



## 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 March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Board members present: Mr. Denny Hill, Ms. Teresa Natterman, Mr. Josh Hillman, Dr. Harold Gough, Dr. Arthur Boerner, Dr. Charles Kemper.

Staff members present: Dr. Eric Yazel, Clark County Health Officer; Doug Bentfield, Administrator; Patti Smith, Idannia Portugal, Karen Singleton, Chronic Disease Prevention Educator; Bridget McCurdy, Public Health Nurse Supervisor; Dorothy Waterhouse, Program Director; Drew Roudenbush, Environmental Health Supervisor; Atty. Alyssa Cochran.

Mr. Denny Hill called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

Agenda Amendment:

New Business, Vital Records- Issuance of out of county birth records is moved to New Business for accommodation/scheduling purposes.

Approval of Minutes of February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Meeting:

Mr. Josh Hillman made a motion to approve February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, minutes, Dr. Harold Gough seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

Old Business:

EMS Status Update (Ordinance Resolution):

Josh Keywood, Heartland Ambulance Service Director of Operations, requested that Heartland have first right of refusal for non-emergency transport in Clark County. This would allow



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Heartland Ambulance Service to have additional ambulances in the county that would be dual purpose, they could be utilized for 911 at no extra cost. This may also help to reduce response times and keep 911 ambulances spread out throughout the county. They proposed that if they were unable to meet a reasonable ETA to transport patients, then next available ambulance service will be called to respond.

Mr. Josh Hillman made a motion recommending passing request from Heartland Ambulance Services for first right of refusal to be included in the Clark County Safety Plan to EMS Subcommittee for consideration. Pending resolution, awaiting EMS Subcommittee vote. Ms. Teresa Natterman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### Vital Records- Issuance of Out of County Birth Records:

Idannia Portugal, Vital Records Registrar, reported on House Bill 1457, passed on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. This house bill allows a local health officer to issue a birth, death, or stillbirth certificate from the electronic registration system regardless of the location of the filing of the record. The Clark County Health Department is reviewing the policy.

### 2025 Meeting Dates:

Doug Bentfield reported on a law that was passed which requires certain meetings to be made available to the public via web service. To be able to follow this law it would require Clark County Board of Health meeting locations to change to River Ridge, where equipment is readily available. The next Clark County Health Board meeting will be held at the Clark County Health Department tentatively on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Meeting dates are subject to change due to scheduling conflicts.

### Conflict of Interest Form:

A Conflict of Interest form was presented to Clark County Board of Health members. Members were requested to review, sign, and turn in for filing at the Clark County Health Department.

### New Business:



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### 2024 Annual Report:

Dorothy Waterhouse, HIV, STD, SSP Program Director, reported on various data within her department, such as an increase in positive Syphilis test results along with treatments for individuals. Syphilis tests increased from 214 tests in 2023 to 1004 tests in 2024; with about 80 positives. The Syringe service program also saw an increase in return rate as well as referrals. These referrals allowed us to provide education, Narcan distribution, mental health resources and much more.

Bridget McCurdy, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, reported they continue to provide TB testing and immunizations for Clark County. Staffing is very stable, with 6 part-time nurses, 3 school liaison nurses, and 3 full-time public health nurses. Ms. McCurdy reported Greater Clark County Schools, Clark County's largest school system, has a 92% immunization rate.

Currently, Indiana does not have a measles case, but nursing staff continue to monitor and will report as necessary.

The public health nurses continue working with many community partners, working events, health fairs, and much more providing education and resources for all of Clark County.

Clark County Health Department has welcomed Karen Singleton, Chronic Disease Prevention and Reduction Program Supervisor. Her main focus is diabetes, hypertension, and high cholesterol levels. This program will soon provide education and information on obesity, as well as providing CT Lung screenings by working with IU Health. Ms. Singleton reported a total of 935 individuals that tested positive for food insecurity, referred 768 of them for food assistance; this number will most likely increase as the program continues.

### Maternal and Child Health:

Clark County has a coordinator that meets new mothers while they are in the hospital. They provide resources and education such as safe sleep qualifying the mother to receive a free crib if needed. The department provides car seat checks to ensure seats are installed securely and



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properly in the vehicle. The department can provide a free car seat if needed. CCHD also hosted a few baby showers throughout the year; these events provide many resources, education, and even free prizes for new or expecting mothers in the community.

### Trauma and Injury Prevention:

Provides education and free resources such as gun locks, bike helmets, stop the bleed kits, CPR training, and Narcan training.

### Mobile Integrated Health:

This program provides in home resources such as vaccines, wound care, post-natal screenings for new mothers, and at times provides assistance for shelters.

Idannia Portugal, Vital Records Registrar, reported on overdose and suicide rates in Clark County, with both showing an increase in 2024. Overdose deaths in 2024 increased to 64, with ages ranging from 19 to 74. Suicide deaths increased to 25, with ages ranging from 17 to 87. The Vital Records Department continues to focus on prevention by attending both Suicide and Overdose Fatality Review Meetings and Infant Mortality Review Meetings with community partners such as Life Springs, IDOH, DCS, etc. This allows us to expand our resources and provide education to prevent similar fatalities as well as possibly beginning interventions where needed in the community. Fortunately, infant fatalities decreased from 2024.

Drew Roudenbush, Environmental Health Supervisor, reported on the following programs:

**Retail Food Program:** 953 initial inspections performed, with 713 food establishments. These facilities may be inspected 1 to 3 times annually, according to the level of menu risk.

**Swimming Pool Program:** Inspections are performed by every environmentalist, which also requires a certified pool operator certificate. Pool complaint investigations increased in 2024, which may be due to the logging and tracking for indicator bacteria.

**Animal bites and Rabies Control Program:** Data is relatively the same. Reported a positive rabies result from a skunk, which is the first positive result in about 20 years.



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**Tattoo, Body Piercing, and Permanent Makeup Program:** Facilities are inspected by county ordinance twice a year. Data remained constant. Facilities have increased over the years, and we expect a tattoo convention to be coming soon to Clark County.

**Lead Program:** This program works alongside Public Health Nurses to conduct case investigations such as blood levels and risk assessments. This program requires certified risk assessors to perform such investigations.

**On-Call Program:** An environmental health specialist is on a rotating on-call schedule 24/7 to respond to various events such as fuel and chemical spills. Mr. Roudenbush reported there were 25 callouts in total in 2024.

**On-Site Sewage Program:** 85 total inspections performed throughout the county. Numbers remained constant with previous years.

**Mosquito Control Program:** This program is mainly geared towards West Nile Virus and treatment. A total of 110 traps were placed in 43 different sites throughout Clark County. Out of 110 traps, 91 had mosquitoes with 18 positive samples for West Nile Virus. No West Nile Virus human cases were reported in 2024.

Douglas Bentfield, Administrator, stated that the budgeting for 2026 will begin soon, which may require a few budget cuts, including Health First Indiana Funding budget.

**Health Officer Appointment:**

Dr. Charles Kemper made a motion to appoint Dr. Eric Vazel as Clark County Health Officer by Clark County Board of Health. Dr. Arthur Boerner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn:**

Dr. Charles Kemper made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dr. Arthur Boerner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting ended at 10:47 AM.



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NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MAY 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Eric Yazel,  
Clark County Health Officer

Mr. Denny Hill,  
President