

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EXECUTIVE BOARD
September 11, 2024

The in-person and virtual (Microsoft Teams) meeting of the Executive Board of the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) was called to order at 10:33 am in the Robert O. Yoho Executive Board Room of the IDOH building by Dr. Stephen Tharp, Chairperson. The following Board members were present for all or part of the meeting:

Brenda Goff, HFA (virtual)
Robin Marks, DVM, JD
Rex McKinney, FACHE (virtual)
Suellyn Sorensen, PharmD, BCPS
Armando Soto Rojas, DDS
Dan Cutshaw, PE (virtual)
Stephen Tharp, MD (Chair)
Lindsay Weaver, MD, FACEP (Secretary)

Those not able to attend:

Amelia Clark, DrPH, MA
Joanne Martin, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Holly Robinson, MD
Matthew Sprunger, MD
Troy Weirick, MD

The following staff members were present for all or part of the meeting (in-person or via teams):

Guy Crowder, MD, MPHTM, Chief Medical Officer
Jon Ferguson, Director, Interim Deputy Chief of Staff
Pam Pontones, Deputy Health Commissioner of Local Health Services
Brooke Mullen, Executive Director, Health Workforce Council

Guest:

Makenzie Binford, Barnes and Thornburg Law Firm

Call to Order

Dr. Stephen Tharp, Chair, stated that a quorum was **not** present. He then called the meeting to order at 10:33 am. He asked if Board members had any known conflicts of interest to declare. Hearing none he proceeded with the meeting.

Minutes

Dr. Tharp stated that since a quorum was not present, the minutes from July 10, 2024, Executive Board meeting will be approved at the November 13, 2024, Executive Board meeting.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Secretary's Report

Pam Pontones, Deputy Health Commissioner of Local Health Services, presented an update on Health First Indiana (HFI) on behalf of Dr. Lindsay Weaver.

Communication efforts:

- The agency is preparing HFI videos for the north, central and south regions and a longer statewide version. These will feature interviews with local elected officials and legislators and videos from local health department (LHD) events to help show the impact of HFI funding and core public health service delivery.
- The Office of Public Affairs is finishing the core slide deck for HFI so staff can use it for presentations with partners.
- The agency is updating the HFI website including updated, comparative data that LHDs have reported for statewide key performance indicators (KPIs).
 - Created a new "see our progress" tab to access KPI data.
 - Updated the news section and are developing a plan to incorporate local KPI data and core service tracker data.
 - A partnership tab is now featured for each county reflecting key paid and unpaid partnerships.
- The agency plans to host a six-session social media workshop for LHDs in the first quarter of 2025 to help them develop strategies and skills to leverage social media messaging to show the impact of HFI and public health events.

General Update:

- Dr. Weaver and team are wrapping up their 92-county tour and have visited 80 counties as of September 6, 2024. The tour will conclude in December. We continue to be inspired by progress, innovation, and success of LHDs in developing partnerships and activities for core public health service delivery. Stories and examples from other counties are shared to make connections. Local elected officials and state legislators are also attending.
- The agency is sharing HFI progress and success stories via stakeholder calls, presentations, and conversations with legislators.
- All LHDs that opted in during 2023 submitted 2025 budget plans by June 1, 2024, as required. The remaining six LHDs that have now opted in submitted 2025 budget plans by the September 1, 2024, deadline as required.
- The agency regional teams are compiling core service data and budget plan data to share with legislators and stakeholders to tell the story of HFI impact on service delivery, partnerships, and programming.

- LHDs are developing local-level KPIs which are due to IDOH by December 1, 2024, for posting on the HFI website by December 31, 2024. The agency is developing resources to assist, such as a deep-dive webinar, one-on-one consultations with LHDs, and a breakout session at the upcoming fall public health leadership symposium.
- Take the Pledge on the HFI website:
 - Over 90 percent of Indiana hospitals and over 20 Indiana businesses, including chambers of commerce, have pledged to support LHDs and local public health.
 - Pledge commitment includes establishing dialogue with LHDs, providing an organizational lead/liaison to connect with LHDs, sharing organizational health plan/data, and collaborating with the LHD in at least one of the core service areas of maternal and child health, obesity, or tobacco/vaping prevention and cessation.
- The agency has updated the county health data scorecard on the HFI website with new indicators (smoking while pregnant, fatal overdose rate, social vulnerability index) and updated adult obesity data using body mass index rather than the self-reported Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey data. This has resulted in more accurate data and counties worsening in this metric: Vermillion County now ranks 92nd with 51 percent of adults being obese.
- The agency continues to gather, post, and share success stories. These success stories, along with core service and budget data and videos, tell the story of the significant impact of HFI in just nine months.

Commissioner's Office

Madison County HFI Update

Stephanie Mellinger, Administrator, Madison County Health Department, presented an update on HFI efforts in Madison County. She stated that many of the community partners are in attendance via teams. Madison County is using the HFI funding to support and fill in the gaps with the following programs:

- Maternal and Child Health (infant mortality and teen pregnancy)
- Emergency Preparedness (support the hazardous materials team)
- Trauma & Injury Prevention (peer recovery program)
- Vital Records (have a satellite office in Elwood)
- Child Fatality Review/Child Suicide (Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Team)
- HIV/STIs/Hepatitis C (counseling and testing)
- United Way (access to insurance)
- Vector Control (re-instituted)
- Housing Issues (developed a policy for residential inspections, 2 new environmental positions (lead/vector))

Stephanie then asked community partners in attendance to provide updates.

