

Welcome

Good afternoon! The all-staff meeting will start in a few minutes.

Please be sure to submit your questions in the Q&A feature or email them to publicaffairs@health.in.gov. We will reserve time at the end of the presentation.

Have ideas for future topics? Please send them to Erin McCreadie (emccreadie@health.in.gov).

Cookies, Brownies and Bars - Oh My! Bake-off

Own Your Impact



Connect – Learn
– Grow



Come enjoy this annual favorite event
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7, in Adams
Auditorium. Watch email for details.

Connect – Learn - Grow

Cookies, Brownies
and Bars



Own Your Impact



Come to Adams Auditorium from 10 a.m.
to noon on Thursday, Sept. 24, to hear
about the work of other IDOH divisions.

Own Your Impact

Connect –
Learn - Grow



Cookies, Brownies
and Bars



Understand how your daily work contributes to broader public health outcomes and agency goals, 1-2 p.m. Thursday, July 30, in 5T.



Indiana
Department
of
Health

ALL-STAFF MEETING

DR. LINDSAY WEAVER, STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

DR. EMILY FITZ, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

KATIE HUGHES, CHIEF DATA OFFICER

EDEN BEZY, DEPUTY HEALTH COMMISSIONER

KEVIN EVANS, FSSA IN211 DIVISION DIRECTOR

NAIMA GARDNER, WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AC

JESSICA KRUG, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HEALTHCARE
REGULATION AC

NICOLE STONE, EPIDEMIOLOGIST DIRECTOR

ABBEY HUMMEL, CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION
COORDINATOR

CAROL TORRES, DIRECTOR OF DATA GOVERNANCE &
BUSINESS OPERATIONS

July 15, 2026

Agenda

- Opening Remarks
- Agency Updates and Reminders
- Staff Accomplishments
- Rural Health Transformation Program
- Obesity Strategic Plan Overview
- Agency Pillar: People & Culture
- Epi Update
- The More You Know
- Staff Spotlight
- Q&A





Agency Updates



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Meet the CMO: Dr. Emily Fitz!

- CMO Clinical Health
- Dr. Fitz has over a decade of clinical experience as an emergency physician
- She obtained her medical degree from the University of Missouri, then subsequently completed both her emergency medicine residency and disaster medicine fellowship at Indiana University
- She has practiced in multiple states, has extensive experience in rural medicine, and has served as an EMS medical director.
- She has been active in advocating for Hoosier patients as the former president of INACEP and as a former member of the Trauma Care Commission
- Dr. Fitz works at Eskenazi Health
- She and her husband have six children



Agency Clinical Support

- Dr. Yazel, CMO, Public Health Practice:
 - Public Health Services
 - Health & Human Services
- Dr. Fitz, CMO, Clinical Health:
 - Vital Records
 - Consumer Services & Health Care Regulation
 - IDOH Laboratory
 - Epidemiology
 - Women, Children and Families

Welcome to Katie Hughes!

- Chief Data Officer (CDO) in Office of Data & Analytics (ODA)
- 9 years at PCORI advancing national patient-centered data and research infrastructure
- 3 years in insurance leading enterprise data and AI governance
- 2 years in consulting, including helping launch IDOH's data governance program
- Indy Hackers Board of Directors, AnalytiXIN Responsible AI Community of Practice Founding Member, Women & Hi Tech, Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentor
- Mom to a fun and energetic 8-year-old
- Enjoy dance lessons with my husband, hiking with my dog, reading, and getting hyped for the World Cup finals



Staff Accomplishments

- Sarah Fenney presented on the obstetric care gap and won an award at the Indiana Geographic Information Council for her poster highlighting emerging professional research on the topic
- George Worley, Chemist 2 in the Radiochemistry lab, successfully completed a Masters in Public Health
- Avery Thomas, AIM Data & Programming Coordinator in MCH, graduated from IU Bloomington with her Masters in Public Health
- Ainur Aiypkhanova and Taylor Eisele from Chronic Disease gave two amazing presentations at the annual North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) conference
- Congrats to the Viral Hepatitis Division for participating in R Studio training courses!
- Courtney Schaber, Jeremy Roseberry, Jeremy Davis, Erika Chapman, Sarah Pruitt, Grace Hicks, MaKayla Waugh, Lola Sample, Joseph Fenton, Amanda Hathaway all passed the Certified in Disease Intervention exam

Staff Accomplishments

Congratulations to all
Leaders at All Levels
Silver Course graduates!



