

**Allen County Department of Health Minutes**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**July 21, 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, Dr. James Cameron, Candis Deisler, Patti Hays, Deb Lambert, Sara Trovinger, & Kristin Woebeking

Directors Absent: Craig Bolinger, Steven Schimmele

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

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

**New Board Member Introduction:**

- Dr. Pond had Candis Deisler introduce herself. She took the place of Mary Hess who stepped down from the board because of retirement.

**Meeting Reminder Statements from Mindy Waldron:**

- Remember to speak into your microphone and avoid tapping.

**Summary of Motions Passed at this Meeting:**

- A motion was made by Sara Trovinger to approve the April 21, 2025, minutes. Candis Deisler seconded the motion. Motion carried unopposed.
- A motion was made by Sara Trovinger to approve the consent agenda. Deb Lambert seconded the motion. Motion carried unopposed.

**Health Commissioner's Report - Thomas Gutwein, MD**

- West Nile Virus - Mosquito Problem
  - Action is being taken to decrease the mosquito population because of West Nile Virus positive mosquito pools identified in Allen County last week.
  - No human cases in 2025 in Indiana.
  - West Nile Virus is common in mosquitoes and effective ways to control potential breeding sites:
    - Clean/empty clogged gutters.
    - Empty bird baths, flowerpots and other containers with standing water.
    - Cover or recycle un-rimmed tires.
    - Ensure lids to trash and recycling bins fit tightly.
    - Regularly clean swimming pools and/or tightly cover them.
    - Eliminate standing water.
- Uptick in Ticks?
  - Ticks are present in Allen County, Indiana and can transmit diseases such as Lyme disease.
  - The most common species of ticks:
    - American Dog
    - Lone Star
  - Less common species:

- Black-legged (carries Lyme disease)
  - It is important to take precautions against tick bites and the potential transmission of Lyme disease and other illnesses.
- COVID-19 Variant NB.1.8.1
  - First known cases appeared in travelers from China, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand toward the end of April.
  - Now the dominant strain in China, where it is contributing to spikes in emergency room visits and hospitalizations.
  - Symptoms are like those linked to other COVID-19 strains and include sore throat, fever, cough, and fatigue.
  - Genetically equipped with changes that allow it to infect cells more efficiently and could spread more easily among people.
- Current COVID-19 Variants



- Protection Against the New Variants
  - Vaccination can increase the chances of avoiding severe disease.
  - The current vaccine still protects against viruses related to NB.1.8.1.
  - Especially true for people at higher risk such as the elderly and those with weakened immune systems.
- Who Gets COVID-19 Vaccines
  - 65 and older
  - Chronic medical problems
  - Discuss with physician:
    - Pregnant women
    - Kids
  - Anyone else that would like to get the vaccine.
- Indiana’s Infant Mortality Rate
  - In 2024 it dropped to a historic low of 6.3 deaths per 1,000 live births.
  - Represents 16 fewer infant deaths than in 2023 and is the lowest rate in a century.
- “Make Indiana Health Again” Initiative
  - Program launched by Indiana Governor Mike Braun.
  - Goal of improving the health and well-being of Hoosiers.
  - Includes nine executive orders focused on various aspects of health, including nutrition, physical activity, and access to healthcare.
    - Executive Order 25-52: Promoting Long-Term Growth and Flourishing for Hoosiers on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by Workforce Encouragement
      - The FSSA will overhaul its underutilized Employment and Training program to assign all non-exempt SNAP recipients to work requirements.
        - Will affect eligibility for SNAP, can be a health issue.
    - Executive Order 25-53: Increasing State Accountability Through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Asset Verification
      - Reinstates asset testing for SNAP eligibility and limits eligibility to households receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF)-funded cash assistance, work supports, childcare assistance, or

