



## 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 SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

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

Staff members present: Eric Yazel, Health Officer; Zach Stewart, Atty; Doug Bentfield, Administrator; Idannia Portugal.

Dr. Howard called the meeting to order at 8:36 A.M.

Dr. Howard made a motion to approve the minutes from June 1, 2022 meeting. Ms. Fay Allen approved, Dr. Thacker second. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comments:

Old Business:

COVID-19 Response:

There is a new booster vaccine available at the Clark County Health Department that is mainly geared towards new variants. Hospitalizations over the summer have decreased and hopefully with this new vaccine we are able to help keep a low activity over the next few months. Testing at the Clark County Health Department will continue up until the end of the year of 2022. State and Federal support for testing and vaccines are probably coming to an end, and we will begin to see charges for these services just as there is for Flu.

The hospitalizations that are occurring now are mainly higher risk individuals but we do not have a high volume of those cases.

Monkeypox Response:



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As of today, there are a total of 137 cases in the State of Indiana, with over 100 of those cases being in the metro Indy area. In our clinic we have vaccines available for the community, we continue to partner with the hospital. CCHD has been able to track and identify transmission and case origins. Dr. Yazel stated that we have not seen many cases in the community at large, but this might change to some degree. Monkeypox transmission may not be as drastic as it was with Covid-19, however, we are prepared. Doug Bentfield stated that in our county we have done about 50 vaccinations for Monkeypox. We will continue to monitor and provide vaccines for the community as it becomes necessary.

### Syringe Services Program Renewal:

This program was renewed in August for 2 years. Dr. Yazel mentioned our metrics are very good. We gave out about 100,000 syringes but brought in 115,000. What this means is that not only are we taking the syringes we distributed, but also taking additional ones off the streets. We assisted several persons access treatment. We are seeing an increase of Methamphetamine being used in the community over the last year. In the short-term we have not seen high volumes of overdose deaths, but the long-term morbidity and mortality still continue to be alarming. These indicators show how important and necessary it is to have this program available and active in the community. We now have two years to work on our goals and make a positive change in the community.

### New Business:

#### PTO Accrual Extension:

Several years ago, the Clark County Health Department along with the Clark County Health Board members revised and approved the CCHD personnel policy. During that revision CCHD went from sick time and vacation time being separate to a PTO bank for each employee. Due to Covid-19 during year 2020 and 2021 employees were not taking off work because of how devoted they were to the community. This in turn has resulted in a few employees potentially losing a substantial amount of Paid Time Off (PTO).



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For example, an employee who has worked at CCHD for 20-24 years can bank up to 80 days of PTO. Since they could not take time off during the Covid-19 Pandemic they are losing any time accrued after the 80 days. Doug Bentfield is asking the Clark County Health Board to allow/make an exception to the policy. Employees are to take excess time off throughout the remainder of the year (2022). Enforcement of the policy as written will resume January 1, 2023. Doug Bentfield and Dr. Yazel believe that their dedicated employees should not be penalized for working and devoting their time to the community when it was needed most. Doug Bentfield suggested the establishment of a committee to revise the Clark County Health Department Employee Policy in 2023 just for updates.

Mr. Denny Hill approved the motion to allow employees to take excess time off up until January 1, 2023, this will bring employee PTO within their respective time banks. Dr. James Howard second.

### Grants:

A few of our grants have been renewed, such as INCares, Title 5- Infant Safe Sleep, and the Lead Grant. INCares is our comprehensive opioid response grant. This grant focuses on public Narcan sites for the community and a multimedia campaign. A heat map that shows locations of higher volume of overdoses was utilized and helps focus efforts in those areas.

The Title 5- Infant Safe Sleep Grant allows us to teach safe sleep concepts to expecting parents.

Unfortunately, due to rising numbers in gun violence CCHD thought it was appropriate to initiate Stop the Bleed Program trainings for teachers and staff. These trainings may be critical in the event of an active shooter. Trainings were offered to all schools in the county.

Our new Lead Grant focuses on having screenings available for anyone in the community in Clark County. CCHD ordered a LeadCare2 machine, which will facilitate these lead screenings.

### Adjourn:



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Dr. James Howard made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Denny Hill second.  
Meeting ended at 9:06 AM.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Bentfield".

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James E. Howard".

James E. Howard DVM  
President