

AUGUST 2017

PULSE

A look at what keeps ISDH ticking

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FUN FACT

A cupcake contains about 250 to 300 calories. It takes about 30 minutes of moderate exercise to burn off one cupcake, according to Health.com.



**Indiana State
Department of Health**

Mission:

*To promote and provide
essential public health services*

A HEARTFELT 'THANK YOU' TO AN AMAZING TEAM

When I took on the role as Indiana's State Health Commissioner in October 2014, I couldn't have imagined the journey we've all traveled the last two years and ten months. I barely knew where my office was when we were thrust into Ebola, MERS and then the largest HIV outbreak in rural America.

In each of those circumstances, I was honored to serve with a team that rose to the occasion with one goal in mind: to protect the health of all Hoosiers, regardless of their age, race, gender or where they live. That's an admirable mission that often goes unheralded, yet our team of nearly 800 people comes to work each day with that goal in mind. I have been proud to serve this agency and the people of Indiana, and I encourage you all to take the same pride in what you do each and every day.

Many of you have heard me talk about the importance of "riding the wave." Sometimes, that means seizing the political momentum to get something done that promotes improvements to public health. In my case right now, it means a new opportunity to serve not just as Indiana's doctor, but as the



Dr. Adams

nation's doctor. The U.S. Senate has afforded me that opportunity by confirming my nomination as U.S. Surgeon General.

This is an honor that my family and I are still trying to grasp, and it's one that I truly believe wouldn't have been possible without the work we've done together here at ISDH. We've been thrust into situations no one could have predicted and have not only survived, but have emerged as a national example of how to get it right. People want to know how we built a response from scratch in Scott County that not only halted the spread of HIV but also resulted in more than 70 percent of those who were infected being virally suppressed. They want to learn more about our efforts to attack the opioid epidemic and help East Chicago increase blood lead testing at a Superfund site. We regularly get calls from other states eager to hear about how we responded to outbreaks of mumps and other diseases.

As I prepare to hang up my health commissioner's hat (or

bow tie, in my case) and pass the baton, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your enthusiasm and passion for helping the people of Indiana. My success is a reflection of yours, and the Indiana story is one I plan to continue to share from my new position. I urge you to keep fighting the good fight – whether it's to reduce smoking and infant mortality, prevent disease, improve our obesity rates or stop drug overdoses. The list of challenges is long, but I know you are up to the task.

Indiana has a proud tradition of overcoming the odds and doing the right thing, and ISDH is a shining example of that. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for a job well done.

Things are moving at a whirlwind pace right now. As my last day at ISDH rapidly approaches, I can assure you that discussions are underway about finding a new health commissioner, as well as plans for the interim should I leave before a new commissioner has been named. More details will be coming on those fronts, but I am confident that this agency – and all Hoosiers – will be in good hands.



SENDOFF FOR DR. ADAMS BEING PLANNED

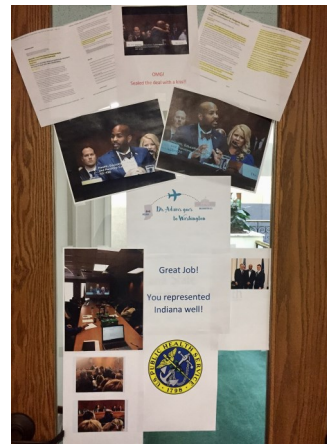
Dr. Adams' confirmation as the 20th U.S. Surgeon General means his departure from ISDH is imminent. While we're sad to see him go, we are exceptionally proud of all he's done for the agency and for the people of Indiana. We can't let him leave without a proper sendoff — and perhaps a bit of a roast.

We are scheduling a reception for Dr. Adams in Rice Auditorium. The current plan is to gather from 1 to 4 p.m. on August 28, though that may change if the timing of his departure changes. It's not too early to start digging out those Dr. Adams stories, bow ties and fancy socks in his honor!

In the meantime, check out some of the pictures from his confirmation hearing — including the former ISDH leaders who traveled to Washington to support him.



