

PULSE

A look at what keeps ISDH ticking

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FUN FACT

Laughing 100 times is equivalent to 15 minutes of exercise on a stationary bicycle.



Indiana State Department of Health

Mission:

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

WORKING TO SUPPORT YOU

I recently received an update on the [Public Health Workforce Interest and Needs Survey \(PHWINS\)](#), and one statistic stood out immediately: “95 percent of ISDH staff are determined to give their best effort at work every day.” To that, I say a heartfelt “thank you.” I cannot overstate how important your work as public servants is to promoting, protecting and improving the health and safety of all Hoosiers. You all are the most important public health asset Indiana has.



Kris Box, MD, FACOG

PHWINS is the only national-level survey of the governmental public health workforce. Completed by ISDH and 46 other state health departments in 2017, it provides us with data and comparisons about staff engagement, morale, empowerment, training needs and emerging concepts in public health.

I’m proud to lead an organiza-

tion where 19 out of 20 staff members arrive here every day wanting to give their best efforts. According to PHWINS, 86 percent of ISDH workers are somewhat or very satisfied with their jobs. While I want to find ways to make that number even higher, our employee satisfaction is nothing to scoff at. We’ve improved that number by 5 percentage points since 2014, and we’re ahead of the 2017 national average of 81 percent.

While the glass is more than half full, I do have some concerns about what PHWINS has found. According to the survey, 29 percent of staff report they are considering leaving governmental public health in 2018. This is an indication that the health of our organization needs attention. This specific PHWINS data point is new but not surprising.

Earlier this year you all helped us identify and articulate this in our [Strategic Plan](#). Our fifth goal is to improve organizational health and be an employer of choice. PHWINS reinforces what we already knew: This is an area for improvement.

Some people leave ISDH for reasons that are out of our control. But there are areas where we can improve. Some staff report they do not feel supported, that they feel overloaded and that there is a lack of recognition of their efforts. We need to do better in these areas.

It won’t be simple or easy, but, as public health practitioners, we don’t shy away from a challenge. The Office of Public Health Performance Management, the State Personnel Department and the ISDH executive staff team are developing a plan to begin this work.

In the coming weeks, please watch for more information and an invitation to join a forthcoming ISDH work group focused on helping our agency improve its organizational health and address employee satisfaction. We’ll be looking for input and participation from all corners of our agency. I hope that some of you can join us!

Yours in health,
Kris

A JOB WELL DONE

A situation that could have sickened many of the 5,000 guests at an Indiana State Fair event was rectified thanks to the quick thinking of two ISDH food protection staff members.

Henry Wolfe and Eric Eldridge were conducting routine inspections of food purveyor trailers and stock trucks on Aug. 1 before the opening of the fair.

That’s when they discovered a semi-trailer used for overflow refrigeration and freezer space outside a multipurpose building. The rear lift door was open and the cooling unit wasn’t working.

Wolfe and Eldridge immediately notified the caterer, the fairgrounds’ concession director and ISDH. The trailer was full of premade hamburgers, breakfast

sandwiches and roast beef. When the food was checked, some items were found to be as warm as 58 degrees, well above the 41-degree limit. Approximately 200 premade hamburger sandwiches and a lesser amount of breakfast sandwiches and roast beef valued at about

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BABY ON BOARD DEBUTS

The first Baby on Board event hosted by the Indiana Fever's Candice Dupree was held Aug. 7 at Banker's Life Fieldhouse.

Chanel Forbes, ISDH Helpline follow-up care coordinator/lead community outreach liaison for the MCH MOMS Helpline, worked with Dupree's marketing team to put this event together. The event was created to share the MOMS Helpline mission and goals for not only the Indianapolis community, but also for the entire state.

As a mother herself, Dupree wanted to host an event to pamper and provide expectant mothers with items they need for when their babies arrive. Forbes asked MDwise, Anthem, Caresource, WIC and other MCH programs to participate or provide content detailing the services they provide to Hoosier families.

The night consisted of each mom going home with baskets filled with baby supplies and clothes, diapers and wipes, a MOMS Helpline diaper bag signed by Dupree and other goodies that our partners and collaborators provided.

The moms and their families watched the Fever vs. Storm game from a suite at Bankers Life Fieldhouse while playing baby shower games to win prizes. Raffles were held during each quarter and timeouts called, where each mom was given the opportunity to go home with bigger gifts. Thirteen expectant mothers from the Indianapolis area participated.

Dupree looks forward to Baby on Board becoming an annual event.



ABOVE: Diana Feliciano and Marta Mendez pose for a picture with Candice Dupree of the Indiana Fever at the first Baby on Board event to pamper expectant moms.



