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Governor's Public Health Commission creates new opportunities



Kris Box, MD, FACOG

Public health has been in the spotlight for the last 18 months. At times, it has been a glaring and uncomfortable light. But I can say without a doubt that people have a much better understanding of what public health is now than ever before.

While we never would have wished for a pandemic to showcase the incredible work our team and our partners around the state do every day, we need to seize this moment to examine ways we can better serve Hoosiers.

On Aug. 18, Gov. Holcomb [announced he was forming the Governor's Public Health Commission](#), which will examine Indiana's public health infrastructure and make recommendations for changes.

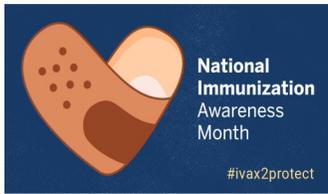
The commission will be chaired by former State Health Commissioner and current CDC Foundation CEO Dr. Judy Monroe and former state Senator Luke Kenley, and it will include task forces that examine funding, governance, emergency preparedness, resources, the workforce, collection and use of data, and services to children and adolescents, among other topics.

The last 18 months have been exhausting for all of us in public health. We have learned a lot about ourselves and our resources at the state and local level, and we have adapted and pivoted to the point of dizziness some days. Public health has done a truly remarkable job under incredibly difficult circumstances. But we know the system can be better, and this commission represents an exciting opportunity to put us in a stronger position for the future.

This commission in no way undermines the incredible work our public health warriors do every day. It is a recognition of that work and the fact that we need to do more as a state to support public health. I hope you are as excited by this opportunity as I am. You can read more in Governor Holcomb's Executive Order [here](#).

Thank you for continuing to answer the call to protect Hoosiers.

Yours in health,
Kris



FUN FACT

August is [National Immunization Awareness Month](#). The goal is to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. Learn more about the IDOH Immunization Division [here](#).

Indiana Department of Health

Mission:
To promote, protect, and improve the health and safety of all Hoosiers.

in LEARNING Adopting the habits of elite performers

In this audio-only course, learn practical advice that will help elevate your performance and unlock your full potential. Learn how a good mentor can facilitate an important turning point in someone's life, hear about the importance of committing to growth, and how you can achieve it by seeking out what intimidates you. The course covers distinguishing between good and bad fears and how to break down tough tasks into smaller, more obtainable goals. You'll also hear about thankfulness and how gratitude builds resilience.

Time: 26 minutes
[Click here to watch!](#)

Spotlight

My Healthy Baby reaching 25 new counties in 2021

If all goes as planned, it will have taken less than three years for the [My Healthy Baby](#) program to become available in every county in the state.

That's quite a pace to set, especially amid a pandemic, but for the [Division of Maternal and Child Health \(MCH\)](#) staff behind this new program – which provides free one-on-one pregnancy and infant support to women covered by Medicaid – every bit of contact and every bit of encouragement and advice shared is a step in the right direction for Indiana mothers and their babies.

A collaborative effort

Launched last year via a collaboration among the Indiana Department of Health, Department of Child Services (DCS), and Family and Social Services Administration, My Healthy Baby initially found its way into 22 Hoosier counties. [Another 25](#) are scheduled to offer the services by the end of 2021, with the program expected to be available statewide by June 30, 2023.

So, what is "My Healthy Baby?"

Formerly known as the OB Navigator Program, My Healthy Baby serves as the conduit through which Indiana moms and moms-to-be who meet certain criteria can be connected to free programs that are available, essentially, right in their own backyards. These local programs include one-on-one visits with childcare experts known as "family support providers," as well as other resources of which the women may not be aware.

The family support provider helps the women set goals, answers their questions, and sometimes acts as a caring listener. Those seeking the program's assistance can sign up by phone or online. They will be connected to a local agency for assistance, which then contacts the client and arranges her first appointment. The frequency of meetings is determined by the client, as is the content of each session.

Leading the way on this important endeavor is a group of dedicated MCH employees whose goal is to help ensure that Hoosier moms have access to the support they'll need throughout their pregnancy and up to the child's first birthday.

Among those involved with the program are MCH's Casey Kinderman, Crystal Fowler, Jenny Durica, Yordanos Gebru, Anthony Burke, Hanna Santuro, Shannon Garrity, Stephanie Beverly, Iris Palacios, Jeff Cummins, and an entire team of communication specialists, all of whom have been integral in the early success of My Healthy Baby. The service is expanding to counties based on metrics that, essentially, determine a county's need for – and ability to facilitate – the program.

The criteria include counties that experienced a higher-than-average infant mortality rate between 2014 and 2018, those identified as "at-risk" by the [Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Needs Assessment](#), and those with the capability to provide the supportive services involved with the My Healthy Baby program.

"Additionally, communications specialist capacity and maximizing the impact of engagement events were considered," said Casey Kinderman, home visiting program manager.

Sharing the message

Once the locations are determined, MCH staff then begin community outreach initiatives prior to program implementation. Three separate meetings, each focusing on different groups of people who play key roles in the program, provide answers to



The marketing campaign for My Healthy Baby depicts home visiting services.

questions prior to rollout.

A program that is targeted specifically for medical staff precedes a public meeting that is open to anyone from politicians to community leaders to DCS employees. A final meeting provides important details on My Healthy Baby for those involved with local-level perinatal home visiting services to work out plans for responding to program referrals.

Each meeting covers the program in detail by explaining the data behind My Healthy Baby and letting each audience know what steps they should take next. In the end, each group should come away with a good handle on what their responsibility within the program entails, and that itself is a great start.