Welcome New Team Members and Congrats

Please congratulate the following promoted team members:

Lucas Norrington — State program director, Office of Performance Excellence

Matthew Teeters — Chemist, Laboratories

Judith Magaldi — Industrial hygienist, Environmental Public Health

Shaleen Johnson — Assistant director, Vital Records

Please welcome the following new staff members and transfers:

Christian Carner—Microbiologist, Environmental Microbiology
Dr. Emily Fitz—Chief medical officer (Clinical Health), Office of the Commissioner

Jessica Lickey—Microbiologist, Environmental Microbiology

Eli Storey—Microbiologist, Advanced Molecular Division

Daniel Schlenk—Administrative assistant, Home and Community-Based Care

Danielle Parchure—Microbiologist, Clinical Microbiology

Vandana Bhatia—Applied systems analyst, Technology and Cybersecurity

Tracy Truex—Public health nurse surveyor, Long-term Care

Taylor Eck—Public health nurse consultant, Trauma and Injury Prevention

General Updates

Admin Services:

- For meetings, interviews, or guests visiting the building, you can send the information to the shared front desk email so the Admin Services team knows where to send people or who to call when they arrive
 - IDOH2NFrontDesk@health.in.gov
- To reach the whole admin team, please email adminservices@health.in.gov

HR:

- Annual Workplace Violence and Workplace Harassment Prevention training launched on July 8. All state employees and contractors are required to complete this by August 7. You've all been enrolled and can find this in your SuccessFactors To Do list

OPA:

- We have updated the [PowerPoint template](#) on The Nerve Center, so please download a new version for your next presentation
- We have also updated the letterhead, so please download the [new version](#)

Shield Spotlight

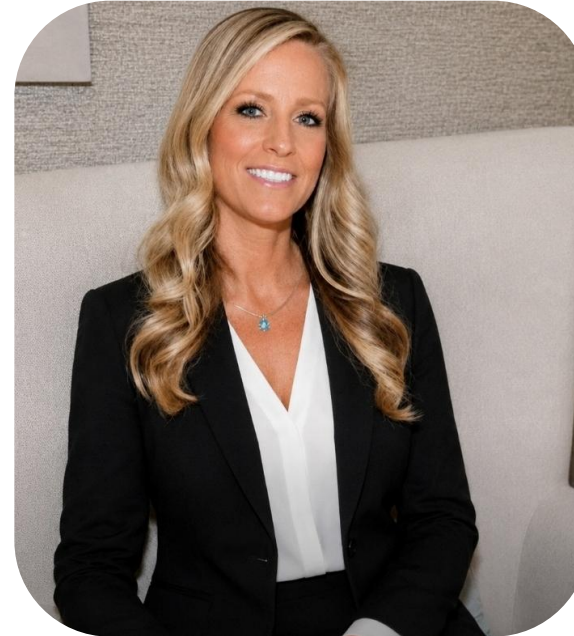
Scan to
nominate:



Samantha Amaral

Food Protection Division
Customer Service Award

"Samantha has worked tirelessly to bring the manufactured foods program into full conformance with all ten FDA regulatory program standards—an achievement that places our program among the strongest and most respected in the country. Her leadership and attention to detail have elevated our operations and strengthened our credibility both statewide and nationally."



Mindy Dixon

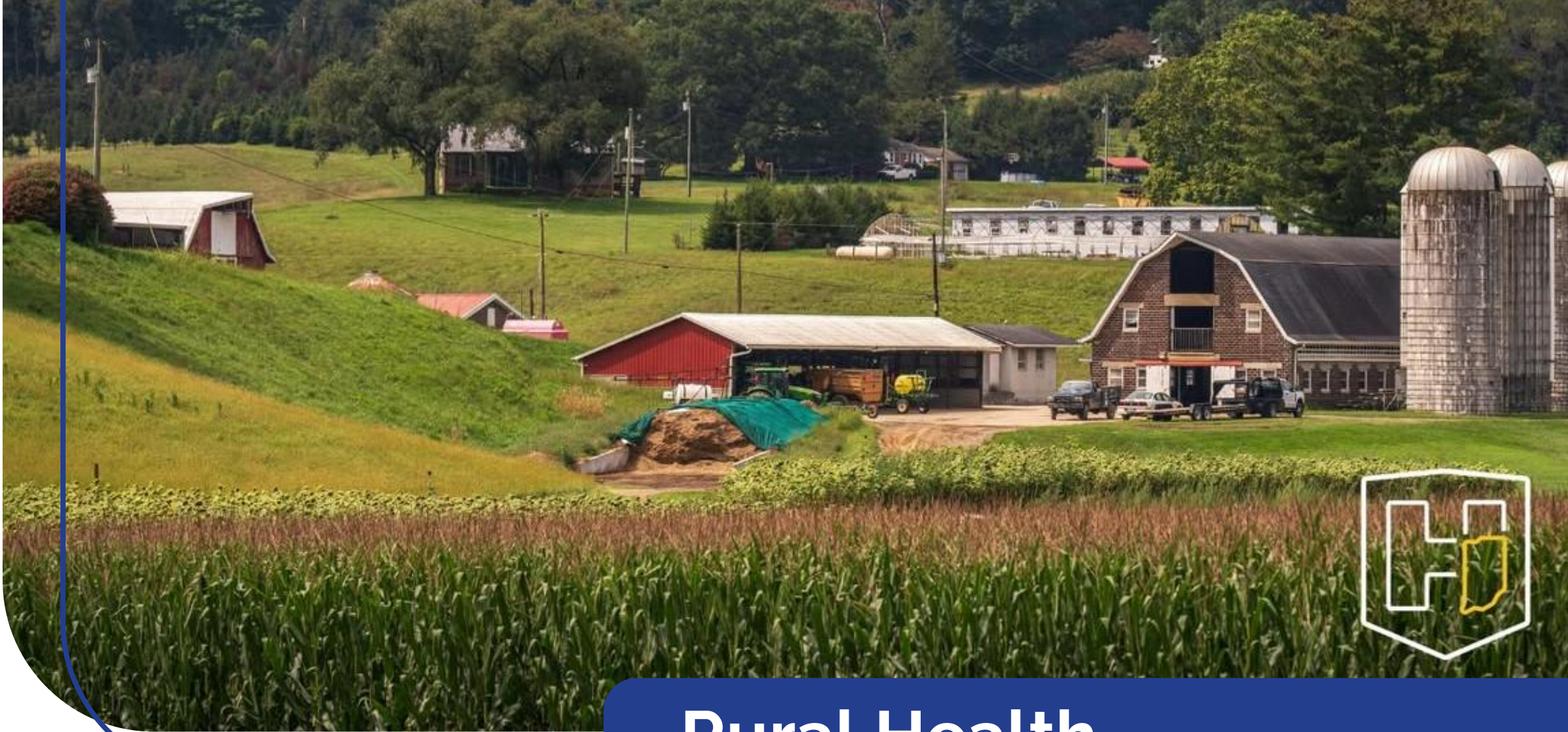
Local Health
Services/Immunization
Division
Team Player Award