LEFT: Each participant received this basket filled with items an expectant mother needs, including bottles, a baby monitor and a baby carrier. Raffles were also held throughout the game.

► FOOD, continued from page 1

\$1,500 were thrown away.

"The majority of the load was still fine, but some of the boxed items in the back and near the top of the trailer were high," said George Jones, deputy director of the food protection program. He said everyone worked together to address the problem.

This discovery may have prevented a foodborne illness situation.

"This was a major catch," Jones said. "It's not uncommon to find a semi refrigerated trailer used for overflow. You just don't expect to see the door open and no one watching."

Jones said the caterer had time to replace the affected food, and the event went off as scheduled.

As a result of the incident, Food Protection is recommending that fair organizers consider installing more refrigeration and freezer equipment to handle large catered events at the site.

STAFFING UPDATES

Many ISDH divisions welcomed new faces in July, and some staff transferred to new roles or took on new duties.

Attorneys Angela Rinehart and Julie Tront have joined the Office of Legal Affairs. Payton Revolt has taken the reins as the vaccine preventable disease epidemiologist in ERC. The Health Care Quality and Regulatory Commission gained new surveyors, with Christine Colon joining Long Term Care and Janet Kent joining Acute Care.

Emma Smythe is the new youth physical activity coordinator in the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity, while Derek Sebold has signed on as a healthcare planner in the Division of Emergency Preparedness. Mike Arnold joined Weights & Measures as an inspector, and the ISDH lab welcomed chemist Michael Kohlmann and microbi-

ologist Smitha Puthenchira Thomas.

Sara Ratliff has joined Vital Records as a clerical assistant. Finance has welcomed grant coordinator Alexandra Stultz and accountant Linda Jeter.

Several July staffing moves involve familiar faces. Previous contractor Andrew Pappas has been named senior environmental manager in Environmental Public Health, Mary Beth Wren moved from Finance to HIV as a contracts and budget specialist, and Ed Hartle has taken on new duties as a lab tech.

Please also congratulate the following on their promotions: Lindsey Downs, WIC vendor consultant; Michelle Donner, licensing, enforcement and survey processor, Long Term Care; Brittany Sichtung, assistant director of services, HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis; and Leigh Disbro, WIC finance manager.

ISDH HOSTS NATIONAL MEETING

ISDH hosted the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) 2018 HIV Care and Prevention Health Systems Integration Meeting on July 24-25.

NASTAD members are state and local health department staff who administer HIV and hepatitis health care, prevention, education and supportive service programs funded by state and federal governments.

More than 30 NASTAD members representing 13 states, including Hawaii, participated in the two-day meeting at ISDH.

The focus of the event was “Moderate-Low Prevalence Jurisdictions,” and it included sessions on making sure health insurance coverage meets the needs of HIV care and prevention, partnerships between HIV and hepatitis programs and how health departments can reorganize to meet changing healthcare demands.

“HIV care has made astounding progress in the last 30 years, with many of the accomplishments being made through care coordination as everyone involved works together



toward better outcomes for clients,” said HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis Division Director Dennis Stover.

“This meeting was another opportunity to explore new ways that everyone serving the HIV community can collaborate.”

Stover and Jeremy Turner, deputy director of the HIV/STD Viral Hepatitis Division, presented a session on “Provider Sustainability and Innovation,” focused on getting cli-

ents more engaged with their doctors, leading to better outcomes.

Mark Schwering, ISDH Ryan White Part B program director, presented on “Health Systems Collaboration on HIV Drug Pricing and Medical Services,” focusing on Medicaid programs and hepatitis drug pricing and helping state Medicaid programs and public health work together to support clinical providers for better HIV and hepatitis care.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that there are multiple steps that must be taken to successfully complete a change of your name or address?

Address Change:

To successfully change your address, you need to complete the following three steps. First, you must change your address within the PeopleSoft system.

To complete this, you will log into [PeopleSoft](#) and follow this path: Main Menu > Self Service > Personal Information > Home and Mailing Address > Edit. You will enter in your new address information and then ‘Save.’

Second, you need to email your address change to Payroll. ISDH has a form that employees can use to inform Payroll of their address change. This form can be found [here](#).

This information needs to be changed with that system as well to ensure you receive your W-2s and paychecks.

Finally, you must also contact the following outside parties:

[INPRS](#): (844) 464-6777

[Health Savings Account](#): (888) 472-8697

Name Change:

To successfully change your name within the PeopleSoft system and for most benefit-related information, you must give Human Resources a copy of your new Social Security card. ISDH has a form that employees can use for the name change process. This form can be found [here](#).