Dr. Adams gets a hug from daughter Millie at the start of his confirmation hearing, above. At right, with Sen. Joe Donnelly and Rep. Todd Young.



Former ISDH Chief of Staff Eric Miller, former Deputy Health Commissioner Dr. Jen Walthall and former Legislative Director Joey Fox traveled to Washington for the hearing, above. At left, the door to the commissioner's suite.



ERC REPRESENTS ISDH AT 2017 CSTE CONFERENCE

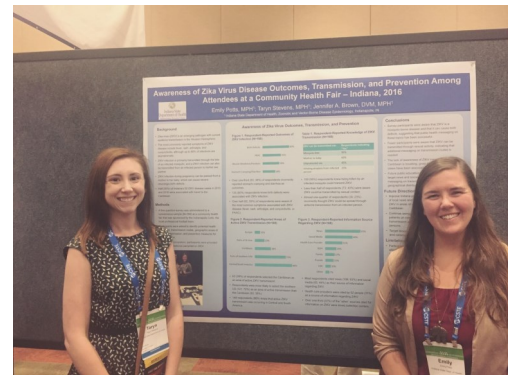


We've already shared some news about the ISDH representatives who attended the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists conference in Boise this June, but we'd be remiss if we didn't recognize some other members of the Epidemiology Resource Center who took part.

A tip of the hat goes to Alex Boland, who presented on Multi-state Outbreak of *Cryptosporidium* among People who Purchased Goats from a Farm – Indiana, 2016; Taryn Stevens, who presented on Hantavirus Infection in College Students Working with Wild Rodents in Wildlife Ecology Re-

search Settings — Indiana, 2015–2016; Ann Kayser, who presented Case-Based Reporting of Rabies Postexposure Prophylaxis Compared with Syndromic Surveillance — Indiana, 2015 on behalf of Betsy Schroeder; Mugdha Golwalkar, Large Mumps Outbreak Associated with Four Indiana Universities, 2016; and Emily Potts, who joined Taryn Stevens for Awareness of Zika Virus Disease Outcomes, Transmission, and Prevention Among Attendees at a Community Health Fair – Indiana, 2016.

Congratulations to everyone for having your hard work recognized on a national stage!



Pictured: Ann Kayser, top left; Mugdha Golwalkar, above top; and Taryn Stevens and Emily Potts, all of the ERC.

ASTHO REQUESTS SUPPORT FOR PH WINS SURVEY

ISDH is participating in PH WINS (Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey) 2017, a national survey conducted by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) with support from the de Beaumont Foundation. PH WINS surveys government and public health workers at state and local health departments. Many ISDH staff receive this survey, which provides them the opportunity to share their opinions about their workplace and jobs.

PH WINS 2017 will assess our workforce's knowledge, skills, attitudes and challenges. The survey will collect selected worker perspectives on key issues affecting our agency related to workforce morale, training needs, the culture of learning, worker empowerment, emerging trends in public health and demographic characteristics of the workforce.

PH WINS will be used to inform future workforce development investments both at the agency and nationally and provide ISDH with baseline information for evaluating future workforce development efforts. It also will directly in-

form the activities and strategies in our Workforce Development Plan. By participating in PH WINS 2017, our agency may receive a customized report that includes regional and national comparisons between our agency and our peers across the country.