"Mindy has been a great team player in the Immunization division. She has offered extra trainings to providers and new staff that go above and beyond what is expected of her. For example, Mindy volunteered to assist with the Yellow Fever Certification that another team member was assigned. She is very generous with her time and is always willing to assist other team members."

Eden's Africa Visit



- **Tiered Structure:** Care is organized from community-level units up to national referral hospitals, ensuring clear referral pathways
- **Strong Community Health Platform:** Community health volunteers provide household-level prevention, early detection, and health education
- **Primary Care Focus:** Expanding primary care networks (PCNs) aim to ensure everyone lives within 5 km of a health facility
- **Devolved Governance:** County governments manage most health services, allowing local tailoring of priorities and delivery
- **Mixed Public–Private System:** Public facilities form the backbone, complemented by private and faith-based providers that fill gaps
- **Universal Health Coverage Reforms:** Kenya is rolling out a national insurance overhaul (SHIF/SHA) to reduce out-of-pocket costs and improve access
- **Key Challenges:** Resource constraints, workforce shortages, uneven distribution of facilities, and variability in service quality across counties

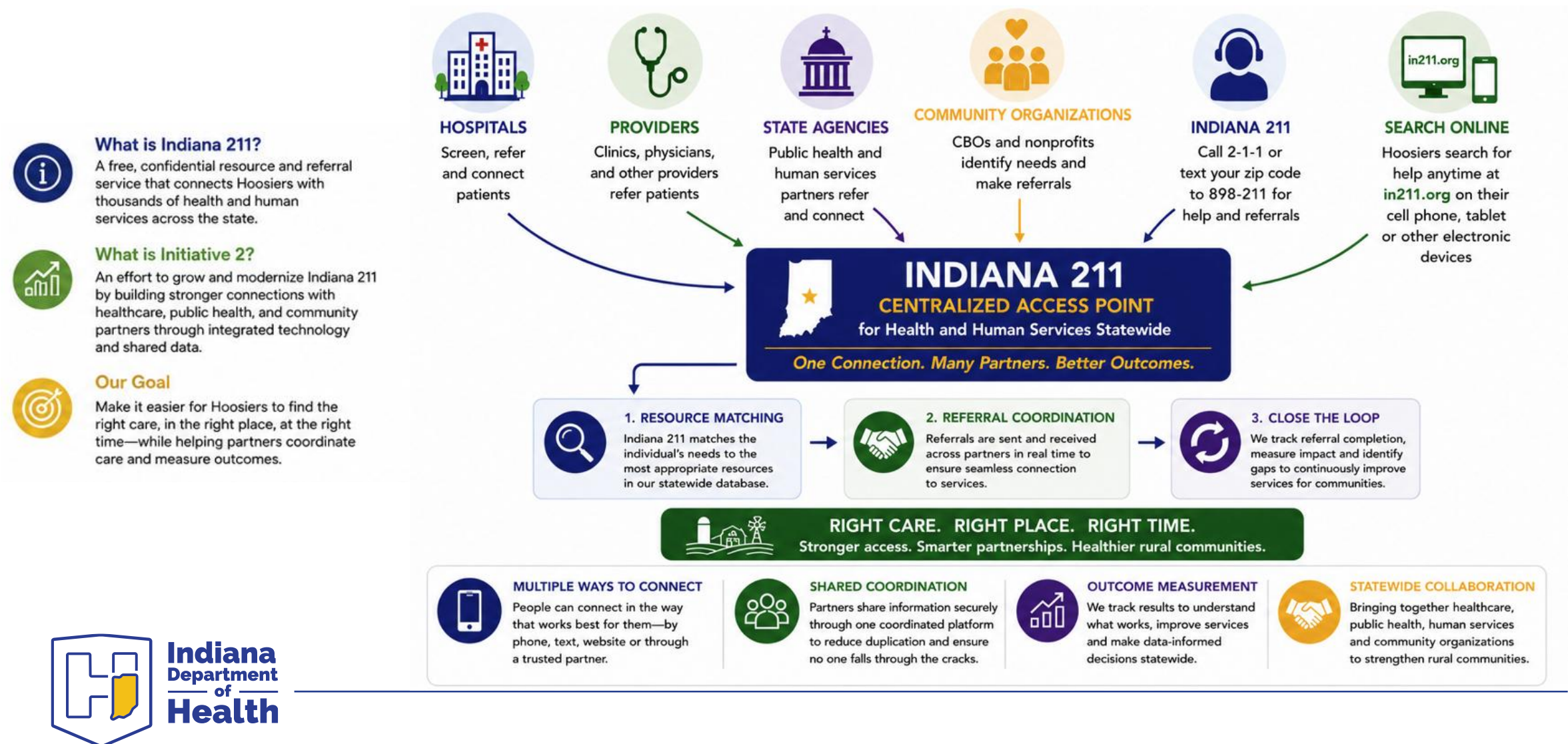


Rural Health Transformation



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Initiative 2: Growing Community Connections Through Indiana 211



Initiative 2 Update



1. Provider Engagement

- Outreach with healthcare systems and community organizations statewide
- Needs assessments and feedback are ongoing



2. Technology Strategy

- Integration pathways identified for EMR and non-EMR partners
- Platform and data strategy defined



3. Solution Framework

- Business and technical requirements completed
- Reporting and outcome measurement approach established



4. Implementation Planning

- Phased implementation approach in development
- Pilot opportunities identified with early partners



2026

Plan & Pilot

- Complete planning and partner onboarding
- Launch non-EMR referral connections
- Pilot new workflows and reporting



Late 2026

Expand Connections

- Grow partner network
- Enhance platform capabilities
- Strengthen reporting and dashboards



**2027 and Beyond
Statewide Impact**

- EMR integrations
- Increased statewide adoption
- Deeper insights and outcomes



Improving lives and strengthening communities across Indiana through **Right Care. Right Place. Right Time.**



**Indiana
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Indiana Obesity & Diet-Related Chronic Disease Plan



Indiana