Though the program itself is in its infancy, it appears early returns are highly positive.

"A great success of My Healthy Baby to date is increased collaboration of home visiting organizations and communities as well as rapid implementation," noted Stephanie Beverly, systems program manager.

During its first year, almost 3,300 women were referred to home visiting programs following more than 5,900 conversations with women eligible for the program, said Karen McKeown, the project director.

Meeting the challenges, celebrating the successes

One challenge the program has faced is that home visiting programs differ in caseload sizes and staffing across the state, said My Healthy Baby coordinator Crystal Fowler.

To remedy that, the MCH team is working to increase awareness of the program while encouraging those waiting for staffing levels to catch up to demand to watch for calls – and to return them as soon as possible.

The team also has been busy identifying reasons that potential referrals may not follow through with enrolling in the program, in the hopes that finding the causes of this hesitancy and/or refusal may help overcome it. Some of the factors they found involve client mistrust of the system or an aversion to home visits. In some cases, potential clients may already have an adequate support system, or quite simply, the client may only be interested in seeking assistance to the extent that basic needs are met. In those cases, ongoing meetings with a family support provider were not desired.

Alternately, there are many reasons My Healthy Baby has been met with open arms, which is reflected in the percentage of individuals referred who convert into an enrollment.

(story continues on page 3)



'My Healthy Baby' expands (cont. from page 2)

The presence of the family support provider is a form of advocacy that opens even more doors for assistance for My Healthy Baby clients.

On schedule, on track

The staff behind the effort are excited about the future of the program and are happy to see implementation stay on schedule despite the challenges presented by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Beginning in 2022, another 35 counties are set to participate in the My Healthy Baby program. They will be followed by the rest of the state by mid-2023. One future goal is to expand the program's reach beyond those receiving Medicaid, though no firm timeline for that has been established.

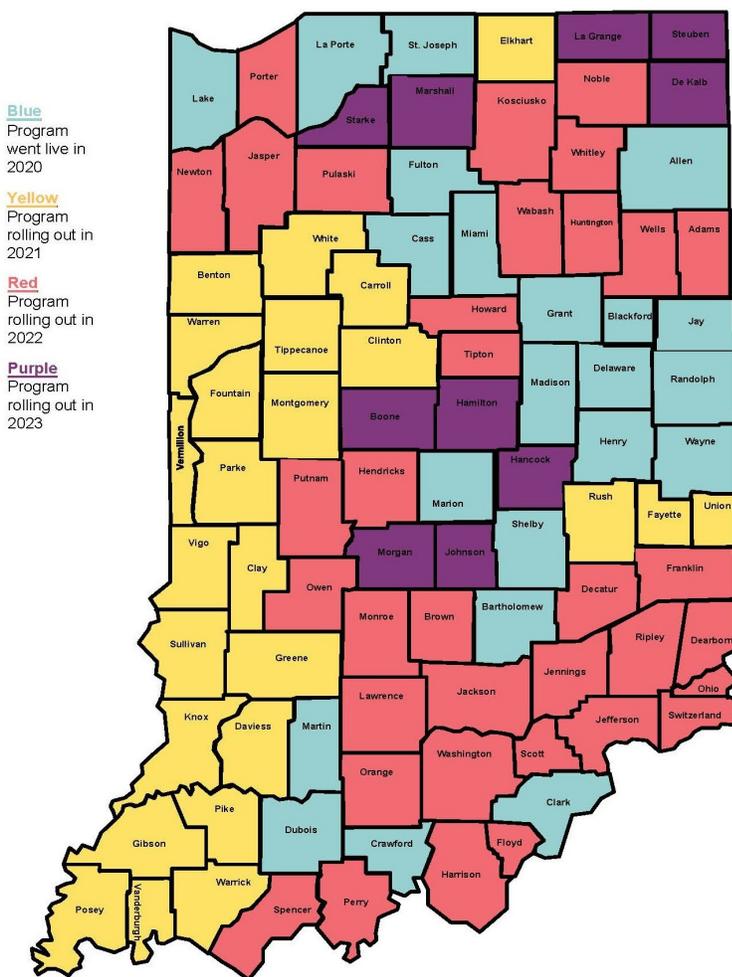
In the meantime, My Healthy Baby will continue to reach more Hoosier women and infants, providing compassion, care, and myriad resources designed to give mother and child a healthy, happy start.

Off to a great start

My Healthy Baby debuted last year and found its way to some of the state's most populous counties, including Marion, Lake, and Allen, and ended the year reaching Hoosier moms in nearly two dozen others. These included LaPorte, St. Joseph, Fulton, Cass, Miami, Grant, Blackford, Jay, Madison, Delaware, Randolph, Henry, Wayne, Shelby, Bartholomew, Dubois, Crawford, and Clark.

Last month, Elkhart County became the first location in 2021 to offer MHB services. This month, Clay, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion, and Vigo are scheduled to begin receiving the services. They'll be followed in September by Benton, Carroll, Clinton, Fountain, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Warren, and White. October will bring MHB to Daviess, Gibson, Greene, Knox, Pike, Posey, Vanderburgh, and Warrick. The final push this year takes place in November and includes Fayette, Rush, and Union counties. MHB is expected to be offered in all Indiana counties by mid-2023.

My Healthy Baby County Roll Out



A huge 'tank' you: COVID-19 Response Team visits Camp Atterbury



Members of the Indiana Department of Health COVID-19 Response Team (seen here in front of an Abrams tank) toured Camp Atterbury July 28.

