

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EXECUTIVE BOARD
November 12, 2025

The in-person and virtual (Microsoft Teams) meeting of the Executive Board of the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) was called to order at 10:32 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:

Stephen Tharp, MD (Chair)
Brenda Goff, HFA
Robin Marks, DVM, JD
Joanne Martin, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Holly Robinson, MD
Suellen Sorensen, PharmD, BCPS
Armando Soto Rojas, DDS
Dan Cutshaw, PE (virtual)
Matthew Sprunger, MD (virtual)
Troy Weirick, MD (virtual)

Board members not in attendance:

Rex McKinney, FACHE
Amelia Clark, DrPH, MA
Lindsay Weaver, MD, FACEP (Secretary)

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

Jon Ferguson, Chief Operating Officer
Dr. Guy Crowder, Chief Medical Officer
Eldon Whetstone, Assistant Commissioner, Health and Human Services
Megan Lytle, Assistant Commissioner, Public Health Protection
Jessica Krug, Assistant Commissioner, Consumer Services & Health Care Regulation
Christina Samuels, Strategic Resources / Weights and Measures
Mike Mettler, Director, Environmental Public Health
David McCormick, Director, Immunizations
Paul Krievins, Director, Lead and Healthy Homes
Eric Hawkins, State Epidemiologist
Anir Aiykhanova, Chronic Disease, Primary Care & Rural Health
Kelly MacKinnon, JD, Chief Legal Counsel
Ava Hassell, Governor's Fellow

Guests:

Dr. Matt Nordland, Medical Resident
Dr. Luke Brennan, Medical Resident

Call to Order

Dr. Stephen Tharp, Chair, stated that a quorum was present. He then called the meeting to order at 10:32 am. He asked if Board members had any known conflicts of interest to declare. Hearing none he asked Jon Ferguson to read the Open Door Law statement, then proceeded with the meeting.

Minutes

Dr. Tharp asked for discussion and/or corrections to the minutes of the July 9, 2025 Executive Board meeting. Hearing none, he entertained a motion for approval. On a motion made by Brenda Goff, seconded by Joanne Martin and passed by majority roll call vote of in-person and virtual attendees, the Board approved the minutes as presented.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Secretary's Report

Jon reported that the IDOH furloughed some employees who were federally funded due to the federal government shutdown.

The Certificate of Public Advantage (COPA) hospital merger of Union Health and Terre Haute Regional has been approved.

Jon also provided an update on the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP): GROW: Cultivating Hoosier Health. Indiana applied for \$1 billion through a collaborative effort led by the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) and the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH). Indiana proposed 12 GROW initiatives (11 statewide and 1 regional level) to improve health in rural areas:

- 1) Growing Care Coordination: Medical Operations Coordination Center (MOCC) and Alternate Payment Model Feasibility Study
- 2) Growing Community Connections through Indiana 211
- 3) Growing Improved Patient Outcomes through Enhanced Interoperability and Technology
- 4) Growing Pediatric & Obstetric Readiness in Rural Emergency Departments
- 5) Growing Cardiometabolic Health Standards of Care in Rural Indiana
- 6) Growing Access to Hospital Post-Discharge Medications
- 7) Growing Specialty through Expanded Teleconsult Capabilities
- 8) Growing Telehealth Access and Infrastructure
- 9) Growing our Rural Health Paraprofessional Workforce
- 10) Growing Clinical Training and Readiness
- 11) Growing our Rural Behavioral Health Workforce
- 12) Make Rural Indiana Healthy Again Regional Grants

Public Health Protection Commission

Residential Onsite Sewage System Rule 410 IAC 6-8.3 for Discussion

Megan Lytle, Assistant Commissioner for Public Health Protection presented the Residential Onsite Sewage System Rule 410 IAC 6-8.3 for discussion. During the 2025 legislative session, the Indiana General Assembly passed HEA 1052 which requires the IDOH to, among other things, update its residential onsite sewage system rules by July 1, 2026. The Technical Review Panel, which is tasked with consulting the IDOH on onsite sewage system rule updates, has provided input on this proposed rule and approved it to be submitted for review by the Office of Management and Budget. This proposed rule:

- Updates the rule in accordance with statutory changes made since the last rule revision
- Includes new and updated definitions for clarity and consistency
- Updates matters incorporated by reference to the current version of the standards
- Provides minimum standards for inspections of residential onsite sewage systems when an existing system is being connected/reconnected or when a local health department must use its best judgment to approve a system that does not meet the requirements of the rule
- Replaces repetitive sections with defined terms for clarity
- Requires all residential onsite sewage system installers to register with the local health departments where they install systems and allows local health departments to certify installers
- Sets sewage holding tank requirements to clarify IC 16-41-25-9
- Addresses high strength waste which can contribute to system failures
- Allows alternate onsite sewage system sizing for tiny homes and recreational vehicles
- Matters currently addressed by local ordinances are established in rule to create a more uniform regulatory scheme throughout the state
- Other changes to help ensure the onsite sewage systems are properly installed

The IDOH is currently working with the Office of Management and Budget to get approval to proceed with rulemaking.