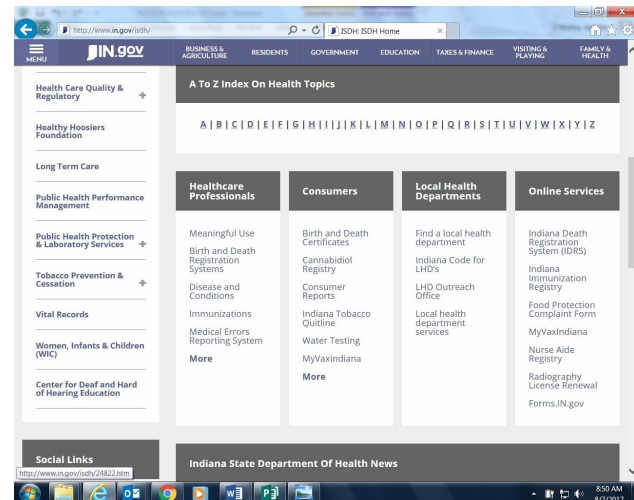
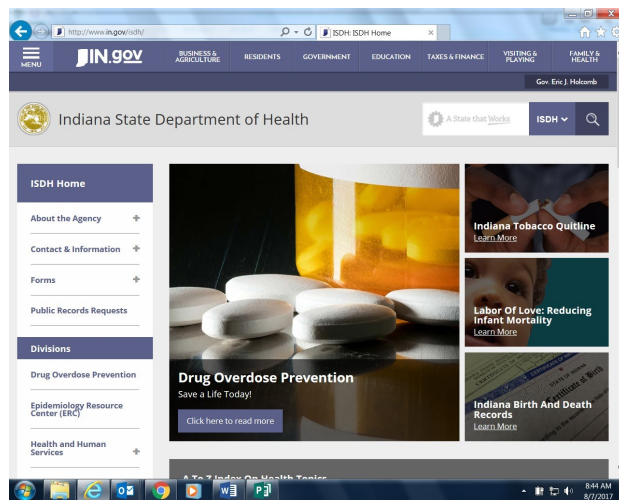
The survey will launch in **mid-September**, and many staff will receive an email from phwins@astho.org inviting them to participate. Be on the lookout for this email and encourage your fellow staff to participate! Please respond regardless of your job role or function, and do not delegate the survey.

ASTHO and the de Beaumont Foundation are interested in obtaining information about the entire public health workforce, and that includes you! **Your support is critical!**

The first PH WINS was conducted in the fall of 2014. For more information about PH WINS and the results of the 2014 survey, please [click here](#).

For more information about PH Wins, please contact Eden Bezy at ebezy@isdh.in.gov or ASTHO at phwins@astho.org.

ISDH WEBSITE UPDATED; CBD REGISTRY ADDED



Have you checked out the new look of the ISDH homepage? If not, please do!

The refreshed look took effect July 27. Be sure you check your pages to ensure that no content has been lost or misdirected.

The website updates don't mean our work is done. ISDH still has many pages that are outdated or contain broken links. OPA will be contacting all program areas in the coming weeks to identify a schedule for correcting these issues and ensuring that our attractive new website also features the most current material.

One new addition to the redesigned home page can be found in the Consumers bucket. The new ISDH-administered cannabidiol registry is accessible from the home page. This link takes viewers to the Chronic Disease page, where individuals who have been diagnosed with treatment-resistant epilepsy by a board-certified neurologist can submit documentation that places them on the registry. The purpose of the registry is to provide a defense from prosecution to those who possess CBD oil and meet the eligibility criteria. Although the number of people who will ultimately be listed on the registry is expected to be small, it's

viewed as an important tool for those individuals.

Like any new product, the cannabidiol registry has generated a lot of questions. The front desk is being equipped with information, and Ann Alley, director of the Chronic Disease, Primary Care and Rural Health Division, is serving as point person for questions in the early going. Eventually, the MOMS Helpline will take over answering most questions.

If you have questions about the website changes or the new registry, forward them to OPA Director [Jeni O'Malley](#) and she will get them to the right person.

STAFFING UPDATES: JULY NEW HIRES, DUAL ROLES FOR 2

Please welcome our July new hires: Charles Mooney, public health nurse surveyor; Jacqueline Katter, speech pathologist; Rochelle Miller, court/administrative assistant in the Office of Legal Affairs; Daniel Vogel, program director 2 in HIV; Radha Warty, administrative assistant; Ismat Bhulyan, health educator in the lead program; Robert Gottlieb, the new GIS data analyst in ERC; and Rachel Mehringer, an audiologist. Jacqueline, Ismat and Robert all had previously worked as contractors for ISDH. Welcome aboard!