The team's goal was to learn more about the mission and capabilities of the Indiana National Guard (INNG), including medical response, logistics, combat, and training. The team also visited the museum and war memorial. Camp Atterbury maintains a "warm status," meaning it can mobilize and deploy when needed.

"The INNG has been an incredible partner for IDOH throughout the COVID-19 pandemic for testing, vaccination, and logistical support," said State Epidemiologist Pam Pontones.

Pictured (left to right are) Alyssa Bloomberg, Jennifer Hancock, Susan Gross, Pam Blasdel, Danielle Renckly, Derek Sebold, Pam Pontones, Shane Hatchett, Leighie Disbro, and Yvonne Alexander.

Magic number: HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis division believes 'Zero Is Possible'

A lot can happen in a decade.

In the 10 years since Jeremy Turner moved to Indianapolis, he's worked in multiple capacities to educate and assist Hoosiers living with often stigmatized diseases.

Unfortunately, those negative connotations only make the work that much harder, but the [Indiana Department of Health's Division of HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis](#) director remains optimistic that the efforts he and his division are making to impact people living with those diseases are indeed making a difference. And his division's steadfast work with a statewide coalition dedicated to ending the presence of HIV and Hepatitis C (HCV) in Indiana, simply by virtue of their commitment and expertise, may indeed help the organization reach its goal by the beginning of the next decade.

10-year plan

ZIP-IN is a comprehensive approach to "end the HIV epidemic and eliminate HCV in Indiana," according to zipindiana.org. "ZIP" stands for "Zero is Possible."

The coalition is regional (there are 10 regions in all), meets at least once each quarter, and is composed of a variety of subject matter experts – including those with lived experiences.

ZIP-IN hopes to utilize four pillars to reach its goal by 2030: diagnose, treat, prevent, and respond.

Those involved believe success hinges on reducing or eliminating the stigma associated with these diseases, engaging those living with HIV or HCV, building and educating the workforce, and perhaps most importantly, accounting for "the whole person."

By 2030, the goal is that the landscape of services will be at a place where locally led ZIP coalitions across Indiana are working to identify and address the needs of people living with HIV or HCV so that those people can attain the highest possible quality of life.

The effort is a multipronged approach encompassing data, collaboration, and funding and includes an [online program toolkit](#) that offers detailed plans for this year and next with guidance in place through 2025.

Turner and his team are leading and overseeing ZIP-IN implementation, including directing, communication and funding, and providing technical assistance, support and evaluations.

"Our division is doing a lot of work to empower communities to respond to the specific challenges faced by priority populations in their regions," Turner said of the efforts with ZIP-IN.

Turner talked of a concentrated approach, particularly on how funds are utilized.

"We are focusing on changing how we make funding decisions to help ensure we are targeting only those items that identify people who are status unaware, connect and retain people to services, and build strong community partnerships that help to meet other unmet needs that assist with addressing social determinants of health," he said.

"Status unaware" refers to people who may be living with HIV

or HCV and not know it. Identifying those people is crucial to ensure that people engage with treatment and do not unknowingly transmit the disease to others; a 2019 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), found that approximately 80 percent of new HIV transmissions came from "persons who do not know they have HIV infection or are not receiving regular care."

Throughout the country, about one out of every seven people with HIV is status unaware, the CDC says.

Quality of life improvements

For those who have received a positive diagnosis, seeking care isn't always easy, and that's often related to negative societal views.

"Stigma was a major issue that many people with lived experience referenced in our interviews," Turner said.

Working to combat stigma is a key component of the ZIP-IN effort, and typically involves sharing the facts about HIV/HCV and pointing people in the right direction for help.

"The stigma associated with HIV and HCV prevents people from getting tested and staying retained in care, which are vital parts of our plan," Turner said.

"We often find that providing basic education about these infections and how they are treated goes a long way in reducing stigma," said

Turner. "We can also make sure and spread the word that services are available for those who need it, and our division supports a statewide system of care that helps people navigate the healthcare system and live long, healthy lives."

Data from the state health department will allow program leaders to see what's working and how their efforts are progressing. Frequent real-time data updates are expected to be part of ZIP-IN, and that will allow for up-to-date information to be shared with stakeholders and coalition members.

Get involved

Anyone wanting to participate can contact Josh Dowell, director of Clinical Quality Management and Community Impact, at jdowell@isdh.in.gov. You can head to the ZIP-IN website to learn how the coalitions are being formed, and you can read about getting involved with your local region by clicking [here](#).

"There are coalition meetings across the state where anyone is welcome to join and participate," Turner said.

All volunteers will help make a tangible impact on the lives of Hoosiers. That means addressing disparities in care that may or may not stem from social determinants such as education, economic conditions, and even where a person lives.

Regardless the cause, ZIP-IN is putting the building blocks to better, more equitable health in place.

"We are also doing ongoing work to identify health disparities and provide learning collaboratives for service providers that help to revolutionize our service delivery system," said Turner. "This is an effort to build systems of care that help those who have fallen behind other populations in achieving optimal health outcomes."



Jeremy Turner (pictured) joined IDOH in 2017 as deputy director of the HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis division. Prior to that, he worked for the nonprofit AIDS Resource Group in Evansville. He also worked as vice president of the Indianapolis-based

Shield Spotlight: Mariana Barquet and April Kendrick



SHIELD SPOTLIGHT
AUGUST 2021



Mariana Barquet

Guide By Your Side for Hispanic Families
Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program

For our team, the work we do is deeply personal. It touches our daily lives as we are parents of children with hearing differences. Our strength comes from this strong bond and the joint desire we share to make a difference for these families.