Dr. Tharp asked for discussion and/or comments from the Board, staff or public. Dr. Robin Marks asked if there are high strength waste failures in homes and Mike Mettler stated that some homes, not just commercial systems, do produce high strength waste. Suellyn Sorensen asked about the cost to homeowners. Kelly MacKinnon stated the fiscal impact is approximately \$1.7 million cumulative, but generally the individual impact will not be high.

All Rule Readoptions

Kelly MacKinnon, Chief Legal Counsel, stated that following readoption by the Executive Board, a notice of readoption will be filed with the *Indiana Register*, and the rules will not expire on January 1, 2026. The rules will continue in effect for another five years or until amended or repealed.

Public Health Protection Commission (continued)

Megan Lytle, Assistant Commissioner for Public Health Protection presented the following rules for re-adoption:

Rule Readoptions:

- Immunization of School Children Public Health Protection 410 IAC 1-1
- Radon 410 IAC 5.1
- Public and Semi-Public Pools 410 IAC 6-2.1
- Mobile Home Community Sanitation and Safety 410 IAC 6-6
- Agricultural Labor Camp Sanitation and Safety 410 IAC 6-9
- Sanitation of Bed and Breakfast Establishments 410 IAC 7-15.5
- Artificial Insemination 410 IAC 25
- Reporting, Monitoring, and Preventative Procedures for an Elevated Blood Lead Level 410 IAC 29
- Inspection and Cleanup of Property Contaminated with Chemicals Used in the Illegal Manufacture of a Controlled Substance 410 IAC 38

Dr. Tharp asked for discussion and/or comments from the Board, staff or public. Hearing none he stated all rules will be voted on at the end of all the rule re-adoption presentations.

Women, Children & Families Commission

Eldon Whetstone, Assistant Commissioner for Health and Human Services, on behalf of Eden Bezy, Assistant Commissioner for Women, Children & Families Commission, presented the following rules for re-adoption:

Rule Readoptions:

- Children with Special Health Care Needs 410 IAC 3.2
- Perinatal Hospital Services 410 IAC 39

Dr. Tharp asked for discussion and/or comments from the Board, staff or public. Kristi Linson, Director, Children's Special Health Care Services, added that under Rule 410 IAC 3.2 only specific conditions are covered and is a payor of last resort. Hearing no other discussion, Dr. Tharp stated all rules will be voted on at the end of all the rule re-adoption presentations.

Health and Human Services Commission

Eldon Whetstone, Assistant Commissioner for Health and Human Services presented the following rules for re-adoption:

Rule Readoptions:

- State Cancer Registry 410 IAC 21-1
- State Trauma Registry 410 IAC 34

Dr. Tharp asked for discussion and/or comments from the Board, staff or public. Ainur Aiyapkhanova, Chronic Disease, Primary Care and Rural Health Division, added that they work closely with Vital Records on cancer deaths. Hearing no other discussion, Dr. Tharp stated all rules will be voted on at the end of all the rule readoption presentations.

Consumer Services & Health Care Regulation Commission

Jessica Krug, Assistant Commissioner for Consumer Services & Health Care Regulation presented the following rules for readoption:

Rule Readoptions:

- Infectious Waste 410 IAC 1-3
- Radiological Health 410 IAC 5
- Commercial Weighing and Measuring Devices 410 IAC 12-1
- Motor Fuel 410 IAC 12.1
- Sanitary Bedding 410 IAC 13
- Health Facilities; Licensing and Operational Standards 410 IAC 16.2
- Disposition of Aborted Remains 410 IAC 35

Dr. Tharp asked for discussion and/or comments from the Board, staff or public. Joanne Martin asked if the IDOH Radiology Division has the equipment to assess the composition of historic "gold standard" weights stored at Weights and Measures. Christina Samuels will research this and provide a response to Joanne. Hearing no other discussion, Dr. Tharp stated all rules will be voted on at the end of all the rule readoption presentations.

Epidemiology

Eric Hawkins, Assistant Commissioner and State Epidemiologist, presented the following rules for readoption:

Rule Readoptions:

- Disease Reporting and Control 410 IAC 1-2.5
- Universal Precautions 410 IAC 1-4

Dr. Tharp asked for discussion and/or comments from the Board, staff or public. Hearing none he stated all rules will be voted on at the end of all the rule readoption presentations.

Dr. Tharp entertained a motion for approval of all presented rule readoptions. On a motion made by Brenda Goff, seconded by Dr. Holly Robinson and passed by majority roll call vote of in-person and virtual attendees, the Board approved all presented rules for readoption.

Distribution

Dr. Tharp thanked staff for the professional new hire and separation reports, summary of final orders and the list of 2026 Board meeting dates.

Adjournment

Dr. Tharp stated that Dr. Robin Marks and Joanne Martin were transitioning off the Board and thanked them for their service. He then 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 11:30 am. The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2026, at the IDOH building.