



ALLEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

January 27, 2025 Executive Health Board Meeting

5:45p.m. – Citizens Square, 200 E. Berry St., Fort Wayne, IN – ROOM B-035

AGENDA

<https://www.allencounty.in.gov/806/Live-Meetings>

Call the meeting to order – Dr. William Pond, Board President

Meeting Reminder Statements – Mindy Waldron

Election of Officers – Dr. William Pond, President (*Need to elect a President and Vice President*)**

Approval of the Minutes for the July 15, 2024 Board Meeting – Dr. William Pond, Pres.**

BOARD APPOINTMENT REPORTS & NEW BUSINESS:

- Health Commissioner's Report – (*Dr. Thomas Gutwein*)
- Medical Director's Report - (*Dr. Anna Menze*)
- Department Administrator's Report – (*Mindy Waldron*)

CONSENT AGENDA: (one vote to accept all items below as submitted) -- (*Mindy Waldron*)**

- Personnel Report – (*Mindy Waldron*)

Old Business or Additional New Business

Adjournment**

*** Vote is/may be required*

HERE ARE THE REMAINING 2025 BOARD MEETING DATES FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

- 4/21/2025, 7/21/2025, and 10/20/2025

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MEDIA & PUBLIC NOTE: No questions will be entertained and no interviews will be conducted on the items listed on the agenda above prior to the Board Meeting. For this meeting, all media inquiries will be conducted at the conclusion of the meeting. Since this is a public meeting and not a public hearing, no public comments will be taken for items/issues not already on the agenda. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

NOTICE: Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of Allen County, should contact Allen County Title VI Coordinator Laura Maser, (260) 449-7555, laura.maser@allencounty.us, as soon as possible but no later than forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled event. Individuals requiring special language services should, if possible, contact the Allen County Government Title VI Coordinator at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the date on which the services will be needed. The meeting is open to the public.

Allen County Department of Health Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
January 27, 2025

The regular meeting of the Executive Board of Directors of the Allen County Department of Health was called to order in the Council Chambers located at 200 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, IN at 5:45 p.m., pursuant to the notice sent to all directors in accordance with the bylaws.

Directors Present: Dr. William Pond, Craig Bolinger, Patti Hays, Mary Hess, Deb Lambert, Sara Trovinger, & Kristin Woebbeking.

Directors Absent: Dr. James Cameron & Steven Schimmele

Patti Hays & Dr. Pond presided over the meeting. Kimberly Meyer recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Patti Hays called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Meeting Reminder Statements from Mindy Waldron:

- Remember to speak into your microphone and avoid tapping.
- If you have not already responded to the email sent by Mindy Waldron regarding your contact information, please submit a hard copy or respond to the email. The deadline for Mindy to submit this information to the state is January 31st.
- Mindy will be transitioning from a full board picture to headshots of each board member. Please email a color headshot to Mindy and include a brief synopsis for posting below the photo.

Summary of Motions Passed at this Meeting:

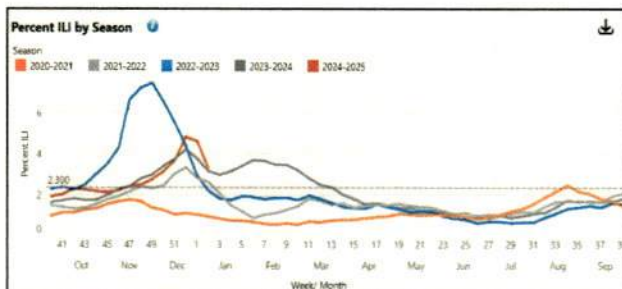
- A motion was made by Mary Hess to approve the July 15, 2024, minutes. Deb Lambert seconded the motion. Motion carried unopposed.
- A motion was made by Dr. Pond to approve the consent agenda. Patti Hays seconded the motion. Motion carried unopposed.