Mariana Barquet of the Division of Maternal & Child Health and April Kendrick of the Division of Emergency Preparedness are this month's Shield Spotlight honorees.

Mariana was nominated for the Award of Excellence by Suzanne Foley.

"Mariana coordinates our parent-to-parent support programs for families with deaf and hard of hearing children in the state," Suzanne wrote. "She has been the parent guide for Hispanic families for many years."

Mariana's work is ever-growing and is fueled by her passion for helping others.

"In the past six years, the number of Hispanic deaf and hard of hearing children in Indiana who have been diagnosed and, more importantly, enrolled and receiving evidence-based early intervention services has increased substantially beyond population growth," Foley explained. "Mariana is passionate about connecting deaf and hard of hearing Hispanic children and their families with appropriate services, she provides several events and programs annually to help support Hispanic families, she trains our staff on Hispanic culture and barriers to those families, and provides our program with family-friendly language translation for documents and live events."

Foley said Barquet's efforts are "having a significant positive impact on the potential outcomes for Hispanic deaf and hard of hearing children and their families in Indiana."

Kendrick was nominated for the Team Player Award by Kiley Huntington.

"April has consistently stepped up and volunteered her time to support the work of her division and the agency," Huntington said. "She is the first to offer to help despite the size or time commitment of the task. Her friendly personality and unfailing kindness toward others boosts the morale of her division and co-workers."

Huntington spoke highly of Kendrick's "dedication to the team, positive attitude, and supportive demeanor," and called her a "stand-out, leading team player."

"We are proud to have her on our team," she concluded.

Do you know someone who deserves special recognition? Head to the [Shield Spotlight form](#) and submit a nomination! You can nominate an individual or a team for any of the following honors: Award of Excellence, Team Player Award, Personal Achievement Award, Customer Service Award, or a Workplace Milestone.



SHIELD SPOTLIGHT
AUGUST 2021



April Kendrick

Administrative Assistant
Division of Emergency Preparedness

I am so very honored to be nominated. I work with some of the greatest people ever. I think they all deserve to have the spotlight on them. The Indiana Department of Health makes me feel appreciated and valued as a person. The Division of Emergency Preparedness is a great place to work. They make it easier to work hard and step up to new tasks and challenges!

Building Momentum: Contract specialist calls for bike race volunteers

After almost a decade of volunteering throughout the Circle City, Amanda Northrop has learned how important the behind-the-scenes workers who give freely of their time are to any public event.

Without volunteers, there would be no such community programs – plain and simple.

Fortunately, there are usually quite a few goodhearted go-getters ready to answer the call when needed. Northrop is one of them, and she hopes more state employees will join her as one of Indy's signature cycling events returns to help local charities next month.

The [IU Health Momentum Indy](#) weekend returns Sept. 10 and 11 and features the popular [Mass Ave. Crit](#) and [IU Health Indy Crit](#). The former takes place during the afternoon and evening of the 10th and the latter the following day, beginning at 9 a.m.

Volunteers are needed for the event on the 11th, which takes place around University Park. The 11th annual IU Health Indy Crit rolls onto a new course this year and features a festival with food and drinks, family activities, recreational bike rides, and an expo.

Northrop, who joined the event's planning committee in 2018, enjoys being part of this festive atmosphere each year, and she's hopeful others will want to join the fun. She believes there's something for everyone to enjoy as a volunteer.

"This event provides an opportunity for bicyclists, spectators, and volunteers," she said. "It is a good event for individuals of

all ages. There is a variety of volunteer options that allow individuals to choose an activity that interests them."

Northrop said volunteers can help with set-up, teardown, course marshaling, beautification, photography, or children's activities.

"On race day, I check in volunteers, provide shirts and other items, direct or guide volunteers to where they need to go, occasionally provide breaks or water to volunteers, and other volunteer-related tasks that come up," she said.

Volunteer shifts last two to four hours and can be verified so that those who need credit for volunteer hours, such as for school, receive it. All volunteers receive a T-shirt, refreshments, and other swag.

Though not a cyclist, Northrop thoroughly enjoys working with Momentum Indy. She thinks others will too, and her experience stands as a testament to just how much fun giving back to your community can be.

She volunteered with the nonprofit [Indiana Sports Corp](#) to help with Super Bowl XLVI in 2012, and things snowballed (in a very good way) from there.

"After the Super Bowl, I continued volunteering with Sport Corp at a variety of sports events," Northrop recalled.

It took only one Indy Crit planning committee meeting for Northrop to decide to join the group, which has raised more than \$170,000 for local charities. She hopes her IDOH colleagues and other state agencies will join in.

Sign up [here](#).



Off to the races

The Indy Critium (above left), which is part of IU Health Momentum Indy weekend, is in need of volunteers Sept. 11. IDOH contract specialist Amanda Northrop is part of the event's planning committee and hopes other state employees will join the fun. Volunteers (pictured above right) may sign up for a variety of activities on race day, including helping with registration, children's activities, event set-up and teardown, and more.



Demarcus Sneed

GUESS WHO I MET ON THE ELEVATOR?



Title: Program manager, Office of Minority Health

Brief Job Description: I provide support to OMH staff as well as oversee various aspects of program development, delivery, promotion, and technical assistance in accordance with OMH and IDOH goals. I'm also responsible for developing and fostering relationships with community organizations to focus on program growth.

