



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Governor's Public Health Commission

Governance, Services, and
Infrastructure: Proposed
Recommendations

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Overall Goals

- Ensure consistent delivery of public health services across Indiana
- Promote collaboration and increased technical assistance
- Modernize structure of public health
- Enhance engagement with local community partners and elected officials
- Encourage sharing of expertise and skilled professionals
- Promote culture of continuous quality improvement

Draft Recommendations

1. Establish baseline service standards modelled after Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) framework.
2. Expand IDOH resources for local health departments (LHDs) and interlocal collaboration.
3. Assist LHDs to engage local partners to promote public health in the community.
4. Update Local Health Boards (LHB) appointments to reflect current public health workforce and key community representation.

Draft Recommendations *(cont'd)*

5. Ensure policy supports sharing of resources between LHDs.
6. Create moratorium on additional municipal LHDs.
7. Expand personnel eligible to serve as a Local Health Officer.
8. Provide financial and technical assistance to LHDs pursuing accreditation or reaccreditation.

Define the Basic Level of Public Health Services

Draft Recommendation 1.

Establish baseline service standards modelled after Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) framework.

Possible action items:

- A. Define required services with stakeholder engagement.
- B. Provide technical assistance to LHDs to support implementation and shared resources.

Public Health Service Delivery System Changes

Draft Recommendation 2.

Expand IDOH resources to support LHDs and interlocal collaboration.

Possible action items:

- A. Provide staff and resources to support LHDs in a district with epidemiology, data analytics, legal analysis, communications, grant writing, and other functions as necessary.
- B. Encourage partnerships among LHDs for key service areas (e.g., TB, STIs, Lead).

Improve Local Partnerships with Public Health

Draft Recommendation 3.

Assist LHDs to engage local partners to promote public health in the community.

Possible action items:

- A. Provide LHDs with guidance and best practices on how to create, convene, and sustain strategic relationships.
- B. Sustain partnerships and collaborations developed during the pandemic.
- C. Partner to promote the importance and value of local public health.

Modernize Local Health Boards

Draft Recommendation 4:

Update Local Health Boards (LHB) appointments to reflect current public health workforce and key community representation.

Possible action items:

- A. Increase representation from key municipalities and deepen coordination with local government.
- B. Allow the appointment of masters-trained public health professionals to LHBs.

Support Local Health Department Shared Resources

Draft Recommendation 5.

Ensure policy supports sharing of resources or consolidation of LHDs if desired by local partners.

Proposed action items:

- A. Ensure that the creation of a multi-county LHD does not result in lower overall funding for the combined entity.
- B. IDOH will provide technical assistance for requesting counties considering LHD consolidation including legal consultation, model ordinance language, and a toolkit with other recommendations and guidance.
- C. For counties choosing to form a multiple county LHD, amend the statute to require that the resulting multiple county LHD maintain at least one physical office in each component county that, at a minimum, offers consumer-accessed services, such as vital records and immunizations.

Organize Public Health at County Level or Above

Draft Recommendation 6.

Create moratorium on additional municipal LHDs.

Possible action items:

- A. Amend or repeal IC 16-20-4-5 as needed to grandfather current municipal LHDs but prohibit the creation of new ones.
- B. Each of the three grandfathered municipal LHDs be required to enter into an annual memorandum of understanding (MOU) with their respective county LHD that, at a minimum, addresses planned services, funding, and data sharing to support the delivery of basic services throughout the county.
- C. IDOH funding of municipal LHDs is conditional on IDOH approval of the annual MOUs between each municipal LHD and the corresponding county LHD.

Expanding the Pool of Persons Eligible to Serve as a Local Health Officer

Draft Recommendation 7.

Expand personnel eligible to serve as a Local Health Officer.

Potential action items:

- A. Allow individuals who are APRNs or PAs with formal public health training to serve as local health officers.
- B. Ensure physician oversight from the local health board or a neighboring county to perform the required clinical supervision under current scope of practice.
- C. Ensure APRNs or PAs functioning as LHOs can issue standing orders related to their office.

Promote Culture of Continuous Quality Improvement

Draft Recommendation 8.

Provide financial and technical assistance to LHDs pursuing accreditation or reaccreditation

Potential action items:

- A. Provide technical assistance to LHDs pursuing accreditation.
- B. Assist with funding to defray the costs of LHDs pursuing accreditation or reaccreditation.