Election of Officers:

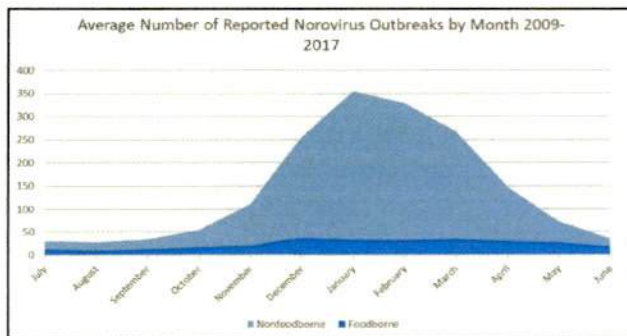
- President - Patti Hays nominated Dr. Pond and Mary Hess seconded. Nominations were closed and the motion carried unopposed.
- Vice President - Mary Hess nominated Patti Hays and Sara Trovinger seconded. Nominations were closed and the motion carried unopposed.

Health Commissioner's Report - Thomas Gutwein, MD

- Influenza Like Illness (ILI) - Currently Moderate
 - Percent ILI by Season:



- Causes of Influenza Like Illness
 - Influenza A (H1)
 - COVID-19
 - Human Rhinovirus/Enterovirus
 - Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
 - Common Coronavirus
 - Parainfluenza Virus (1, 2, 3, 4)
 - Adenovirus
 - Human Metapneumovirus
- Influenza Deaths by County (2024-2025 Season)
 - Indiana - 32
 - Lake - 8
 - Marion - 5
 - Allen - <5
- Health & Economic Benefits of Routine Childhood Immunizations
 - Among children born during 1994-2023, routine childhood vaccinations will have prevented approximately 508 million cases of illness, 32 million hospitalizations, and 1,129,000 deaths, resulting in direct savings of \$540 billion and societal savings of \$2.7 trillion.
- Norovirus (United States)
 - Average Number of Reported Norovirus Outbreaks by Month 2009-2017:



- Leading cause of vomiting and diarrhea from acute gastroenteritis among people of all ages.
- Each year, there are about 2,500 reported outbreaks.
 - Outbreaks occur throughout the year but are most common from November to April.
 - In years when there is a new strain, there can be 50% more illness.
 - Most outbreaks occur when infected people spread the virus to others through direct contact.
- Causes 58% of foodborne illnesses.
 - Shellfish, Leafy Greens, & Fresh Fruit
 - Make sure these items are clean properly before consuming.
- How it Spreads
 - It spreads very easily and quickly.
 - You can get it from sick people and through contaminated food, water, or surfaces.
 - Most contagious when you have symptoms or during the few days after feeling better.

- Prevention of Spreading
 - Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - Hand sanitizer does not kill it.
 - Wash clothing/sheets in hot water.
 - Do not handle food for others for at least 48 hours after symptoms have gone away.
 - Can remain in the stool for up to 2 weeks after an infection, on hard surfaces for up to 12 hours, and in contaminated carpeting for up to 12 days.
- Avian Influenza A (H5N1)
 - Results from infection by viruses in the *influenza virus A* genus.
 - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)
 - Very Contagious
 - High mortality among poultry.
 - Reservoir for influenza A is waterfowl/wild birds.
 - Affects commercial and non-commercial poultry operations and dairy cattle operations (lactating dairy cattle).
 - Types of Exposures
 - Direct or close contact with sick or dead infected animals.
 - Indirect Contact (i.e., Contaminated Environments)
 - Epidemiology
 - Transmission
 - Infected birds' saliva, mucus, and feces.
 - Human infections from inhaled particles or gets into the eyes, nose, or mouth.
 - Symptoms
 - Mild to Severe
 - Respiratory symptoms, eye irritation or redness, GI symptoms, and/or rash.
 - Conjunctivitis can be the only symptom.
 - Human Risk
 - Low risk to general public.
 - Higher risk is from job-related or recreational exposures.
 - Treatment
 - Antiviral Drugs (i.e., Tamiflu)
 - Prevention
 - No available vaccine.
 - Key Points
 - The risk of avian influenza to the general public is considered low.
 - People with job-related or recreational exposures to infected birds, cattle, or other animals are at higher risk of infection.
 - There is no concern for contamination of the food/milk supply.
 - Food products from sick animals are prevented from entering the food supply and beef cooked to the recommended cooking temperatures are effective in inactivating the virus.
 - Pasteurization is required in Indiana for any milk entering interstate commerce for human consumption and this process is proven to inactivate the virus in milk.
 - Asymptomatic infections have been observed in people with exposure to infected dairy cattle in HPAI A(H5) serologic investigations.