Time at IDOH: Three months

What do you like most about working at IDOH? I enjoy being able to work with such a broad network of partners from across the state. It is really neat to learn about the different focus areas of our partners and how we can work together to address the needs of minority populations. Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't mention my OMH colleagues. This small but mighty staff has been a pleasure to work with.

Other Information: I enjoy spending time with my family, watching and attending sporting events, learning about history, and just about anything related to my faith.



Get a wellness visit, earn a \$100 e-gift card

Employees and spouses eligible for the [ActiveHealth](#) program earn a \$100 e-gift card for completing a [wellness visit](#).

A wellness visit collects measurements such as blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose levels, body mass index (BMI), and family history to provide a quick check-up on some key indicators of your current health. You will be asked some questions, weighed, measured, and a blood sample will be taken by finger stick or venipuncture, depending on the wellness visit location. You may get instant results along with help understanding your measurements.

Your results must be visible in the [ActiveHealth portal](#) by Nov. 30 to receive the e-gift card. E-gift cards are redeemed from the Rewards Center on the ActiveHealth portal.

Learn more at [InvestInYourHealthIndiana.com](#), and [click here](#) for info on how to earn a \$25 e-gift card just by completing an [online health assessment!](#)

Anthem EAP is here to help

Access your Anthem EAP online resources at [www.AnthemEAP.com](#) and click the Members Login button. The next page will ask you to enter your company name, **State of Indiana**. Click "Log In" to view available services. Connect with a trained EAP representative by phone at 1-800-223-7723 (select option 1). The representative will help you find a therapist who fits your situation, and will even assist you in scheduling your initial appointment.

Staffing updates

- **Amy Kent**—Assistant Commissioner, Consumer Services and Health Care Regulation
- **Elias Chavez**—public health administrator, HIV/STD/Hepatitis C
- **Barbara Wheeler**—public health nurse surveyor, Complaint & Incident
- **Jeffrey Hall**—Budget analyst, Finance
- **Harry Dickson**—Controller, Finance
- **Marie Hitze**—North supervisor, Local Emergency Operations, Emergency Preparedness
- **Elisabeth Wire**—chemist, Laboratories
- **Alexandra Stultz**—Finance manager, Finance
- **Michaelyn Greyeyes**—program director, Emergency Preparedness
- **Elizabeth Durham**—chief nurse consultant, Maternal & Child Health
- **Amber Byrd**—education consultant, Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education
- **Jesus Flores**—accountant, Finance
- **Kayla Murphy**—epidemiologist, Immunization
- **Isaac Collis**—microbiologist, Laboratories
- **Kayla Hill**—microbiologist, Laboratories
- **Cody Smith**—legal analyst, Legal Affairs
- **Destinee Ward**—public health administrator, Maternal & Child Health
- **Carissa Metzger**—public health nurse surveyor, Acute Care

HCM/Payroll Modernization Project keeps moving forward

The integration of HR and payroll systems continues to move forward.

In order to make sure the transition to the new system is as smooth as possible, it was determined that adhering to the go-live date set for September was not in the state's best interest. The project team will now spend more time refining business processes, testing and retesting configuration and system components, and preparing and delivering training to various stakeholders.



Revised planning efforts are ongoing through August to ensure a solid, executable plan that will truly modernize the system and improve service delivery. Interested in a quick two-minute video about the changes? [Click here.](#)

Updates on the HR/Payroll Modernization Project are accessible by all state employees, on SharePoint, at this link:

<https://ingov.sharepoint.com/sites/PSEnterprisePortal/HR%20PY%20Mod%20Comms/SitePages/Home.aspx>

If you have questions, email the Organization Change Management team at NewPayrollHR@iot.in.gov.

Revised '10 Essential Public Health Services' bring public health framework up to date

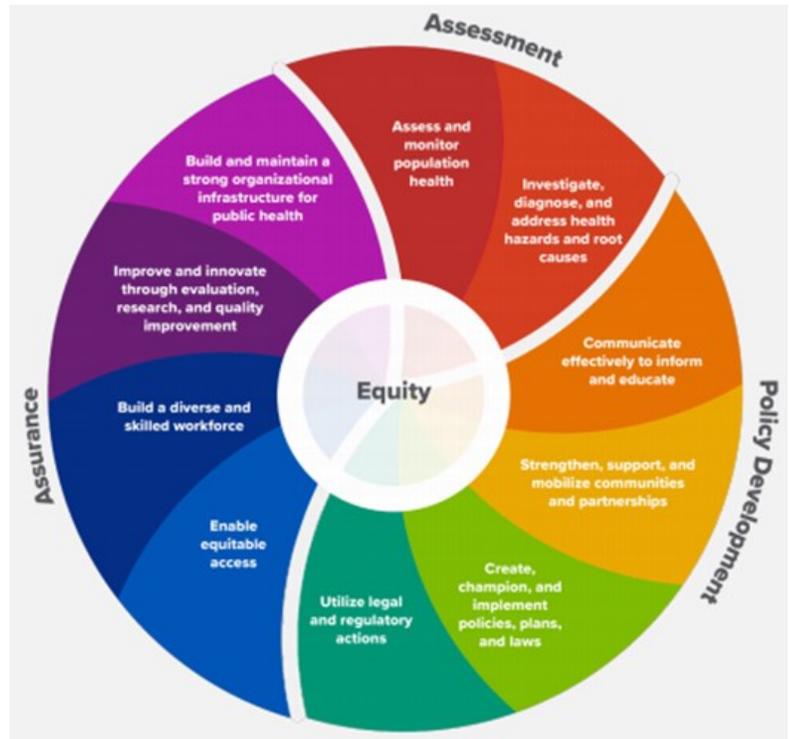
The [10 Essential Public Health Services](#) is ingrained in the work of the Indiana Department of Health.