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Executive Order 25-57

- Directs IDOH to develop a comprehensive statewide plan to address obesity and diet-related chronic disease, with a special focus on children's health
- Requires a study of Indiana's current programs, funding, and outcomes to identify service gaps, measure effectiveness, and improve return on investment
- Establishes the foundation for a unified, long-term strategy



Plan Process

- The **Current State Assessment**, which was generated from stakeholder engagement, population health data, program inventories, funding reviews, and comparative research, helped identify regional differences, system gaps, implementation barriers, and opportunities for coordinated statewide action
- **Stakeholders** from healthcare, public health, education, employers, payers, food access and agriculture, community-based organizations, and clinical practice contributed throughout the process
- A **Project Advisory Committee** provided strategic guidance, reviewed findings, validated themes, and ensured alignment with statewide priorities



Identified Stakeholder Themes

During fall 2025, stakeholders across Indiana shared detailed insights about the barriers, opportunities, and community contexts shaping obesity and diet-related chronic disease. The themes shown here synthesize these conversations into six cross-cutting areas that surfaced consistently across regions and sectors.

1. Multiple, interconnected barriers shape food access and nutrition choices

2. Primary prevention in early childhood and schools is inconsistent and underfunded

3. Fragmented navigation, coordination & referral pathways limit access

4. Workforce capacity & training gaps constrain effective prevention and treatment

5. Policy & payment structures create barriers to prevention, access & integration

6. Data systems are siloed, incomplete & insufficient for decision-making

Together, these themes highlight critical gaps, reinforce the importance of early-life and school-based prevention, and illustrate how siloed systems, policy structures, and resource constraints limit sustained population-level impact.

Vision & Impact

Indiana's Obesity and Diet-Related Chronic Disease Plan

Helping Hoosiers Live Longer, Healthier Lives

We envision a future for Indiana where every Hoosier can access nourishing food, active communities, early prevention, and comprehensive care to support longer, healthier lives.

These **10-year impact goals** translate Indiana's vision into measurable progress toward longer, healthier lives for Hoosiers. **By 2035**, the plan aims to reduce obesity and diet-related chronic disease, strengthen prevention, and improve health outcomes across communities statewide.



