



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 6th, 2024

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

Staff members present: Dr. Eric Yazel, Health Officer; Doug Bentfield, Administrator; Zachary Stewart, Attorney; Patti Smith, Idannia Portugal, Dorothy Waterhouse, Bridget McCurdy, Drew Roudenbush.

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

Mr. James Stone made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 6th, 2023 meeting. Dr. Charles Kemper seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comments:

New item on Agenda:

New Building Facility; Ms. Fay Allen made a motion to add new item on agenda, Ms. Teresa Natterman seconded.

Old Business:

EMS Subcommittee Bylaws Adoption:

The EMS advisory committee has requested to be formalized under the health board. This will be more beneficial for creating structure, facilitating decision making, creating by-laws and protocols, addressing quality issues, etc. This board will consist of various individuals with varying professional backgrounds. Positions requested for the committee include the Local Emergency Management Agency, Hospital, Fire Department, Police Department, and two at-large positions. The committee will function just as any other public board and will hold public



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meetings, allowing public comments. Dr. Charles Kemper made a motion to accept EMS Subcommittee Bylaws and approve this board to be formalized in order to better benefit the community, Ms. Teresa Natterman seconded.

EMS Status Update:

The department continues to monitor EMS response times, which can be influenced by factors such as longer shifts for employees, workforce shortages, paramedic shortages, etc. Delayed response times are our main issue currently, the department has requested a corrective action plan from New Chapel EMS due to incidence of long or delayed response times.

Health Board Appointments:

The county council now has a direct appointment to the health board and the City of Jeffersonville has an appointment that must be submitted to the Clark County Commissioners. Dr. James Stone will no longer serve on the Clark County Health Board.

Employee Handbook Revisions:

The Clark County Health Department will set up weekly meetings with the Clark County Human Resource Director, LeeAnne Howe, to suggest updates and revise the Clark County Health Department Employee Handbook. One of the changes being considered includes the total of hours worked for each employee. All Clark County Government agencies work a 35-hour work week, the Clark County Health Department has a 37.5-hour work week. There will be additional suggestions regarding the comp and PTO accrual as the county moves to electronic time keeping systems.

Meeting Dates:

Due to the new EMS Subcommittee appointment and significant program expansions at the department additional health board meetings would be beneficial. These meetings will be held the first Wednesday of every month; beginning on April 3rd, 2024 and May 1st, 2024. The



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June 5th, 2024 meeting will be cancelled due to schedule conflicts.

New Business:

New Building:

We continue to work with Clark County officials for a new facility to store PPE, files, and equipment. In addition, this would be a shared resource with the Emergency Management Agency.

2023 Annual Report Presentation:

Dr. Yazel stated that the Clark County Health Department has faced a few challenges in 2023, such as TB exposures, skunk rabies, West Nile Virus, etc. but the department was still able to continue daily operations with the level of success and professionalism that our team has shown previously. The department continues to focus on building community partnerships with other entities and organizations throughout the county. An example is the upcoming rabies vaccination clinic for cats and dogs. Community partners such as the 4H Fairgrounds donated space, Care Pets and the Jeffersonville Animal Shelter donated both veterinarian time and vaccine, and Pets365 donated vaccine for the clinic. We wish to thank our community partners for their support and working with us to create this great opportunity for Clark County.

Environmental Health & Food Safety:

Drew Roudenbush, Environmental Health Supervisor, presented on the following topics: Retail food program increased from 765 retail food permits in 2022 to 793 in 2023. Routine inspections continue at a steady number compared to 2022. Plan reviews for new facilities were also the same as 2022. As of the end of year 2023 there were a total of 660 open food establishments, this is including physical facilities and mobile establishments. Those numbers do not include temporary food establishments or events.



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A new food code will potentially go into effect in 2024. The department will begin to educate our community partners as we transition into this new rule. No major changes regarding swimming pools, we continue to inspect these facilities every two months or as necessary. Animal bites have increased in 2023 with two positive samples for rabies. No changes have been made to tattoo facilities, we continue to inspect these facilities and ensure ordinances are being followed. On-site sewage disposal inspections have decreased but applications have increased which should result in an increase of inspections. We no longer license septic installers due to the recent legislation that began in 2023. Our lead program numbers are low, this is due to the lack of costly equipment. The department has two lead certified employees that work on lead cases in the home. The Vector Control/Mosquito program realized an increase in trapping in 2023 which assisted the department in focusing treatments in confirmed West Nile locations. There was also an increase in West Nile Virus.

HIV/STD/SSP:

Dorothy Waterhouse, Program Director HIV/STD/SSP Services, welcomed new staff into her program. Hepatitis testing and STD testing increased. Non-medical case management numbers increased by over 400 hours. Gonorrhea tests almost doubled, which could be due to having extra staff and offering test throughout the department's multiple programs. The programs within this department continue to provide high quality care.

Public Health Nurse:

Bridget McCurdy, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, stated how their main focus in 2023 was accessibility to the community. We are open 6 days a week for immunizations for both adults and children and allow walk-ins as well. The department has expanded immensely when it comes to our immunization program with the help of our part-time public health nurses and school nurse liaisons. The department has partnered for several health fairs and events across Clark County providing multiple services. We have had a 60% increase in immunizations in 2023 and expect this number to increase as our county continues to grow.



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Vital Records:

Idannia Portugal, Registrar, stated the department continues to monitor causes of death in the county evaluating trends regarding overdoses, suicides, Covid-19, and all others. Covid-19 deaths continue although it was not the main cause of death in 2023, it still maintains a presence in the community. Overdoses and suicides numbers decreased in 2023. Vital Records is also a part of SOFR (Suicide, Overdose Fatality Review) & FIMR (Fetal, Infant Mortality Review) teams in which we review and evaluate circumstances of these deaths. Information gathered is then utilized to help decrease these types of fatalities.

Mobile Integrated Health:

The staff paramedic now provides in-home medical support for some of our most vulnerable citizens. These visits can range from doing immunizations, helping with medication management, and providing an overall individualized care plan for each person.

In conclusion, the department has several goals and initiatives for 2024. We anticipate successful implementation of chronic disease management programs and expansion of prenatal and maternal/child care by partnering with our Federally Qualified Health Centers.

Adjourn:

Mr. Denny Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Teresa Natterman second.

Meeting ended at 10:39 AM



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NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 3rd, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Eric Yazel
Health Officer

Denny Hill,
President