This framework was originally released in 1994 but was revised and re-released Sept. 9, 2020. One large difference is the central focus that is being filtered into each service which has changed from "research" to "equity."

By tackling barriers such as poverty, discrimination, and other forms of oppression, the 10 Essential Public Health Services framework helps create, protect, and promote health for "all people in all communities."

You can find more information about each service, in addition to launch, by the [de Beaumont Foundation](#) and [Public Health National Center of Innovations](#) online on the CDC website.

If you are interested in training for your staff regarding these revisions and how it relates to their work, email the [Office of Public Health Performance Management](#) at OPHPM@isdh.IN.gov to make arrangements.



10 Essential Public Health Services

1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets
2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population
3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it
4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health
5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health
6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health
7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy
8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce
9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement
10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

Train Learning Network connects IDOH to educational opportunities

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) is affiliated with the TRAIN Learning Network, an educational web portal powered by the Public Health Foundation.

IN-TRAIN allows the state health department and other state, federal, and local public health agencies to create, disseminate, and track learning opportunities for public health, healthcare, behavioral health, preparedness, and other health professionals.

IDOH employees can learn more through an upcoming learning opportunity.

IN-TRAIN will host a **FREE "Course Provider Basics Demon-**

TRAIN
From the **Public Health Foundation**

stration" at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25.

Topics include:

- Becoming a course provider in TRAIN
- Posting trainings
- Tracking registrations
- Assessing participants' understanding of course material
- Administering training evaluations
- Delivering certificates of completion.

Sign up now for the demo! Contact Barb Killian, OPHPM, at in-train@isdh.in.gov to register or find out more about TRAIN.



Gleaners Food Bank Indiana President and CEO John Elliott presented WIC Program Manager Legita Wilson with a special certificate naming her a 'Hunger Hero' earlier this month, then returned to present the same honor to Dr. Box. State Epidemiologist Pam Pontones and Chief of Staff Shane Hatchett are also pictured with Dr. Box. The awards were among four given out statewide.

Dr. Box, WIC's Wilson named Gleaners 'Hunger Heroes'

Gleaners Food Bank recognizes only four 'Hunger Heroes' each year.

Due to some outstanding work helping Hoosiers with limited resources gain access to healthy, nutritious meals, the Indiana Department of Health is home to half of this year's honorees, with State Health Commissioner Dr. Kris Box and [Women, Infants, and Children](#) program manager Legita Wilson both earning the rare distinction.

Wilson, who will celebrate her ninth anniversary as a state of Indiana employee on Oct. 1., was honored Aug. 5 when [Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana](#) President and CEO John Elliott stopped by her office with a special certificate commemorating her inclusion in the exclusive group. It was a pleasant surprise

"I felt touched and teary," Wilson recalled of the visit.

Wilson knew Elliott was visiting and bringing a "token of appreciation." but she had no idea what that would be. She guessed it might be a T-shirt but instead received something much more memorable: a special certificate that stands as a physical reminder that her work is truly making a difference.

Wilson has spent her entire state career in the WIC office, for which she became program manager in 2020, and through that work she's helped battle food insecurity throughout the state.

"The goal of my team and Gleaners organization is to provide healthy food to everyone who needs it," she explained. "Gleaners Food Bank is one of 11 food banks with which [WIC Commodities Programs](#) forms grant agreements to perform activities related to [The Emergency Food Assistance Program](#) (TEFAP) within their respective service areas. Each food bank, in turn, forms agreements with food outlets (food pantries and soup kitchens) to distribute USDA commodities to income-eligible Indiana residents."

Periodically, the WIC program, Gleaners and the Indianapolis Indians host food distribution events at Victory Field. One such recent program led to a massive produce donation.

"This year, WIC Commodities provided a USDA Farm to Food Bank grant to Gleaners that enabled Gleaners Fresh Connect to supply an additional 1 million pounds of donated Indiana produce to participating TEFAP food banks and food outlets and, at the same time, keeping it out of landfills," said Wilson.

Helping Hoosiers eat healthier is one of Wilson's favorite parts of her job.

"I find joy in helping to feed people, making their lives just a bit better, and promoting healthy eating," she said. "Gleaners shares the mission of WIC Commodities and initiates many innovations that have, and will continue to, become best practices for the state as a whole. I think we inspire each other."

Dr. Box, who received the surprise honor Aug. 13, credited IDOH team members (like Wilson) who continue to do their part in the state's battle against hunger.

"I accept this award not for myself, but for the work that the team at the Indiana Department of Health has done," she said. "I can't imagine a more important way to connect with Hoosiers than to make sure they have the food they need."

Help spread the word about 'Build, Learn, Grow' scholarship

You may have heard about the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's (FSSA) [Build, Learn, Grow scholarship program](#), which covers up to 80 percent of the cost of child care and before- and after-school care for Hoosier children from birth to age 12.

- But here are some things you might NOT know:
- The program [has now been extended](#) to provide these scholarships for families through [March 2022](#).
- There is **no income limit** – and as state employees we all qualify for these scholarships!
- With school starting and most of us back to working in the office, this program may be particularly timely for state workers and their families.