Reduce adult obesity rate
from 44% to 38%



Reduce youth obesity
rate from 25% to 21%



Reduce adult type 2
diabetes prevalence from
13% to 8%

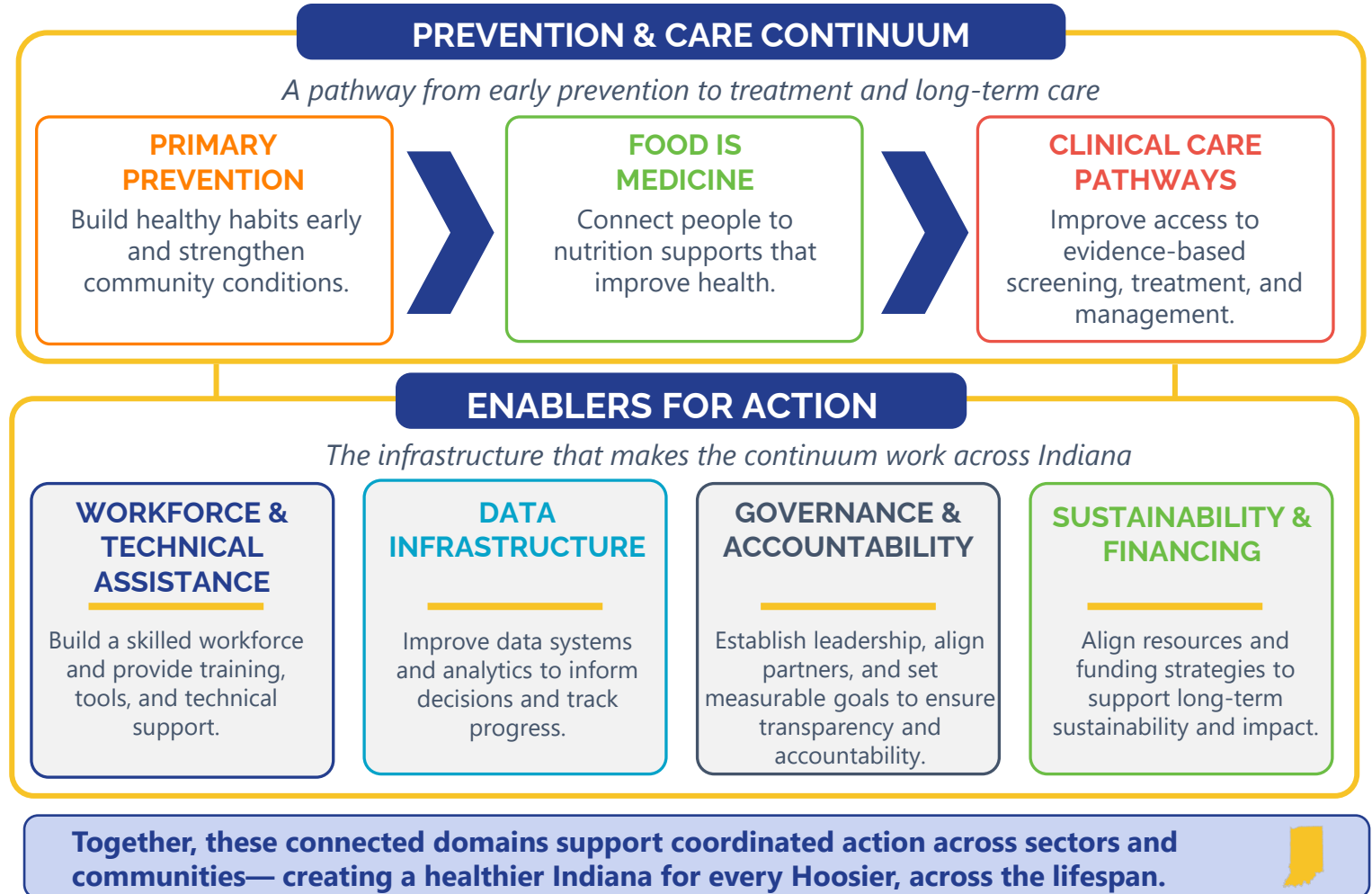


Reduce heart disease
mortality from 180 to
160 per 100,000 residents

Plan Framework

To accomplish the ambitious goals of this 10-year plan, IDOH has created a strategic framework for implementation of core objectives and strategies.

The framework is organized in two connected domains: the **Prevention and Care Continuum**, which represents the direct interventions that improve health outcomes, and the **Enablers for Action**, which represent the infrastructure and systems needed to support and sustain implementation statewide.



Implementation and Next Steps

10-Year Build Strategy

During Years 1–3, the focus will be on establishing the foundational elements needed to support implementation, including governance structures, statewide coordination, partner engagement, and early-readiness activities.

During Years 4–7, efforts will include expanding adoption of evidence-based interventions, strengthening data systems and reporting capabilities, increasing coordination across sectors, and advancing key initiatives such as Food Is Medicine and chronic disease care pathways.

During Years 8–10, Indiana will assess the impact of implemented strategies, refine priorities based on lessons learned, strengthen successful programs, and develop recommendations that inform the next generation of statewide obesity and chronic disease prevention efforts.