Discussion

- Patti Hays asked if it is too late to get the flu shot.
 - Dr. Gutwein said that it is not too late to get the flu shot. We will still have the flu in the community at a high level for the next three weeks and at a consistent level for the next five weeks after that. The flu is mostly prevalent up until March.

See meeting supplements for full details.

Medical Director's Report - Anna Menze, MD

Refugee Health:

- Received 329 refugees for FY 2024.
 - Each refugee is seen for at least 3 individual appointments.
 - From the following areas: Central Africa, Afghanistan, Georgia, Tanzania, Myanmar, Thailand, Dem. Republic of Congo, Somalia, Venezuela, Guatemala, Vietnam, and Sudan
- At 12:01 am on 1/27/2025 the suspension of the US Refugee Admissions Program took effect.
 - The Secretary of Homeland Security in consultation with the Secretary of State, every 90 days, will reevaluate if entry of refugees shall resume.

Medical:

- STD testing and treatment occurs at the jail on Wednesday mornings.
- Continuing full STD exams and follow up for SART referrals.
- Continue to see community referrals for Latent Tuberculosis (LTBI).
 - Once again there is a Priftin shortage, which is a required drug for the preferred treatment.
- Civil Surgeon Exams
 - 295 Civil Surgeon exams have been completed since 3/20/2024.
 - Has increased monthly vaccine numbers and patient load in the Immunization Clinic, with all the required pre-exam needs (lab testing, vaccines, mental health screening, etc.).
 - Currently have 139 people who have started the process to get vaccines, labs, etc. and will be scheduled to get an exam once the initial steps are completed.

Immunizations:

- Overall breakdown of vaccines given by month:

NUMBER OF VACCINES GIVEN (PER MONTH)	
	2024
January	440
February	397
March	461
April	414
May	263
June	328
July	528
August	506
September	781
October	777

November	512
December	490
Total	5,899

- 2023 total vaccines 4,788 - largely a result of increased adult vaccines with civil surgeon exams.

Infectious Disease and Case Management Division:

- Received 11 Tuberculosis cases in 2024
 - 7 pulmonary (TB located just in the lungs), 3 extra-pulmonary (TB located outside of the lungs), 1 extra-pulmonary and pulmonary
 - 9 males, 2 females
 - 82% foreign born
 - 27% of cases are resistant to at least 1 drug (6 did not have PZA susceptibility testing due to test kit availability)
- Top Infectious Diseases for 2024 (YTD):

TOP INFECTIOUS DISEASES 2024 (YTD)	
COVID-19	7,060 (confirmed - 3,128, probable - 3,932)
Hepatitis C	189
Latent Tuberculosis	128
Campylobacter	76
Hepatitis B	59
Strep Pneumonia	59
Salmonella	52
Legionella	36
CPO (formerly CP-CRE)	35
Group A Strep	30
Giardia	27

Allen County HIV/STD Surveillance Data for 2024:

ALLEN COUNTY HIV/STD SURVEILLANCE DATA FOR 2023/2024							
Infection	Qtr. 1 Cases	Qtr. 2 Cases	Qtr. 3 Cases	Qtr. 4 Cases	2024 Total Cases	2023 Total Cases	% Change from 2023 to 2024
Chlamydia	523	509	523	537	2092	2414	-13%
Gonorrhea	138	123	144	135	540	780	-31%
Early Syphilis	13	16	13	8	50	71	-30%
Late Latent Syphilis	10	7	7	17	41	57	-28%
HIV	6	5	3	2	16	42	-62%

*Preliminary Numbers for Allen County as of 1/7/2025

STD Division:

- The mobile unit completed the 10-week youth outreach session prior to being winterized in November.
 - Youth participants have nearly doubled since its debut in 2023.
 - Testing for gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, hepatitis, HIV, and pregnancy testing as needed.
- Testing for chlamydia in 2024 yielded a 38% positivity rate.
 - Individuals were treated, provided prevention education, and offered partner follow-up services.

