

BROWN COUNTY HEALTH BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2026

Time: 5:00 PM ET

Location: Brown County Health Department, 200 Hawthorne Drive, Nashville, IN

Chair: Thomi Elmore

Call to Order

Chair Thomi Elmore called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Made by Linda Bauer to approve the minutes as presented.

Second: Duly seconded.

Vote: Approved by voice vote (motion carried).

Introduction of New Member

Dr. Hodges was introduced as a new board member and welcomed by the board.

Community Paramedicine Presentation

Chris Henderson, paramedic with IU Lifeline, appeared on behalf of Dr. Barnes (IU Health) regarding development of a community paramedicine program. Henderson stated that IU Health has been conducting a Community Health Needs Assessment for approximately two years and that one goal is to establish a community paramedicine program in Brown County.

Henderson reported that available data reflects a significant number of individuals with four or more emergency department visits and frequent EMS calls related to

falls among elderly residents. He stated that the proposed program would include in-home fall-prevention assessments and could help reduce unnecessary EMS calls, hospital readmissions, and related costs.

Henderson further stated that current law does not recognize EMTs and paramedics as billable providers for non-transport services. He noted that Brown County's aging population, chronic disease burden, transportation barriers, and homebound residents support the need for additional community-based care options.

Discussion followed regarding staffing, funding, program structure, and the relationship between the proposal and existing EMS services. Henderson stated there is currently no proposed budget, the program would be separate from current EMS operations, and that the request at this time is for board support only.

Cathy Rountree noted that the Community Health Assessment identified transportation barriers, limited access to health care, and missed follow-up appointments as major concerns. Dr. Hodges stated that community paramedicine allows providers to evaluate the whole home environment, including fall risk and social determinants of health. Cathy Rountree suggested that Dr. Hodges be invited to serve on the committee.

Reports

Front Office

Front Office and administrative reports were distributed to the board via email.

Nursing

Nursing report was submitted to board via email.

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Job Description

Addison Volbrecht presented the revised Emergency Preparedness Coordinator job description for board approval. Discussion clarified that outdated duties were removed and additional duties were more fully defined. Dr. Conway stated that the previous job description was outdated and had been reviewed extensively.

Chair Elmore noted that the Public Safety Institute will no longer be part of the EPC duties because the County Emergency Management Director will have that responsibility. Dr. Conway stated that IDOH reviewed the job description but did not provide guidance on salary.

Motion: Jim Zimmerly moved to approve the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator job description as written.

Second: Duly seconded.

Vote: Approved by voice vote (motion carried).

The approved job description will be forwarded to the County Commissioners.

Salary and Posting Discussion

Discussion followed regarding the prior posting of the position. Dr. Conway stated that approval of the job description and salary must occur before any hire is finalized. Erin Heller Crowell disclosed that she had applied based on the previously posted salary and stated that the situation was legal but not ethical. Dr. Conway stated that county salaries are determined by County Council. All salaries are under review by County Council and the council has engaged a firm to evaluate salary structures throughout county government.

Environmental Health

Erin Heller Crowell presented a septic owner pamphlet she developed. She reported that approximately 40 homes are currently on pump-and-haul systems, with some tanks identified as failing. Property owners have been notified, new contracts have been issued, and reporting requirements regarding water usage and tank pumping remain in place.

Heller Crowell stated that IDOH Environmental Health leadership was consulted and recommended that Notice to Vacate be issued where appropriate.

It was noted that county ordinance may not be more restrictive than state code concerning pump-and-haul requirements.

Housing complaint updates were provided. A new order to vacate was issued for a property under review since July 2025. The approach for this property is now directed toward the owner of record to achieve compliance. A separate complaint is expected to require limited enforcement due to foreclosure.

It was reported that 314 departmental activities were completed by Erin Heller Crowell and Ernie Reed in February.

Litigation costs related to housing cases were discussed. The costs of litigation is currently higher than the department budget will allow. The possibility of legal assistance from retired local attorneys, as a public service, was raised.

Tiffany Petit provided a pool program update including a high number of unsatisfactory bacteriological test results. Owners and operators are responding promptly and making needed remediation efforts. The pool inspection form is nearing completion after review and input from IDOH inspectors and local operators.

Jennifer Heller reported attendance at GROW grant meetings. An update was provided on the IU Health Air Quality Study and related home visits conducted by Jennifer Heller and Tiffany Petit.

Jennifer Heller continues to serve as Acting Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and is completing required duties and meetings.

The tattoo ordinance requires revisions to align with the current fee schedule. Jennifer Heller has been working on the ordinance update but progress is slow due to her current additional workload as acting EPC.

Jennifer Heller is also monitoring state Home-Based Vendor rule changes and related IDOH guidance.

Sale of Cooper's Alley was noted, with the purchaser's intended use unknown.

Health Officer

Dr. Conway expressed appreciation for Jennifer Heller's service as Acting EPC and stated optimism regarding the pending recruitment process. Dr. Conway discussed the future of water quality and access. It is expected to be a greater priority in the future.

Motion: Cathy Rountree made a motion to approve all departmental reports as presented.

Second: Duly seconded.

Vote: Approved by voice vote (motion carried).

Announcements

Cathy Rountree announced that the Brown County League of Women Voters will hold a dinner on May 2, 2026.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned after 1 hour and 11 minutes.