Agency Pillars



Indiana
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People & Culture

Pillar Leadership

- **Executive Sponsor**

- Jessica Krug

- **Lead**

- Jessica Ganote

- **Assistant Leads**

- Pat McQueen
- Elise Yates (OPA)

Consulting Members

- Building & Lobby Logistics & EP
 - Pat Brown
- HR
 - Danielle Diaz
- Performance Excellence
 - Quentin Cummins

Members

- Marcia Jordan (Returning)
- Kelsey Large (Returning)
- Andrew Derry (Returning)
- Shere Brooks (Returning)
- Tasha Ramey (Returning)
- Jennifer Vanat
- Patricia McQueen
- Carine Olinde
- Aishwarya Kunam
- Barbie Martin
- Jan Kulik
- Maria Cariaso
- Kathryn Mudica

Divisions Represented

- Acute Care
- Home & Community Based Care
- Laboratory
- Women, Infant, & Children
- Lead & Healthy Homes
- Performance Excellence
- Trauma & Injury Prevention
- Tobacco Prevention & Cessation
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing
- STD, HIV, & Viral Hep.
- Emergency Preparedness
- Human Resources
- Grants Administration

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location
July 16	SECC Craft Event Fundraiser	Ryan White Conference Room noon-2 p.m.
Aug. 7	Cookies, Brownies, and Bars-Oh My	Adams Auditorium 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sept. 24	Connect-Learn-Grow	Adams Auditorium 10 a.m.-noon
Oct. 30	Halloween Costume Contest	Photo Submissions Online
Dec. 11	Floor Decorating Costume Contest	Judging on Dec. 11
Dec. 11	Holiday Party	Adams Auditorium 11 a.m.-3 p.m.



Epi Update



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Increase in Cyclosporiasis Cases in Indiana

IDOH has identified an increase in reported cyclosporiasis cases in Indiana.

274 reported statewide cases since May 1, 2026*

No confirmed sources for cases in Indiana have been identified at this time. We are working with federal partners and other states on investigating potential sources.

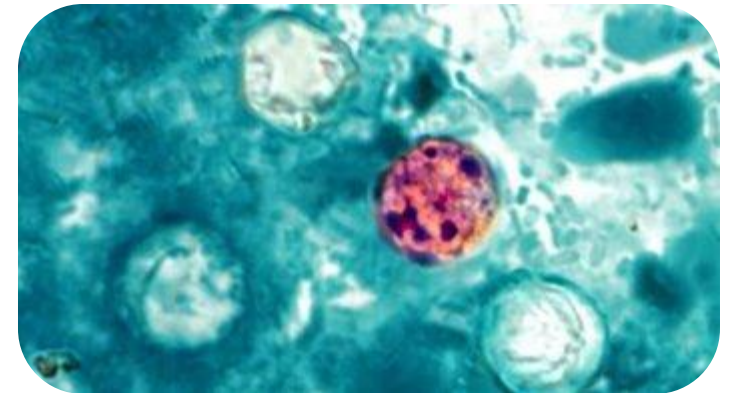
Previous outbreaks of cyclosporiasis in the United States have been linked to

- Bagged salad mixes and kits
- Fresh herbs such as cilantro and basil
- Raspberries
- Green onions and other fresh produce

Symptoms start about one week after consuming food or water contaminated with *Cyclospora*, although the incubation period ranges from two days to two weeks.

Prolonged watery diarrhea is the most common symptom that may be accompanied by:

- Loss of appetite or weight loss
- Abdominal cramping or bloating
- Fatigue
- Low-grade fever
- Increased gas



Testing & Treatment

Testing

Consider cyclosporiasis in patients who have prolonged or relapsing diarrheal illness, especially in patients with:

- Recent international travel, particularly to tropical or subtropical regions
- Consumption of fresh produce (including leafy greens, herbs, berries or other uncooked fruits and vegetables)
- Exposure to a known outbreak source of cyclosporiasis

Providers should specifically request testing for *Cyclospora* when ordering testing. The lab should [report positive test results](#) to IDOH within one working day.

Treatment

The recommended treatment for cyclosporiasis is Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX) (sold as Bactrim, Septra, or Cotrim):

- Adults: TMP 160 mg plus SMX 800 mg (one double strength tablet), orally, twice a day, for 7 – 10 days.
- Pediatric patients ≥ 2 months to 18 years: 8 – 10 mg/kg TMP and 40 – 50 mg/kg SMX per day, orally, in 2 divided doses for 7 – 10 days.
- Patients infected with HIV may need longer courses of therapy

Most people with healthy immune systems will recover without treatment.