Christy Clark, on behalf of Elwood Mayor Todd Jones, reported that the Vital Records satellite office located in Elwood is providing easy access to birth certificates, etc. for residents who have transportation issues. She thanked the LHD and Ascension St. Vincent for their partnership.

Clayton Whitson, Madison County Chamber of Commerce, commended the LHD on their partnership to assist in increasing the existing business base by working to keep the workforce healthy in Madison County.

Julie Barton, Heart of United Way-Anderson is the lead agency for the covering kids and families, healthcare navigators, health centers and community health workers that collaborate to make sure residents are aware of their insurance benefits and also help enroll them in insurance programs if needed.

Ryan Troub, Peer Recovery Coach, Madison County Health Department, stated he works to connect residents to treatment, rehab, and recovery living. He is also working with incarcerated individuals, along with the courts and judges, to help with job placements.

Ruthie Smith, Community Hospital-Anderson, commended the LHD for the mobile unit that can go to various community events throughout the county to provide immunizations and screening services.

Julie Foltz, Program Director, Aspire Indiana Health, in partnership with the LHD oversees the Ryan White HIV and Hepatitis C services and prevention, harm reduction services, Narcan education and training. They also supply hygiene and first aid supplies and help with housing referrals.

Veda Morris-May, Minority Health Coalition of Madison County, in partnership with the LHD has reached over 300 residents in underserved areas to help with access to appropriate prenatal care.

Sarah Neal, School Health Liaison, Madison County Health Department, reported she works to make sure all children enrolled in school are up to date with their immunizations. In Madison County, they have been able to ensure that Albuterol and Narcan are in every school building. They are currently working to get Epinephrine pens in all school buildings.

Stephanie Mellinger reported that Tiffany Denton, Coordinator of Outreach Division, Madison County Health Department, manages the mobile unit. With the HFI funding they will be able to hire additional staff who will focus on chronic diseases, i.e. heart disease, diabetes, tobacco cessation, etc.

Joe Davis, Deputy Administrator and Director of Environmental Programs, Madison County Health Department, reported that with the HFI funding they have been able to expand environmental services, i.e. vector control, indoor air quality testing, and lead inspections.

Stephanie Mellinger concluded that Madison County has increased their immunization rates. The next project is food bank partnerships. Community Hospital-Anderson has a farm and provides fresh foods to those in need.

Dr. Tharp thanked Stephanie and all the Madison County community partners for their amazing and impressive partnerships and all the hard work being done in Madison County to ensure the residents have access to care and resources. Dr. Weaver stated that Madison County has a lot to be proud of.

Healthy Hoosiers Foundation Update

Jon Ferguson, Executive Director, Healthy Hoosiers Foundation (HHF), provided an overview of the Foundation. The HHF is a 501(c)(3) that was created by the Indiana General Assembly in 2014 for the direct benefit of the IDOH. The HHF embraces philanthropy to partner with the larger community to achieve shared goals. By inviting individuals, foundations, and corporations to support the mission of the HHF through financial support we can target serious health issues facing Hoosiers. The HHF Mission is to assist the IDOH and its partners in improving the health and well-being of individuals and communities across Indiana. The HHF Vision is to provide a healthy and safe Indiana supported and sustained by thriving, engaged communities. The HHF key areas of focus are:

- reducing infant mortality
- increasing childhood vaccination rates
- reducing obesity
- reducing smoking rates
- addressing HIV/AIDS issues
- addressing mental health needs and
- addressing physical needs

The HHF has received a \$998,000 grant from the Builder's Initiative Foundation to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables in the state. HHF is a member of the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI).

Health Workforce Council Update

Brooke Mullen, Executive Director, Health Workforce Council (HWC), provided an overview of the Council. The HWC was created by a recommendation from the Governor's Public Health Commission. The HWC is a partnership between the IDOH and the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA). The HWC has 15 members, representing various geographic locations throughout the state. The members represent a variety of health workforce occupations. To ensure the HWC has ample support from subject matter experts in state policy and procedure, it is supported by an Executive Advisory Committee made up of members from various sister agencies including the Department of Workforce Development, Department of Education, Commission for Higher Education, Professional Licensing Agency and the Department of Homeland Security. The HWC is also supported by the Bowen Center for Health Workforce Research & Policy for data collection and analysis.

The HWC Mission is to create and lead an integrated and intentional framework for strengthening the health workforce capacity with the state by:

- coordinating initiatives and leveraging existing programs
- continuing to build upon and enhance workforce data and reporting
 - explore areas for incentives, such as increasing the amount or qualifying providers for loan repayment or state tax credits for preceptors/supervisors
 - driven by data, understand where and in what specialties the expansion of graduate medical education programs are needed in the state

- expanding recruitment, training, placement and retention in areas of need
 - drive early pipeline engagement into the health workforce, starting as early as middle school
 - advance and champion non-traditional paths to education and training
- identifying and collaborating on incentive programs and strategies to target needs, and
- establishing a State Health Workforce Plan by Summer, 2025

Distribution

Dr. Tharp thanked staff for professional new hire and separation reports and summary of final orders.

Adjournment

Dr. Tharp asked for any other business to come before the Board. Hearing no additional comments from the Board, staff and/or public, he adjourned the meeting at 11:43 am. The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2024, at the IDOH building.