Please be sure you send this securely.

Once Human Resources has received your Social Security card, staff will take the appropriate steps to get this updated in the system. Human Resources will also update Payroll’s system.

Please note that HR is mandated to use the legal name listed on your Social Security card for all state records.

After your name has been changed in the PeopleSoft system, you will want to work with your agency on changing your name within your email and name badge.

Finally, you must also contact the INPRS and Health Savings Account (numbers at left).

If you ever have any questions during the address or name change process, please do not hesitate to reach out to Human Resources.

JOIN OMADA

Invite a family member to join Omada

By now we hope that you’ve seen a few emails or flyers about Omada®, the digital lifestyle change program that can help you build healthy habits that last.

We wanted to make sure you knew that **this benefit also extends to your adult family members who are enrolled in the Anthem**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield

plan. If you and/or your adult family members

are at risk for certain chronic diseases, you can join at no cost to you. [Take a one-minute health test to find out if you’re eligible.](#)

Studies show that participants are even more successful when they share their journey to better health with a family member. Omada will guide you with an interactive program to follow, backed by a personal health coach, supportive peer group and easy-to-use technology. We encourage you to team up to get healthy.



OPIOID CONFERENCE DRAWS CROWD



More than 340 representatives of law enforcement, healthcare providers and education attended the second Public Health + Public Safety opioid conference titled “Community Solutions: United to Combat the Opioid Epidemic.” The conference was Aug. 14 at the 502 East Event Centre in Carmel. The goal of the event was to help public safety and health officials learn how to work together to fight the opioid epidemic in their communities. The meeting also included a panel of local health and law enforcement professionals who shared success stories from their areas. Attendance was up significantly from the first conference held last year.

ABOVE: Participants flood the exhibition hall to visit the 32 vendors who participated in the event. RIGHT: Chief counsel for Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities Michelle Worobiec gave the keynote speech about collaboration and early intervention.

ACCESS FREE FINANCIAL EDUCATION

Elements Financial provides its online financial education resource at no charge to all State of Indiana employees.

The financial decisions you make today will have a long-term impact on your life — everything from how you handle debt to how much you put away in savings. The Elements Financial Education Center is a web-based financial education tool designed to empower employees and family members with the skills needed to effectively manage money and build confidence. You can [click here](#) to log in or sign up for the Financial Education Center.

The Financial Education Center is self-paced with a series of short 2- to 7-minute



interactive learning modules that cover key financial topics such as savings & checking, credit cards & credit scores, investments & retirement, auto loans & homeownership and more. Many modules also feature action plans with budgeting and planning tools to reinforce positive behavior and help you take steps toward better financial health.

Earning Go365 Points

By participating in at least one online Elements Financial module or a Lunch and Learn on the Indiana Government Center Campus per month, **you receive 35 points in the Go365 program.** The online modules are similar to the onsite Lunch & Learns, and while it is always best to learn from the experts in person, the modules are a great way to review or help your family members at home become financially savvy, while also earning an additional 35 points.

There are even modules directed at helping children learn about financial topics that they will encounter throughout their lives.

LUNCH & LEARN CALENDAR

Lunch & Learn events are open to all employees and are hosted on the Indiana Government Center Campus.

Please be sure to bring your Go365 member ID number; it is the same as your Humana Vitality member number found on your card.

You can find your Member ID card on your Go365 App; click [here](#) for step-by-step directions on how to find your Go365.

If you have lost your Go365 card and need a replacement card, call Go365 Customer Care at 1-800-708-1105.

No new Go365 cards were issued to existing members, only to new SOI members in 2017.

To access the Lunch & Learn Calendar for Elements Financial; click [here](#).

WE NEED YOU!



Looking for PHABulous people like YOU

The accreditation team is recruiting **NOW** for our Review Team! For the next 10 months, the accreditation team will continue to collect more than 350 examples to submit to PHAB. We don't want to miss anything! The Review Team will be comprised of volunteers from across the agency and can include all levels of staff. The team will provide a fresh pair of eyes to ensure that our accreditation documents tell the best story of the services and work we do here at ISDH.

What can this team expect:

- This team of individuals will be invited to a kick-off meeting to review all the expectations and be provided the opportunity to answer any and all questions.
 - The team will be provided tools to assist in guiding them in the completion of the work.
 - Individuals will be assigned a set number of documents to review against a check-list of items and provide feedback if they believe the documentation does not fully meet the standard and measure.
 - Estimated amount of time spent per month: 30-60 minutes.
 - Individuals will be able to work at their own pace and can spread the work out over time to assist with their other work demands.
- If you are interested or have questions, please email Patricia Truelove, the Accreditation Coordinator, at PTruelove1@isdh.in.gov.