FSSA is calling on state employees to help spread the word. Start by applying at [Families.BuildLearnGrow.org](#). The next step is to take the application to a childcare provider to submit on a family's behalf.

Knowing that child care is one of Hoosier families' biggest monthly expenses, it would be unfortunate if these pandemic recovery funds went unused by families who may be struggling to make ends meet, or who just could use some financial breathing room.

Click [here](#) to learn more about this scholarship, and don't forget to share the news with anyone who may benefit from the Build, Learn, Grow program.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR KIDS AGE 12 AND UNDER



You, back to work
knowing your children are
learning and growing.

 **BuildLearnGrow**
Helping working families connect to early care & education

[BuildLearnGrow.org](#)

Digital Transformation Initiative

Spotlight on: Data Governance

You may have heard the term “data governance” mentioned a few times alongside the Indiana Department of Health’s Digital Transformation Initiative.

Data governance is a critical part of the initiative, but what exactly is it, and why is it so important?

What is data governance?

Essentially, data governance aligns decision-making with an organization’s data, aiming to break down data silos while ensuring that data is managed effectively. This management includes the key areas of security, privacy, compliance, availability, ownership, and any associated processes.

It supports data technology, data analytics, and runs alongside data sharing to promote efficient processes for all users and decision makers across an organization. Data governance is a critical component to ensure organizations have a clear understanding of their data, can improve data quality, and enhance access to the data. It is a capability that needs to be continuously nurtured, developed and flexed as new strategies and priorities emerge.

What does this mean for me?

Data governance ultimately rests on the ability to coordinate people and their decisions so that each aspect of data is connected with concrete communications and change management plans. As such, key stakeholder groups and staff roles will be identified to take part in the design and execution of a sustainable data governance program across IDOH.

Data governance will also define processes, guidance, and standards to facilitate data sharing and decision-making across IDOH. Building such a culture rests on both the environment and stakeholder groups — your subject matter expertise and deep knowledge of the agency’s processes, data, and systems will be valuable contributions.

The Digital Transformation within IDOH incorporates a holistic approach to operationalizing data governance across the agency and aims to align to broader Indiana statewide efforts to facilitate collaboration across agencies. Moving forward, a “Data Governance Roadmap and Plan” will be developed for several key IDOH priorities by the end of Q3 2021.

Share your thoughts!

The Digital Transformation Initiative team wants to hear from you! You can share your thoughts at the [Digital Transformation Initiative Suggestion eBox](#).

If you would like to reach out directly to the team, please feel free to contact Bob Davis at rodavis@isdh.in.gov and/or Mohan Ambaty at mambaty@isdh.in.gov.

We are also looking for a name for the project that captures the essence of our transformation goals. This branding will help the agency immediately identify with the project, just as we all know our Intranet is The Nerve Center.

If you have suggestions, please send them to Jeni O’Malley at jomalley@isdh.in.gov.

New members named to Digital Transformation Steering Committee

The digital transformation team has added seven new members to its steering committee to help inform discussions and share hands-on experiences with the IDOH data collection and processing systems. Thank you to the following for agreeing to participate:

Taylor Eisele, cancer epidemiologist; Lauren Milroy, vaccine-preventable disease epidemiologist; Carl Rothenbacher, OTC; Derek Sebold, Emergency Preparedness; Michelle Wright, Finance; Margaret Ansty, long-term care; and Demarcus Sneed, Office of Minority Health.



Food scientist Sharon Pattee and Retail Food supervisor Lisa Harrison speak with a vendor at the Indiana State Fair.

Food Protection team helps ensure food is safe at Indiana State Fair

After a one-year hiatus, the Indiana State Fair is back!

One of the biggest draws? The food, of course! The sights and sounds of everything from turkey legs to funnel cakes make an indelible mark on our summertime memories. Getting sick from food being prepared in an unsafe manner is something you don't want those memories to include, however, and that is where the Indiana Department of Health's [Food Protection division](#) comes in. The division's involvement is a process that begins months before the beloved summer event opens to the public. Led by retail food supervisor Lisa Harrison, planning for the state fair begins in February.

"I meet with the state fair representative who works with concessions," said Harrison. "We go over a list of vendors who have applied to sell food. There are about 250 vendors on that list."

Preliminary meetings begin in April. As opening day approaches, the final list of vendors is divided into five areas over the fairgrounds.

Lisa's team has developed a great relationship with fair personnel, and they are provided an indoor space (which serves as a base camp of sort), parking passes, badges for staff, and a golf cart. Wholesale program team members zip around on the golf cart to examine warehouses and trailers behind the fairgrounds that store supplies of everything from hamburger buns to Pepsi.

Two days before opening day, the Food Protection team holds mandatory training for the food vendors, a requirement of the state fair, where they reiterate the rules of food safety in Indiana. Many vendors travel from state to state, and rules vary. The training is a good reminder of Indiana-specific guidelines, such as Indiana's Employee Illness Policy. Right before the fair opens to the public, the food purveyors and vendor stock trucks are inspected too.

Finally, it's opening day! Lisa and her team perform several inspections a day, each of which lasts about 15 minutes. During this time, everything is

(story continues on page 12)

Full plate of activities in Food Protection

When the IDOH division of [Environmental Public Health moved to 2 North Meridian last month](#), they weren't alone. Joining them in the pilgrimage from Indiana Government Center North were about a dozen [Food Protection division](#) employees.

The staff are highly trained by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and work in four areas: produce safety, the rapid response team, retail, and wholesale.