HIV Risk Categories for 2024 HIV Cases: 1st Qtr. - 6, 2nd Qtr. - 5, 3rd Qtr. - 3, 4th Qtr. - 2, Total - 16

RISK CATEGORIES			
Risk	Male	Female	Risk % of Total YTD in 2024
MSM	14	0	88%
IDU/MSM	0	0	0%
Hetero	1	1	12%
Unknown	0	0	0%
Total	15	1	100%

- Currently have one vacant Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) position left to fill.

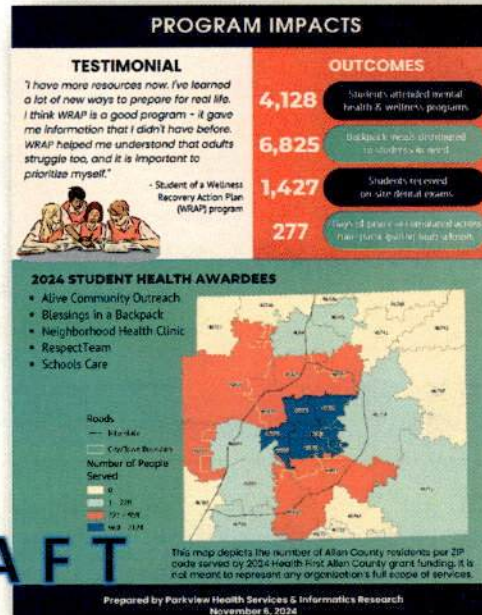
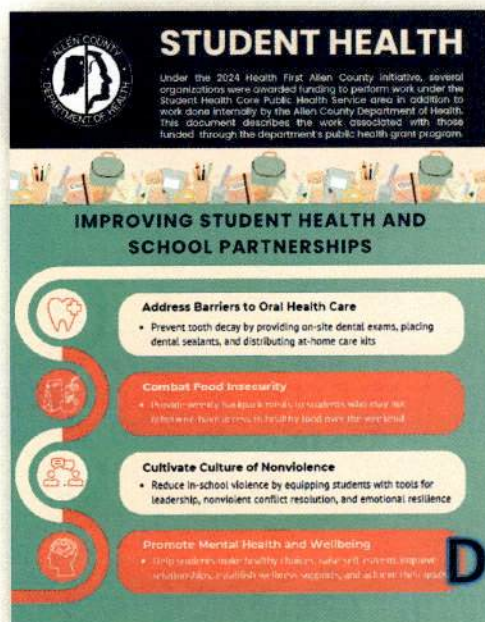
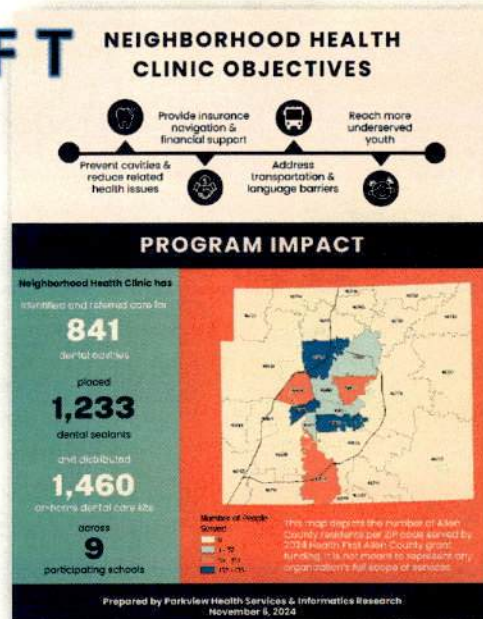
Discussion