- households participating in TANF-funded work, education, or training programs.
  - Necessary because Indiana may be responsible for \$360 million new dollars for SNAP if the improper payment rate does not decrease to 6% or less.
- Executive Order 25-54: Informing Federal Lawmakers on Enabling Entrepreneurial Administration of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits by the States
  - The FSSA and the State Budget Agency will review federal SNAP statutes and report findings to federal officials by December 31, 2025, advocating for more state flexibility.
    - Opportunity to provide different benefits structured differently to help promote self-sufficiency. Providing each state to make individual rules for SNAP.
- Executive Order 25-55: Making Indiana Healthy Again by Enhancing Nutrition in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
  - Taxpayers fund SNAP with an intention of helping lower income Americans meet healthy nutrition requirements.
    - The Family and Social Services Administration will apply for a waiver to exclude candy and soft drinks from SNAP eligible products.
      - Will also recommend additional items to be removed from the SNAP eligible list commonly understood to have low nutritional value and a positive correlation with weight gain and obesity and obesity-related diseases such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and hypertension.
- Executive Order 25-56: Making Indiana Healthy Again by Increasing Consumer Transparency Related to Food Dyes and Additives
  - The Indiana Department of Health will conduct a comprehensive assessment on the health impacts of artificial food dyes and additives, prioritizing those which have been identified by the federal government or other states to be harmful. Recommendations for state action will be made to the Governor.
- Executive Order 25-57: Making Indiana Healthy Again by Developing a Comprehensive Diet-Related Chronic Disease Plan
  - Will analyze the current state of obesity and diet-related chronic disease in Indiana, existing state programs related to physical activity, nutrition, and chronic disease management, the budgets of those programs and how effective they are at reducing the incidence of chronic disease, and opportunities to improve these programs to get better return-on-investment, fill gaps in services, and reduce regulatory barriers.
    - Useful to develop a statewide plan to improve chronic disease, one that has been worked on locally here with HFI/Health First Allen County projects to better recognize high blood pressure, diabetes, and obesity and work to get people involved in better lifestyles and better management of chronic medical conditions.
- Executive Order 25-58: Making Indiana Health Again by Increasing Hoosier Access to Local Foods

- The Indiana State Department of Agriculture will conduct a comprehensive study related to Hoosiers' access to local foods and direct-to-consumer food sales from Hoosier farmers.
  - The purpose of the study is to identify opportunities to increase local direct-to-consumer sales and identify ways that the state is getting in the way.
- Executive Order 25-59: Making Indiana Healthy Again by Promoting the Health and Wellness of Hoosier Students
  - Establishes the Governor's Fitness Test, with a reward program for students who demonstrate excellent performance on the fitness test. It also establishes School Fitness Month with recommended activities and lessons that may be incorporated into the school day to increase students' physical activity and health awareness.
- Executive Order 25-60: Assuring Prudent Use of Taxpayer Funds by Ensuring Integrity in the Indiana Medicaid Program.
  - The FSSA must stop accepting self-attested eligibility, enforce hospital performance standards for presumptive eligibility, and use interagency data to identify ineligible recipients and initiate redeterminations.
    - This turns into a health care issue, where those needing care may not be able to afford care. This is an opportunity to spend money where it needs to be spent, not wasted, and if properly administered, would be beneficial to all, allowing those that need health care to receive funding to get health care.

Discussion

- Patti Hays asked if Alpha-Gal Syndrome was being tracked in Indiana, the disease transmitted by ticks that triggers an allergic reaction to red meat.
  - Dr. Gutwein said that the tick that carries the enzyme that causes Alpha-Gal Syndrome is the Lone Star tick. While we have these ticks in Indiana there have not been any reports of Alpha-Gal Syndrome in Indiana, that we are aware of.
- Patti Hays inquired if the payment to the federal government for improper payments for SNAP benefits would have to be made all at once:
  - Dr. Gutwein replied that he is unsure of the timeline for payment. They will look at 2026 numbers to determine the amount owed, if any, to the federal government.
- Patti Hays asked what amount will be allocated to develop the diet-related chronic disease plan.
  - Dr. Gutwein responded that he will research this and find the answer.
- Dr. Pond asked about Texas banning Skittles and Doritos because of the dyes.
  - Dr. Gutwein replied that he had heard about that happening.

Presentation slides are available upon request.

**Medical Director's Report - Anna Menze, MD**

**Refugee Health:**

- 55 refugees have been received so far this year.
  - No refugees have arrived since January 27, 2025.
  - From the following areas: Myanmar (30), Venezuela (13), Afghanistan (6), Nicaragua (4), and Congo (2).

**Medical:**

- Continue to see community referrals for Latent Tuberculosis (LTBI).

- There is a Priftin shortage again, so there is not a 12-week treatment option.
- Civil Surgeon Exams
  - 401 Civil Surgeon exams have been completed since 1/5/2025.
  - 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.).