Division director Manda Clevenger spoke about the move and what it means for her team.

Pulse: How will the move to 2 North positively impact the division and its work?

Clevenger: A big advantage to being over at 2 North is being in the same location as finance, legal, OTC, and the executive team. Our Rapid Response Team collaborates almost daily with the Epidemiology Resource Center, so it is nice to finally be back in the same building so that we don't have to do every meeting via the phone or MS Teams.

Pulse: Where is your division located in 2 North and how many employees are making the move?

Clevenger: We are on the third floor, in the old Immunizations area. Twelve central office staff moved to 2 North. The rest are field staff. When fully staffed, we have 30 staff members, including our OTC-embedded staff member.

Pulse: Tell us about yourself and your work.

Clevenger: I am a licensed attorney. I have worked for the state since March 2008. I was a rule writer for the Office of Air Quality at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management until I transferred to the Office of Legal Affairs in January 2011. I worked as a staff attorney until I was promoted to director of the Food Protection division in 2019. I was also the privacy officer from August 2018 to April 2019. My new temporary office is right outside of the Office of Legal Affairs, so it feels like I have come full circle and have come back home after being in a different building for over two years. I know so many people in the building, so it is nice to see them in person once again.

Pulse: What's the best part of your job?

Clevenger: The best part of my job is the collaborative efforts I have been able to be a part of with FDA and other states.

Pulse: What are some things your division is working to accomplish this year?

Clevenger: The food protection division's mission is to ensure a safe and wholesome food supply throughout the State of Indiana. Some of the projects we are currently working on include:

- Inspecting at the Indiana State Fair
- Participating in the Conference for Food Protection, where I will vote on changes to the Model Food Code (retail food code).
- Home-based vendor working group with the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana State Board of Animal Health, the Indiana State Egg Board, and outside interested parties to draft new language applicable to home-based vendors for the 2022 legislative session

Food Protection team ensures fair food safety (continued)

checked. Does the vendor have a solid floor? Do they have plumbing? Do they have the appropriate water backflow prevention devices? Are their hoses and water used for food potable? Is the food in the refrigerator or freezer at the proper temperature? If there is a problem, they go back to check on a violation. They could be called to do an investigation if there has been a complaint.

The “Hi! I’m Lisa with the state department of health” that Harrison greets the concession workers with might send chills down the spine at some places, but not at the Indiana State Fair. During one investigation, the owner came outside to talk to Lisa and Sharon Pattee, the inspector accompanying Harrison that day. Sharon’s personality is just as affable as Lisa’s, and a familiarity between the owner and food inspectors is palpable. He invited them inside his stand and was happy to tell them what he knew.

“Many of these vendors are multi-generational and we get to know them,” said Harrison.

One of those vendors is Ryan Collmer, owner of Meatball Factory, one of several food stands he owns at the fair.

“My wife’s grandparents started this business 26 years ago,” he said. “And my 19-year-old daughter is working over there. We love the Indiana State Fair! The great part is the team here is happy to explain things to the vendors. The education piece is there. Vendors need that. This team is amazing.”



Food scientist Sharon Pattee (left) and Retail Food supervisor Lisa Harrison (right) took time to pose for this photo with Ryan Collmer, owner of the Meatball Factory, at the Indiana State Fair.

You can rest assured, while that elephant ear or fried Oreos may not be as heart healthy as your doctor would recommend, incredible IDOH Food Protection team members have given all of us the peace of mind that, at the very least, fair food is safe to eat.

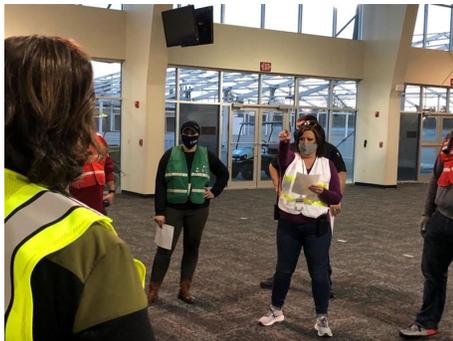
Help wanted!

IDOH staff can volunteer for COVID-19 surge response

The Indiana Department of Health is again standing up testing operations to ensure Hoosiers across the state have access to timely COVID-19 testing and results.

This means the [Division of Emergency Preparedness](#) and the [State Lab](#) will require surge staffing to support this expanded effort. If you are able to be part of this effort, and your supervisor approves, complete the [surge staffing survey](#) so agency leaders can collect information and begin making assignments. The process will begin with volunteers, but temporary reassignments — depending on interest and the needs of the response — may need to be made.

Assignments are expected to last no more than four to six weeks and time off/rotation plans are being built into the schedule to make sure staff have time off.



As the delta variant causes a resurgence of COVID-19 cases, volunteers are needed to assist the IDOH Division of Emergency Preparedness. Division director Megan Lytle is seen here in a photo from earlier this year.



Sitting all day at work can take a toll on your health

More than [8 in 10 Americans have desk jobs](#).

More than half of the average person’s day is spent sitting, doing activities such as driving, working at a desk, or watching television. But sitting too long and typing on a computer all day can contribute to discomfort and health issues including pain and discomfort, obesity, stress, and more.

If you’re sitting all day at work, getting up and moving every 30 minutes can help improve your health. Try these tips to move more:

Five easy ways to get moving:

- Standing up while on the phone or eating lunch
- Using a flexible standing desk so you can change your position
- Walking laps during meetings
- Getting up from your seat each hour and walking around the office
- Doing stretching exercises at your desk