mr. Noel and how it came to be putting New Chapel under contract. She stated she was surprised how they went from a one-year contract to a three-year contract. Ms. Blessit has requested various records from Clark County Commissioner's as far as contracts, response times, and Clark County Health Board minutes. She expressed her confusion on how New Chapel has been able to get a contract, even though response times have never met the 2014 Clark County Safety Plan. This ordinance states response times need to be within 8 minutes about 85% of the time; so even up to when this



## Clark County Health Department

Dr. Eric B. Yazel, Health Officer

1201 Wall Street | Jeffersonville, IN 47130 | (812)282-7521  
[www.clarkhealth.net](http://www.clarkhealth.net)

contract was recently approved in April; response times were above 10 minutes. Ms. Blessit stated she was told the Clark County Health Board provides the oversight of EMS. Dr. Yazel worked with the EMS Subcommittee, the 911 Board, and then recommendations came from an unofficial board submitted to the commissioners. This then leads to commissioners signing contracts and council approving funding.

Ms. Blessit expressed concern that New Chapel could be shut down at any moment and wonders if we could be in trouble with this possibility. She has asked for a letter of recommendation for New Chapel for 2023. Ms. Blessit received letters of recommendation for 2020, 2021 & 2022, but not 2023. She did not see a letter written by Dr. Yazel recommending New Chapel for 2023. Ms. Blessit stated she cannot substantiate there was a letter of recommendation. She has talked with two EMS Board Members, who stated RFPs were never discussed at all because there were members of New Chapel on the EMS Subcommittee. This appeared a conflict of interest. Ms. Blessit states she doesn't know how New Chapel was unanimously recommended for a contract when those conversations are not documented. She also stated there are people saying those conversations never happened, unsure where the disconnect is there. There is no letter from 2023 so how did we get from no recommendation officially from anybody to a three-year contract with response times that are not meeting 2014 safety plan. Ms. Blessit stated we have no financial documentation turned in which we know now they can't possibly turn in financial documentation because they're finances are a disaster. She stated this is why they could not continue in Floyd County.

She also stated that she understood EMS looked better than when AMR was providing service. In talking with subcommittee representatives for EMS they seem to be in favor of possibly a county wide EMS or a fire-based model. Ms. Blessit stated her shock regarding the Clark County Health Board having Zachary Stewart as the attorney. Mr. Stewart is Mr. Noel's defense attorney. She stated he had just turned in an expensive suit that he had received from Mr. Noel as a gift to ISP, and believes his oversight is totally inappropriate. Ms. Blessit stated she is unhappy with the EMS process entirely. Zachary Stewart stated he does not represent the 911 Board or any of the boards that make any recommendations. As for a 2023 letter, Mr. Stewart stated a letter of recommendation would not occur due to an RFP being done in 2022. Letters of recommendations were made for the three-month renewals/ agreements, but no requests were done to re-bid contract in 2023. The Clark County Health



## Clark County Health Department

Dr. Eric B. Yazel, Health Officer

1201 Wall Street | Jeffersonville, IN 47130 | (812)282-7521

[www.clarkhealth.net](http://www.clarkhealth.net)

Board does not control public bidding and this would be a decision made by Clark County Commissioners. Dr. Yazel stated there are definite desires to look at municipal side of things either fire based or a third-party municipal service, but unfortunately these don't happen with a snap of a finger. Discussions are happening and you can see this throughout the county with new trucks being approved with Tri- Township and Clarksville undergoing the process. CCHD will support any entity that decides to do this, provided it is in the best interest of the overall service of the county; ensuring no area gets left behind.

Old Business:

EMS Status Update:

Dr. Yazel explained how we have various plans set in place that will go into effect immediately should the current EMS provider cease to operate. This will help for a safe and smooth transition and be a low risk for our citizens. We continue to work with other entities such as Tri-Township Fire, Town of Clarksville, and New Washington Fire to provide EMS service provided it is in the best interest of Clark County.

We continue to monitor response times and have requested a response plan from New Chapel that will help allocate resources in areas where response times are the highest. Contributing factors to high response times include low staffing, this is an across the state. Quality, response times, and staffing are one of our main focuses in order to continue to provide this necessary service to the community.

Health Board Appointments:

The Clark County Health Board will need to submit their suggested board appointments to the Clark County Commissioner's for appointment. Two current members will establish a list of names for submission.



## Clark County Health Department

Dr. Eric B. Yazel, Health Officer

1201 Wall Street | Jeffersonville, IN 47130 | (812)282-7521  
[www.clarkhealth.net](http://www.clarkhealth.net)

### Employee Handbook Revisions:

Clark County Health Department would like to review and update a few policies in the Employee Policy Handbook; which includes the rounding system for employees. The Clark County Health Department has a 7-minute rule, a leeway of seven (7) minutes before and seven (7) minutes after scheduled start and stop times which get rounded to the quarter hour. Effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, Clark County will begin a new electronic time keeping system which will eliminate this seven (7) minute rule and no longer round to the quarter hour. The department would like to get in line with the Clark County policy or as close as possible. The department asks to adopt this new time keeping system into our policy and redact the seven-minute rule effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Dr. Charles Kemper made a motion to accept the new time keeping system for employees and redact the seven-minute rule from Clark County Health Department Employee Handbook, Ms. Teresa Natterman seconded.

### New Business:

#### Health Board Compensation:

Due to the recent changes to the Clark County Health Board meetings schedule, in which members will now potentially attend a meeting monthly rather than quarterly, it is up for discussion if Health Board members would like to increase their pay. This was tabled until next meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

### Adjourn:

Mr. Denny Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Teresa Natterman seconded.  
Meeting ended at 9:53 AM



# Clark County Health Department

Dr. Eric B. Yazel, Health Officer

1201 Wall Street | Jeffersonville, IN 47130 | (812)282-7521  
[www.clarkhealth.net](http://www.clarkhealth.net)

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MAY 1<sup>st</sup> , 2024

Respectfully submitted,

---

Dr. Eric Yazel,  
Clark County Health Officer

---

Mr. Denny Hill,  
President