**Immunizations:**

- Overall breakdown of vaccines given by month:

<b>NUMBER OF VACCINES GIVEN (PER MONTH)</b>		
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>January</b>	440	637
<b>February</b>	397	523
<b>March</b>	461	638
<b>April</b>	414	605
<b>May</b>	263	518
<b>June</b>	328	455
<b>July</b>	528	
<b>August</b>	506	
<b>September</b>	781	
<b>October</b>	777	
<b>November</b>	512	
<b>December</b>	490	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,899</b>	<b>3,376</b>

- 2023 total vaccines 4,788
- 47 people were vaccinated this quarter at the bi-weekly onsite visits to the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission, Charis House, and St. Joseph's Women's Mission.
- Vaccinations by type (YTD):

<b>VACCINATIONS BY TYPE (YTD)</b>			
<b>IPV</b>	501	<b>Meningitis B</b>	27
<b>COVID-19</b>	421	<b>MMR/Varicella (Proquad)</b>	22
<b>TDAP</b>	421	<b>DTAP/IPV/Hib/Hep B</b>	16
<b>Varicella</b>	411	<b>Rabies</b>	16
<b>Flu</b>	358	<b>Herpes Zoster (Shingrix)</b>	14
<b>Adult Hep B</b>	300	<b>Pediatric Hep B</b>	11
<b>MMR</b>	278	<b>Rotavirus</b>	11
<b>HPV</b>	103	<b>DTAP/IPV/HIB (Pentacel)</b>	10
<b>Pediatric Hep A</b>	96	<b>DTAP/IPV (Kinrix)</b>	9
<b>Adult Hep A</b>	61	<b>HIB</b>	8
<b>MCV4</b>	61	<b>DTAP/IPV/Hep B (Pediatrix)</b>	6
<b>Hep A/Hep B (Twinrix)</b>	59	<b>PPSV23</b>	4
<b>Typhoid</b>	58	<b>RSV</b>	2
<b>PCV15</b>	56	<b>PVC20</b>	1
<b>DTAP</b>	35	<b>Mpox</b>	0

**Infectious Disease and Case Management Division:**

- Received 6 Tuberculosis cases so far in 2025.

- Continue to treat 1 case from 2024.
- 4 pulmonary (TB located just in the lungs) & 2 extra-pulmonary (TB located outside of the lungs)
- 3 males, 3 females
- 100% foreign born
- No resistance found at this time (1 pending case)
- Top Infectious Diseases for 2025 (as of 7/15/2025):

TOP INFECTIOUS DISEASES AS OF 7/15/2025	
<b>COVID-19</b>	2,458 (confirmed - 1,040, probable - 1,418)
<b>Latent Tuberculosis</b>	118
<b>Hepatitis C</b>	89
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	36
<b>Campylobacter</b>	34
<b>Influenza-associated death</b>	25
<b>Salmonella</b>	25
<b>Strep Pneumonia</b>	18
<b>CPO (Carbapenemase-Producing Organisms)</b>	12
<b>Histoplasmosis</b>	11

- HIV/STD Surveillance Data for 2025 Quarter 2:

ALLEN COUNTY HIV/STD SURVEILLANCE DATA FOR 2025 QUARTER 2						
Infection	Qtr. 1 Cases	Qtr. 2 Cases	Qtr. 3 Cases	Qtr. 4 Cases	2024 Total Cases	2023 Total Cases
Chlamydia	490	495			2092	2414
Gonorrhea	96	79			540	780
Early Syphilis	13	11			50	71
Late Latent Syphilis	10	11			41	57
HIV	6	6			16	42

\*Preliminary Numbers for Allen County as of 7/8/2025

- Comparison of 2025, 2024, and 2023 first 6 months of the year.

COMPARISON OF 2025, 2024, AND 2023 FIRST 6 MONTHS OF THE YEAR				
	2023	2024	2025	% Change from 2024/Q1&2 to 2025/Q1&2
Chlamydia	1258	1032	985	-5%
Gonorrhea	379	261	175	-33%
Early Syphilis	27	30	24	-20%
Late Latent Syphilis	28	22	21	-5%
HIV	13	13	12	-8%

**HIV/STD Prevention Division:**

- The mobile unit youth outreach completed the six week spring session in May, before school closed for the summer. There was a combined +GC/+CT rate of 75% during the spring session.
- Special outreach events this quarter: National HIV Testing Day. Part of a national testing effort through a collaborative project with Walgreens and Greater Than AIDS. 17 tests were done during the event.

- The Congenital Syphilis posters and brochures were completed and distributed to prenatal providers to encourage testing and syphilis screening three times during pregnancy (first visit, 28 weeks, at birth). Materials available in both English and Spanish. Outreach continues to be underway.