Prevention Tips

Cyclosporiasis prevention practices:

- Cook when you can. Heating food to 158°F (70°C) or higher kills *Cyclospora*
- Peel produce. Peeling is highly effective for food items with removable skin as the parasite sits on the outer surface
 - Wash all fresh produce under clean running water, even if you plan to peel it
 - “Pre-washed” does not guarantee safety and rewashing bagged lettuce is unlikely to remove cyclospora

Additional food safety reminders:

- Wash hands with soap and water before and after handling or preparing food
- Scrub firm fruits and vegetables, such as melons and cucumbers, with a clean produce brush
- Cut away any damaged or bruised areas on fruits and vegetables before preparing and eating
- Refrigerate cut, peeled or cooked fruits and vegetables as soon as possible



IDOH Enteric Team

Epidemiology

Caitlin Shaw, Enteric Epidemiologist II
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Madi Asbell, Senior Enteric Epidemiologist
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Brandon Halleck, Enteric Epidemiologist II
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Jenna Nicodemus, Enteric Epidemiologist I
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Brandon Collins, Enteric Epidemiologist I
BraCollins@health.in.gov, 317-464-7897

Nicole Stone, Epidemiology Director
NStone2@health.in.gov, 317-234-2898



The More You Know: Summer Safety Series



Indiana
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Heatstroke

- Heatstroke is a condition caused by the body overheating and typically occurs as a result of exposure to high temperatures or physical activity in high temperatures for too long
- Heatstroke occurs when the body's temperature rises to 104 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- A person experiencing a heatstroke needs immediate emergency care. If not treated immediately, it can cause brain damage, organ failure, or death.
- Heatstroke is most common in the summer months especially with humid weather present
- It can happen to anyone, but some people are at greater risk:
 - Infants and young children
 - Older adults (65+)
 - Pregnant women
 - People working outdoors
 - People/athletes exercising or practicing in the heat
 - Pets

Signs and Symptoms

- Body temperature of 104 degrees F or higher is the main sign of heatstroke
- Confusion, slurred speech, or unusual behavior
- Hot, red, dry or damp skin
- Rapid heartbeat
- Severe headache
- Dizziness, nausea or vomiting
- Loss of consciousness or seizures
- If someone is showing signs of heat stroke, **call 911 immediately**
 - Move the person to a cool, shaded area or indoors
 - Remove excess clothing
 - Cool them with cold water, wet towels, or ice pack on the neck, armpit or groin
 - Avoid giving them fluids if they are unconscious or confused

Preventing Heatstroke

- Drink plenty of water before you feel thirsty
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing
- Limit outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day
- Take frequent breaks in the shade or air-conditioned spaces
- Use sunscreen to prevent sunburn, which can make it harder for your body to cool itself
- Remember, cars heat up dangerously fast. The temperature inside a vehicle can reach over 100 degrees Fahrenheit within 20 minutes.
- Never leave children or pets unattended in a vehicle

Cooling stations are available throughout the state to provide temporary relief from the hot weather conditions.

Visit the Indiana 211 website to find locations near you:
<https://in211.communityos.org/extreme-weather>



Staff Spotlight



Indiana
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Get to Know Me

Carol Torres, Director of Data Governance & Business Operations

CAREER JOURNEY

- Nursing and case management
- Then insurance & project management
- State of Indiana since 2015 — Indiana Network of Knowledge (INK), IOT, MPH, IDOH

ALWAYS EXPLORING

- 15 countries & territories visited
- All but 6 U.S. states — Alaska is next
- Live-music, camping, fishing lover
- Anything outdoors

HOME & HEARTH

- Cat mom to Ernest Hemingway & Wyatt Earp
- LOVE to cook (writing my own cookbook)
- Growing herbs & vegetables at home

FAMILY FIRST

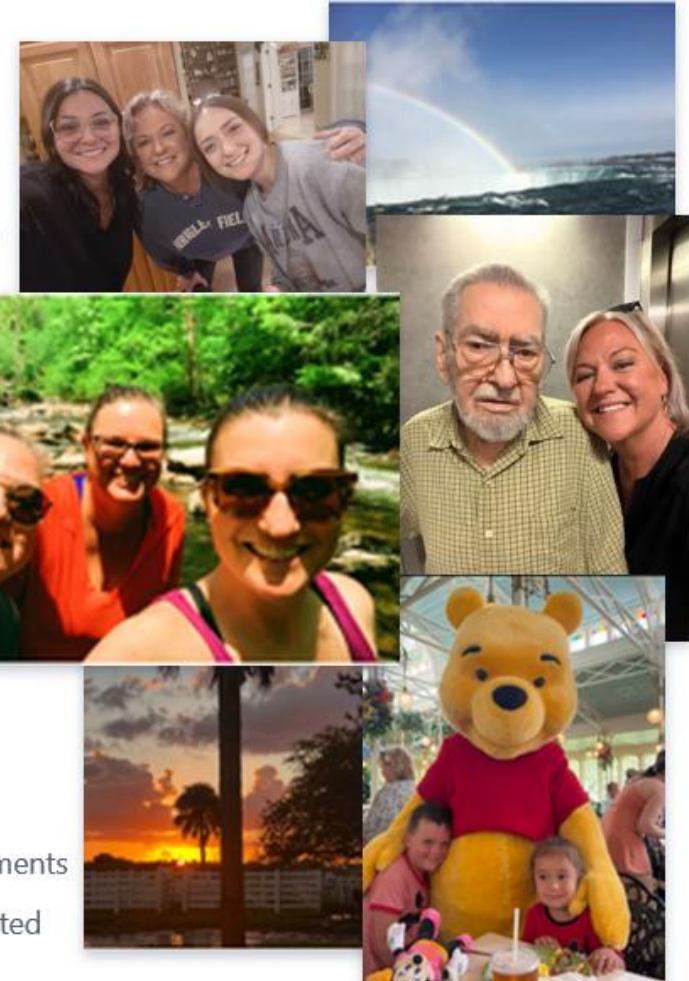
- Mom of one, guardian to two nieces
- Grandma to four grandkids
- Especially close with my 95-year-old grandpa