IF YOU MISSED IT ...

Did you miss the Accreditation 101 Learning Session on July 23?

View the session at:

<http://videocenter.isdh.in.gov/videos/video/3252/>

Highlights from the event include:

- Who is PHAB
- Who is accredited (nationally and in Indiana)
- Benefits/Why
- Story of accreditation
- Timeline
- Roles and purpose



NOW OPEN

Dr. Box helped open the Winchester House, a Fresh Start program for mothers battling substance use disorder, Aug. 1, 2018. Indiana ranked 16th in the United States for overdose drug deaths from 2010-2016, and it is this trend that the Winchester House and the Fresh Start program seek to reverse.



Volunteers of America (VOA) has seen 60 percent graduation rates from its program, more than double the average of similar programs, and has served 448 woman and 148 children since its inception. VOA is believed to be among the first organizations in the country to utilize a program that allows women to stay with their children for the duration of their treatment. The Winchester House is equipped to house up to 23 women, in addition to up to two children, age 5 or younger, from each mother, at the facility. Women do not have to be mothers or expectant mothers to enroll. The program will soon open centers in Columbus and Evansville.

SPECIAL HONOR



A familiar face was back at ISDH on Aug. 16, but before the meeting began, Deputy Commissioner and State Epidemiologist Pam Pontones, left, presented Dr. Joan Duwve, former ISDH medical director, with her appointment as a Distinguished Hoosier by Gov. Eric Holcomb. The distinction recognizes her contributions to the community and signifies that she has earned the respect and admiration of Hoosiers across the state.

ISDH PUTS ON A SHOW

The theme of this year's Indiana State Fair was "Step Right Up," and that's exactly what ISDH invited fairgoers to do. Nine program areas participated in ISDH's sponsorship of First Responders Day at the fair on Aug. 13. Each display included games, prizes and public health information.

"We're proud to partner with the Indiana State Fair to honor these men and women," State Health Commissioner Kris Box said.

Divisions participating were the Epidemiology Resource Center, Food Protection, HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis, Immunizations, MOMS Helpline, Trauma and Injury Prevention, Tobacco Prevention, Vital Records and WIC. Emergency Preparedness also set up its emergency hospital.

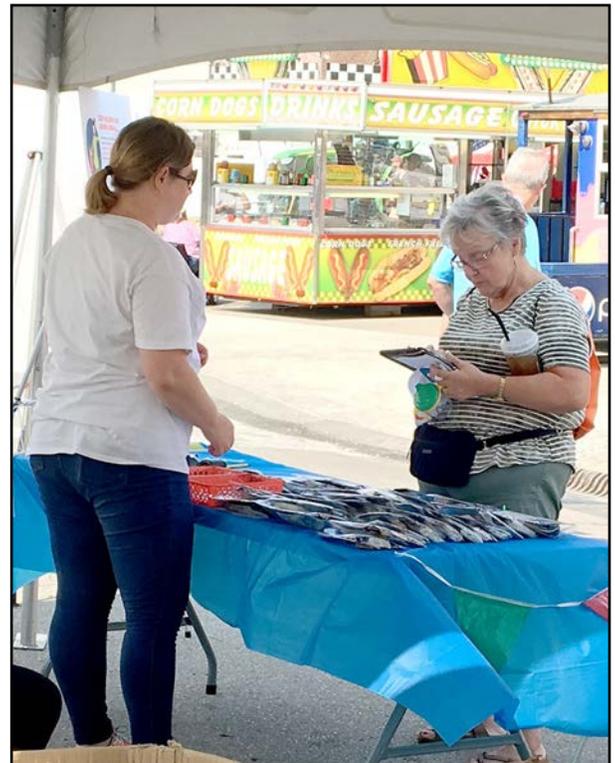


ABOVE: This was the banner recognizing ISDH that was displayed at the front gate.

RIGHT: Patricia Dotson (sunglasses) and Paravdeep "Pravy" Nijjar from Injury Prevention talk with State Health Commissioner Dr. Kris Box and fairgoers about child car seat safety.



ABOVE: Becky Haywood, administrative assistant from Tobacco Prevention, hands a T-shirt to a fairgoer for correctly answering a trivia question while Sara Griewank helps out.



RIGHT: Respiratory Epidemiologist Sara Hallyburton gives away a kit with items people need to stay healthy, from a bag of tea to soothe a cold to a meat thermometer for safe food preparation.