Discussion

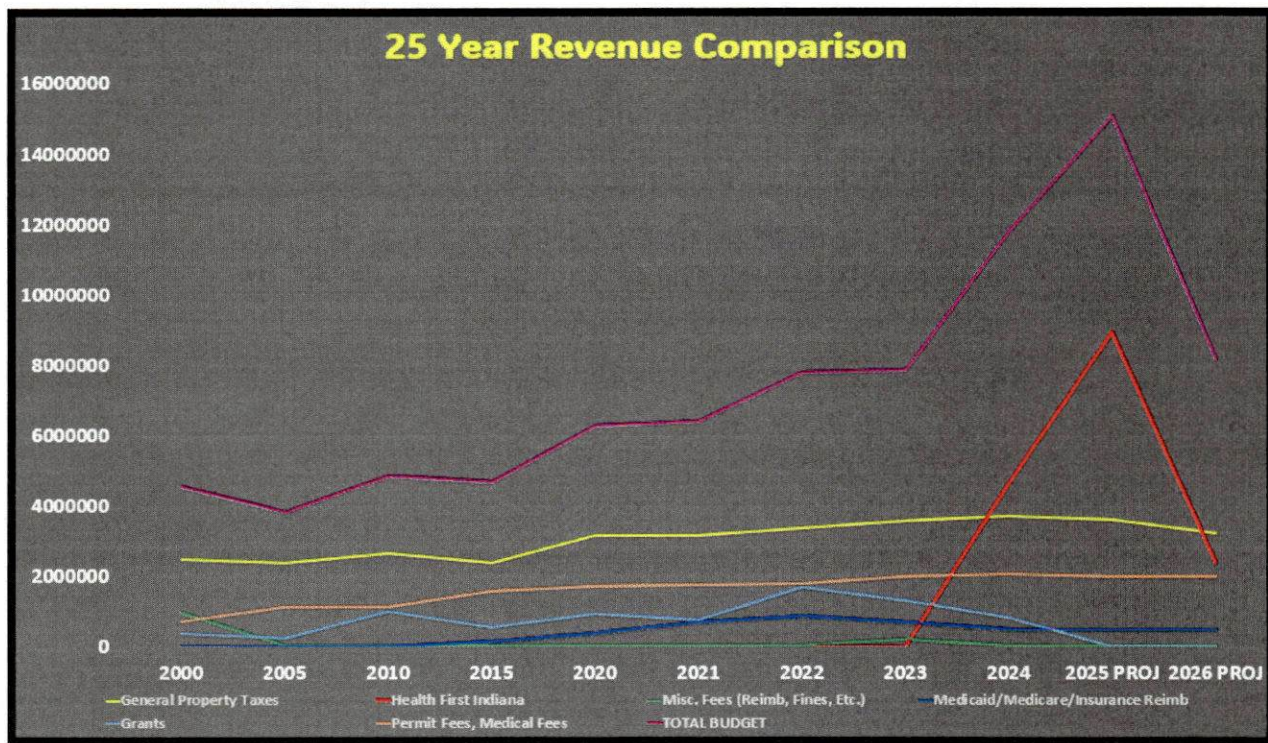
- Dr. Pond asked about the decrease in sexually transmitted diseases, if this is due to sampling or have incidences lowered.
  - Dr. Anna Menze said that visits have remained fairly stable, so the numbers decreasing are due to testing, treatment, and contact investigations.

See meeting supplements for full details.

Administrator’s Report - Mindy Waldron

- Health First Allen County Updates
  - The 2026-2027 Budget Bill (HB 1001)
    - Eliminated tobacco cessation/education as a public health core service area (effective 6/30/2025).
      - This means HFI funds cannot be used for tobacco cessation/education activities.
        - HFAC grantees who were funded for this purpose were informed, and if it was their sole service, the grant had to be rescinded effective 6/30/2025.
      - The focus internally is on vaping education, but those educational services were redirected to student health funding for clarity.
      - The tobacco tax implemented does not appear to be directed toward public health at this time.
    - Precluded use of Health First Indiana (HFI) funding to provide services to anyone who is not a legal Indiana resident or in the United States legally (effective April 2025).
      - Meaning funds cannot be spent on services for individuals unless they are:
        - An Indiana resident; and
        - Residing in the US legally (such as on a non-expired work visa or other viable temporary allowance if not a US citizen).
      - HFI grantees were notified as this affected anyone funded and their use of the money.
      - Small changes were made to certain internal services to comply as we serve all to protect all...regardless.
    - Reduced the public health funding amount for the whole state from \$150 million/year to \$40 million/year.
      - Nearly a 75% cut to the 2025 HFI budget amount.