CREATIVE & CURIOUS

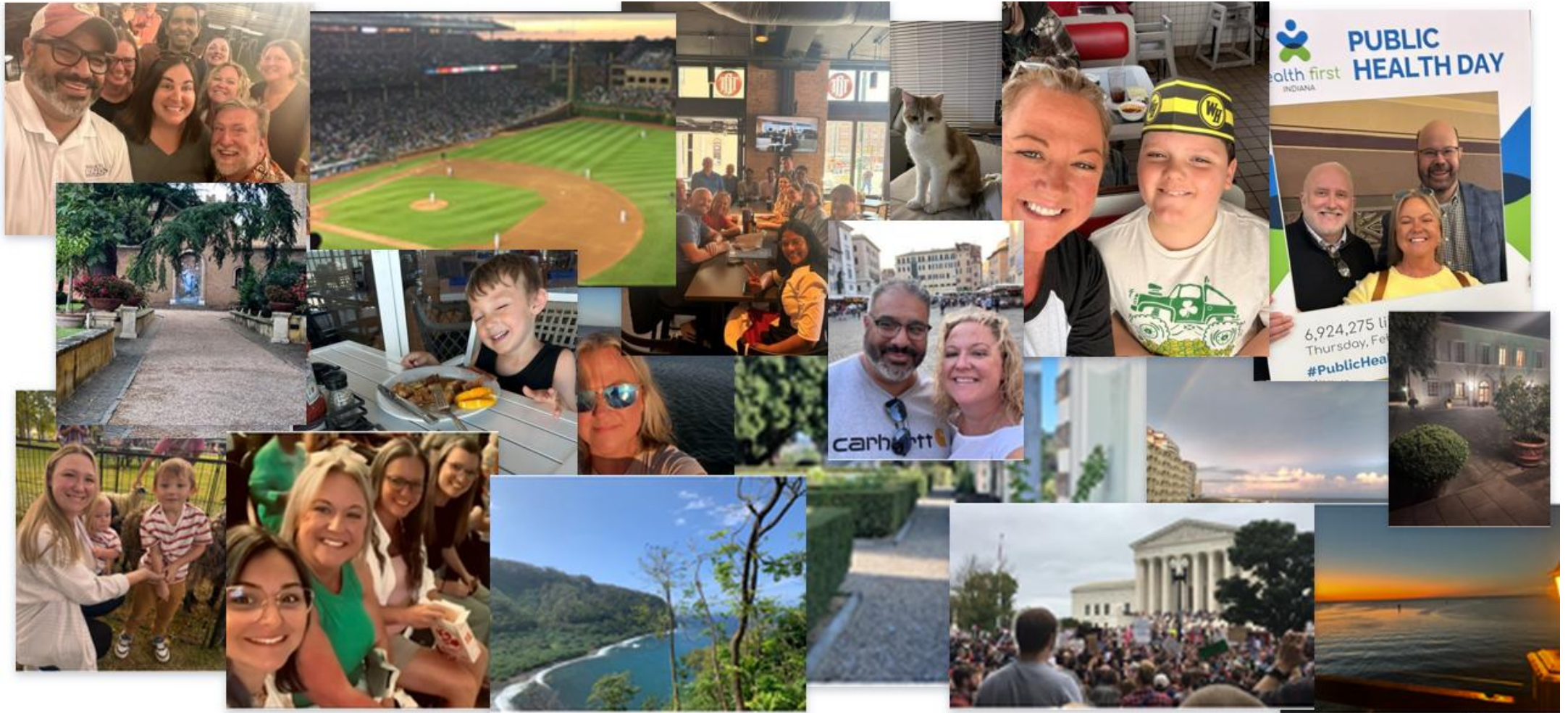
- Learning German
- Painting, drawing, and playing chess
- Solving Rubik's cubes
- Piano, guitar & clarinet

HOW I SHOW UP

- I'm an extrovert
- I love people — and learning their stories
- I love humor and bringing it to everyday moments
- I like to keep things fresh and a little unexpected



Snapshots along the way



Quiz

**What is the date of the Connect
– Learn – Grow People and
Culture event?**

The 12th person to email the correct
answer to publicaffairs@health.in.gov
wins a **\$15 gift card!**



Questions & Answers

Please submit your questions
in the Q&A box or email them to
publicaffairs@health.in.gov.

Next All-Staff Meeting

Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2-3 p.m.