- Patti Hays asked why there was a reduction in HIV/STD cases, across the board, from 2023 to 2024.
 - Dr. Menze said it could be because of an increase in prophylactic dosing of medications, pre and post exposure.
- Sara Trovinger asked if a student came to the mobile clinic for pregnancy testing if they must have parental consent. Also, if there is a positive pregnancy test and later the individual were no longer pregnant could there potentially be any issues/repercussions.
 - Dr. Menze said that they do not need parental consent for STD/pregnancy testing.
- Dr. Gutwein clarified Sara Trovinger's question regarding pregnancy. If there is a positive pregnancy test, is this reported anywhere or is there a medical record showing the individual as pregnant?
 - Dr. Menze responded that it would be noted in a medical record.
- Mary Hess commented that the schools love the testing being done and the mobile clinic is not on school property, it is adjacent to it.
- Patti Hays asked if positive pregnancy tests must be reported to the state.
 - Dr. Gutwein responded that they are not reported to the state, it is documented in their medical record.
- Dr. Pond asked why the number of males (9) with TB is higher than females (2).
 - Dr. Menze responded that there are a lot of risk factors such as poorly controlled diabetes.
- Dr. Pond asked about individuals diagnosed with TB being 82% foreign born, if they came into the US with TB or contracted it in the US.
 - Dr. Menze responded that it is both. When refugees come in it is an important conversation to have with those with LTBI regarding the importance of treatment to prevent further complications and the disease becoming active.
- Dr. Pond asked if STD testing is being done on the same patient population as previously.
 - Dr. Menze responded that testing is being done at the same outreach events in 2024 as in 2023.

Administrator's Report - Mindy Waldron

- Health First Allen County Updates - 2024 Summary
 - Received - \$4.65M
 - Expended - \$3.1M
 - Remaining - \$1.5M

- \$465K will be carried over and earmarked under capital for new building (per SB4)
 - Core Public Health Service Work
 - Grant-Funded Work - Partners
 - 29 Funded Projects, \$2.07M Investment, 60,000+ Individuals Served or Services Provided
 - Student services provided through grant-funded projects - 34,848
 - Middle/High School students who received vaping education - 6,500+
 - \$35,108 Investment, 225 Classes, 6,578 Students Educated
 - In-school dental screenings provided - 2,124
 - Medical visits provided to low-income children in their neighborhood - 546
 - Maternal & child health clients served (pre/post-natal care, in-home visits, transport) - 977
 - Individuals in need of specific or continuing clinical care connected, linked or referred - 5,819
 - Internally
 - Students served (tobacco, vaping, stop the bleed, CPR education) or vision screenings + - 6,102
 - Year-long school requests & public events
 - 2,699 educated and/or certified
 - Free AED devices provided to schools - 6
 - Stop the bleed kits provided to schools - 49
 - Referrals to care for mental health, SUD, BMI, blood pressure, cholesterol, or other chronic disease - 3,611
 - Naloxone doses distributed to the public/at-risk offices - 5,354
 - Substance use & harm reduction education services provided - 1,056
 - Tests or screenings provided to clinical patients for care - 21,728
 - This is just a small portion of the work and services provided in this first year of HFI funding. Annual reports (including a Health First Allen County report) will be out in late March.
- Outcomes & Measures
 - Too soon to tell or display anything meaningful regarding actual results or outcomes.
 - Partnered with the Health Services & Informatics Research Group (HSIR) of the Parkview Mirro Center for Research & Innovation to analyze data and begin to track outcomes (among other things).
 - Soon have one-pagers for all 29 awarded entities, as well as one for each of the core public health services in aggregate.
 - Completion date of January 2025, for inclusion in the annual report.