<b>HFI FUNDING 2024-2026</b>			
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
<b>Allen County</b>	\$4.6 Million	\$8.6 Million	\$2.4 Million
<b>State of Indiana</b>	\$75 Million	\$150 Million	\$40 Million



- All newer internal programming is being assessed as to which are kept and which are eliminated.
- All staffing positions have been preserved.
- Will continue progress on all 30+ IDOH KPI's and with the newer local KPI's/goals developed in 2025.
  - Prevention of Congenital Syphilis
  - Increased Childhood Lead Testing/Referrals/Case Management
  - Increasing Childhood Immunization Rates
- Health First Grant Program Changes
  - No request for proposals will be released.
  - No LOI's or applications will be sought.
  - All current 2025 grants will cease on 12/31/2025.
  - Only a very few organizations will be asked to continue as funded partners at this time for 2026.
    - Must directly align with a core public health service, affect a large cohort or very specifically defined and in-need population or chronic issue, and have incredibly robust data and impact already in place.
  - All current grantees have been informed of the cuts/changes.
  - Will publicly announce the 2026 funded partners in the fall 2025.
- Continuing With
  - Grantee site visits to many new 2025 granted organizations.
  - Discerning what programming and funded partnerships will be extended into 2026.
  - Development of required local budgets (July/August) and state budget (was due 6/1/2025).
- New Building/Site
  - Will not be among the departments moving to the Meyer road site.
    - Commissioners would prefer to keep the site as a criminal justice location for various "like" departments.
  - Begun the search for a new site.

- Once found the design process engaged in over the past 6 months will restart.
- What's Up Around the Department
  - Clinical Services Division
    - Working with daycare facilities to provide onsite immunizations and lead testing.
      - Successfully completed 1 visit and have 2 more daycares scheduled.
  - Communications Division
    - Summer is "Get out, see and be seen" season.
      - Matt LeBlanc (Communications Director) and other DOH colleagues have staffed about 10 public education/health fair/testing events so far this year.
        - Next Up: Fort Wayne's Open Streets and the Hogworks Takeover event at Electric Works.
  - Environmental Services Division
    - Tick awareness campaign with the Fort Wayne and Allen County Parks & the Trails.
      - 15 signs were installed with proper protection steps for ticks in 15 city parks and signs were delivered to 13 county parks for posting.
    - Lead campaign with University of St. Francis (USF)
      - Partnered with USF chemistry students for a lead awareness campaign in the 46808 zip code. Educated the students, and from there, the students created a website for the campaign, canvassed neighborhoods and offered services (childhood lead testing, and free paint testing) and more.
        - Canvassed 150 homes and tested 8 homes.

#### Discussion

- Patti Hays asked Mindy to define core public health services.
  - Mindy Waldron said that grantees are required to be aligned with one of the eight (seven now) core public health services that are not covered internally.
- Patti Hays inquired if the department is lead testing every child at the daycare outreach events or if they are looking for kids with developmental issues.
  - Mindy Waldron said that testing is done based on age. Medicaid recipients with small children are required to have their kids tested at a certain age for lead.
- Sara Trovinger asked if lead was a big problem or a small problem in Allen County.
  - Mindy Waldron said that there are a lot of issues in houses built pre 1978 before lead was banned. On average there are roughly 100 kids being treated for lead poisoning.
  - Dr. Menze said that lead numbers in the community are underestimated because of barriers to testing. On average roughly 20% of children have been tested for lead poisoning by the time they turn one.
- Patti Hays inquired what sort of barriers there are to lead testing.
  - Dr. Menze said that if it was just a cheek swab instead of a finger stick more testing would be done.
  - Mindy Waldron said that there is an increase in outreach to educate the community about lead because most do not know the potential harm that is caused.
- Dr. Pond inquired about how many people are affected by the new law stating that HFI funds can only be used for Indiana residents and those in the US legally.

- Mindy Waldron said that it affects school programming, nonprofit services, and medical. So, roughly 10% or less are affected, depending on the service. As for the overall number, that is unknown.
- Sara Trovinger asked if this hinders our ability to do contact tracing.
  - Mindy Waldron said that it does not affect this.

Presentation slides are available upon request.

**Personnel Report - Mindy Waldron**

- Hired Positions:
  - Eilidh Drummond - Disease Intervention Specialist
  - Sarah Jacobs - Health Educator
  - Genesis Perez - Public Health Nurse
  - Madelyn Springer - Environmental Health Specialist (Food Division)
- Open Positions:
  - Administrative Assistant – Environmental Services

**Consent Agenda**

- A motion was made by Sara Trovinger to approve the consent agenda. Deb Lambert seconded the motion. Motion carried unopposed.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

Motion to adjourn was made by Sara Trovinger and seconded by Candis Deisler. Motion carried unopposed.

Adjournment: 6:49 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: October 20, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas Gutwein, MD  
Health Commissioner



William Pond, MD  
Board President