We also want to thank two veterans who are doing double duty right now. Shirley Payne, who heads our Children's Special Health Care Services program, is helping Maternal and Child Health with some management functions due to staffing turnover. Children's and MCH share a lot in common; a big funding source for both is Title V funding. Shirley is an Evansville native and an IU graduate (both undergraduate and



Rochelle Miller

MPH) who is pursuing her doctoral degree from the IU School of Public Health.

Most of you know Dave McCormick as our immunizations director, but he also was the director of the agency's Lead and Healthy Homes program before taking over immunizations. He has been leading both programs in recent months and has been instrumental in overseeing our response to the East Chicago lead situation. In his role as director of the Lead program, Dave reports to Dr. Judy Lovchik. Thank you, Dave, for serving two masters as you help protect the health of the people of Indiana!

Correction: The July Pulse incorrectly identified Dr. Amanda Hager as a food protection supervisor. Dr. Hager is an audiologist at the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education.

OPHPM, LAAL PROGRAM TO PARTNER FOR ISDH MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

By Meganne Bunce

Do you think you could benefit from a mentor/protégé relationship to develop your professional skills?

The Office of Public Health Performance Management (OPHPM) is pleased to announce the ISDH Mentorship Program! Stemming from the Leadership at All Levels (LAAL) courses taught by Deputy State Health Commissioner and State Epidemiologist Pam Pontones, the Mentorship Program will connect mentors (LAAL advanced course graduates appointed by the Commissioner's Office) with staff who wish to develop skills for professional development.

Some workforce members may want to develop skills within their area. Others may find it more beneficial to work on a skill that they have wanted to develop outside their current professional parameters.

This opportunity is open to employees, contractors and interns alike. However, please note that *supervisor approval is required* for participation for both mentors and protégés.

Currently, the ISDH is looking for protégés, or individuals who are looking to develop themselves for professional improvement. The OPHPM and LAAL teams will assist the protégé in finding a mentor who speaks to

those skills while taking into account the personality and demeanor of both parties to create a mutually beneficial relationship.

If you are interested in the ISDH Mentorship program, email laal@isdh.in.gov and explain what skills you are looking to develop. The OPHPM team will work with you to find an appropriate match for your needs.

The program is expected to launch in mid-to late October. Feel free to reach out to OPHPM in the meantime if you have questions or want to express interest in the program.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Pictured:
Camry
Hess and
Ramzi
Nimry of
the Division
of
Trauma
and Injury
Prevention.

TRAUMA DIVISION HITS MILESTONE

On July 20, the ISDH Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention was awarded a milestone for 10 years of Leadership in Registry Data Collection during ImageTrend's Connect Conference Hoolley Awards Dinner. The Trauma division was honored for having more than 200,000 records collected, representing 229,053 incidents.

The Indiana Trauma Registry collects data from the first medical contact through the last discharge. The state's data repository is used for statewide reports, hospital-specific reports and data requests.

**LAST CALL
FOR GO365**



August 31 is the deadline to earn Silver Status! Visit www.Go365.com to find out how to qualify for the state's 2018 Wellness CDHP.



OPIOIDS ARE FOCUS OF 2 CONFERENCES

As you all know, the opioid epidemic is exacting a terrible toll on Indiana and other states. That's why Governor Holcomb made attacking the drug epidemic one of his top five priorities.

As part of that mission, ISDH is planning a new Public Safety-Public Health conference for September 27 that will address the ways law enforce-

ment and health can partner to tackle this epidemic. As we've seen with syringe exchange programs, it's important to build partnerships and find common ground.

The event will be held at the Ritz Charles in Carmel and will feature state and national perspectives. Watch for more details soon once registration opens!

Planning is also under way for this year's Labor of Love infant mortality summit. The summit will feature speakers and breakout sessions focusing on the impact of the opioid epidemic on moms and babies, as well as safe sleep, breastfeeding and other topics. The summit will be held November 15 at the JW Marriott in downtown Indianapolis.