- Health First Allen County Updates - 2025 Summary
 - Received - \$8.98M
 - Budgeted for Expenditures
 - Public Health Grants & Other Projects - \$5.2M
 - Personnel - \$1.4M
 - Equipment & Supplies - \$1M
 - Contractual, Promotional, Health Education - \$150K
 - Earmarked for Future Capital - \$900K
 - Grant Program - Core Areas Awarded
 - Health First Indiana has a total of 22 core public health service areas required to be provided or to ensure they are completed by others in the community. These 8 are the ones we fund externally to supplement our internal work as we cannot do them alone.
 - When the request for proposals for the 2025 grant program were released "mini-grant" opportunities were added, in addition to competitive grants (Prescribed: Fall Prevention & Tobacco Cessation Grants).
 - Submitted Letters of Intent - 51 Organizations
 - Submitted Formal Applications - 44 Organizations
 - Competitive Grants Awarded - 43
 - Mini-Grants Awarded - 5
 - Total Amount Awarded - \$2,911,500
 - Access & Referrals to Clinical Care - 14 Programs (\$815,000)
 - Child & Adult Immunizations - 1 Program (\$200,000)
 - Chronic Health Prevention - 8 Programs (\$444,500)
 - Fatality Review & Prevention - 1 Program (\$63,000)
 - Maternal & Child Health - 5 Programs (\$415,000)
 - School & Student Health - 10 Programs (\$504,000)
 - Tobacco & Vaping Cessation - 2 Programs (\$80,000)

- Trauma & Injury Prevention - 7 Programs (\$390,000)
- What's Next for Health First Allen County
 - Deploying local key performance indicators (KPIs), in addition to all others.
 - Focusing on preventative areas in need of local improvement in certain populations. These KPIs were chosen to supplement the 30+ others we are doing as required.
 - Increasing Childhood Lead Testing
 - Increasing Immunization Rates
 - Decreasing Congenital Syphilis
- Other Department Updates
 - Budgets Approved (Department & HFAC)
 - Watching several pieces of pending legislation (HB 1052, 1330, 1562, 1577, 1602) - Food Trucks, Onsite Septic.
 - Most Importantly - HB 1001 (Health First Indiana - Early Numbers)
 - Original ask was for \$250M but now it is \$100M
 - Based on the ask being lowered future HFI funding will be less, if it remains at the lower ask.
 - When corresponding with legislators please stress the importance of HFI funding.
 - Please let Mindy know if any data is needed to back up the importance of HFI funding.
 - PrimeTime Broadcast
 - January 10th is when the broadcast aired.
 - Focused on a project specific area of HFI but also explained all the money is supporting.
 - Annual reports under development (out by end of March).
 - Discussions are occurring regarding the future new combination building.
- The video/PowerPoint from the recent Health First Allen County grantee event was shown, after the consent agenda was approved.

Discussion

- Patti Hays asked if other funding can be explored to supplement HFI funding.
 - Mindy Waldron said that there are rules about seeking funding to supplement Health Department funding, but it can be done. Most likely it would be through grants.
- Dr. Pond asked about the location of the new building.
 - Mindy Waldron said that the location of the new building (if approved) will be out on Meyer Rd. where the new jail will be built, where Navistar/Harvester was. There is an existing building on the corner of the property that will be renovated. The renovated building would be split between the Allen County Department of Health and another county office.
- Mary Hess asked if the new building is in addition to the clinic.
 - Mindy Waldron said that the new building will house all five existing buildings.
- Dr. Pond asked about the square footage of the new building.
 - Mindy Waldron said that that the square footage would be roughly 70,000-80,000 sq. ft. (for the Dept's portion)
- Dr. Pond asked if the HFI program for Allen County will be sustainable with the amount of funding currently suggested in the state legislature funding proposal for HFI.
 - Mindy Waldron said that we are good with the amounts we are getting and if that was the amount, it would be sufficient each year for the next five years.

Any lower of an amount would be troublesome. Will not know the norm until everything has been deployed to meet the KPIs.

Presentation slides are available upon request.

Personnel Report - Mindy Waldron

- Hired Positions:
 - Kendell Dettmer - Disease Intervention Specialist
 - Amanda King - Public Health Nurse
- Open Positions:
 - Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) - HIV/STD Prevention Division

Consent Agenda

- A motion was made by Dr. Pond to approve the consent agenda. Patti Hays seconded the motion. Motion carried unopposed.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment: 7:04 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: April 21, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas Gutwein, MD
Health Commissioner



William Pond, MD
Board President