



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Website: <https://www.in.gov/localhealth/knoxcounty>

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BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

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Kyre Cleveland

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David Linenburg

Bryan Jewel – Board Attorney

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Knox County Health Department is to protect, promote, and improve the health and environment for all the people in Knox County, Indiana

Message from the Knox County Health Officer, Dr. Alan Stewart

The Knox County Health Department is looking forward to a year of continued public health activity to expand our programs and to work to improve the overall health of the citizens of Knox County. We note with sadness the death of Dr. Ralph Jacqman. Dr. Jacqman was the Knox County Health Officer for fifty years. He leaves a large legacy as a native of Knox County who returned to serve and live with the people he knew and loved. He had an office and worked as a family practitioner, serving on the Board of Good Samaritan Hospital for many years. The good that he did and those whom he helped will long be remembered.

On January 2, 2023, the Health Department moved into our renovated facility in the Bierhaus Building at 328 North 2nd Street in Vincennes. The facility gives the health

department more room to work with and allows possibilities of expansion, as well as helping to create a medical neighborhood with several outpatient practices and other medical facilities nearby. On May 25th the Health Department celebrated the grand opening of the new facility and hosted the new State Health Officer, Dr. Lindsey Weaver, who spoke at the event.

As the COVID pandemic slowed, more attention turned to public health in Indiana. Governor Holcomb appointed a Commission to study public health in the state to improve what had previously been the standard. The result was the program of Health First Indiana, which was passed by the legislature. This program puts a priority on improved and expanded public health programs in the State and is backed by increased public funding. Local county governments have been asked to commit to “sign up” for the programs and to do so by committing public matching funds. Knox County Commissioners and County Council were among the first counties to commit to the Health First Indiana program.

With the year 2023 behind us, we look forward to 2024 as a year of hard work and challenges. We look to strengthen the partnerships that have formed, to strengthen and expand the programs that we have had in the past and to create new programs that will have a positive impact on the health of the citizens of Knox County.

Highlights from 2023

- At the beginning of 2023, Knox County Health Department moved locations to the Bierhaus Building at 328 N 2nd Street.
- Knox County Health Department has expanded its operations and brought in several more employees.
- Pamela Personett worked for Knox County Health Department for several years, retiring from the Medical Billing Specialist position in September of 2023, training Brian Taylor in her place.
- Karla Smith was brought on as the Outreach Coordinator in August and is now the Administrator of Knox County Health Department.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Vital Records – Roxanne Kempfer VRP-S

Roxanne works in the Vital Records department. Roxanne reports that the DRIVE system through the Indiana Access Portal, has become more user friendly throughout its early stages. DRIVE has implemented new fetal death software as well. The vital records department works with the Daviess County IRACS in assisting incarcerated individuals in obtaining their birth certificates for future employment, housing, and identification purposes. The vital records department also works with another program located in Knox County, to help homeless and low-income citizens receive one free birth certificate. Since these policies were adopted, the vital records department has supplied close to 100 free birth certificates. Roxanne obtained two certificates through the Indiana Vital Records Association, Management/Statistics Management and Amendments/Statistics Management.

Septic & Wastewater – Joseph Robey

Joseph Robey oversees all septic related complaints, installations, and repairs of septic systems in Knox County. Joseph also handles complaints regarding wastewater, sewage, and septic issues. Joseph trained side by side with Indiana Department of Health, and Michael Beaman.

Sanitation – Tara Hayden

Tara is head of the food safety department. Tara has completed training through the Indiana Department of Health, FDA, and the CDC. Tara consistently pursues her knowledge and training in food safety and food borne illness. Tara inspects all local food establishments, mobile trucks, push carts, temporary vendors, and all festivals/fairs. Tara recently took the role of tattoo establishment inspections/permitting and inspecting/permitting body artists.

Administrator – Karla Smith

In late November 2023, Karla Smith assumed the position of full-time administrator for the health department. She was promoted from within the health department, where she served

as the Community Outreach Coordinator. She will coordinate and prepare all budgets in a timely manner and submit them to appropriate boards for approval as well as develop and review guidelines for grant proposals and department programs.

Emergency Preparedness – Howard Hatcher

BP4 Overview

Monthly Teams Meeting and Webinars — Deliverables – AAR IP - Naloxone Grant – Reporting LHD status to EMResource - Ordering OraSure IntelliSwab COVID 19 Rapid Test Kit provided by the Administration for Strategic Preparedness & Response (ASPR) using the Oracle Health Partner order Portal (HPoP) - Procurement and Distribution of PPE to LTC, GSH, LHD, Government organizations, Congregate settings, NGOs, Ancillary, and Public - Securing MOUs for POD operations - Meetings: D10 HDs, D10 HCC, GSHEM Sub-Committee, D10 Hospitals, EMA, LEPC, LBOH - Drills: Monthly WebEOC 9.16, & 800MHz Radio Test. - Quarterly IHAN tests – Bi Annual Call Down Drills with ESF 8 Partners, LHD Command Staff, and Volunteers. Participate in Exercises w/ D10, LEPC, ISDH, HCC & GSH. Maintain supply of masks and sanitizer for distribution to HD visitors.

BP5 Overview

CDC and IDOH intend for recipients to use BP5 to focus on reconstituting their workforce, updating outstanding plans, and identifying opportunities for improvement based on recent lessons learned. CDC and IDOH also encourages recipients to engage in peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, continue to work on their multiyear integrated preparedness plans (IPP) and after-action reports (AARs), and identify efforts that advance health equity as the PHEP program transitions toward the 2024-2029 performance period. It is important to note that each IDOH PHEP BP5 Grant Requirement can be linked to several CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response capabilities.

<https://www.cdc.gov/orr/readiness/capabilities/index.htm>

January 2023: The Knox County Health Department (HD) moved from 305 S. 5th Street into the Bierhaus Building (BB) at 328 N. 2nd Street. The move was facilitated by the Vincennes Fire Department (VFD), Vincennes Township Fire Department (VTFD), Knox County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), the Knox County Sheriff's Department (CSD), and Henderson Transfer.

3rd the HD started relocating to the Bierhaus Building(BB) at 328 N. 2nd Street, Suite 100.

4th the HD continuing relocating to the BB using Henderson Transfer

5th VFD moved HD Tent -VTFD moved HD Trailer & CSD inmates cleared the old HD basement.

6th 150 N95 Masks, 48 Narcan Kits, and 11 Fentanyl kits to VFD.

7th EMA set up Temporary Wi-Fi access in BB.

9th Monthly Test WebEOC 9.16 & 800MHz with State of Indiana & Knox County Central Dispatch, and meeting with D10 Coordinator Morgan Dillon.

10th Microsoft Teams Meeting, LHD Grant Discussions - Radio and Zello tests with D10 Health Departments, Hospitals, and EMA. Began to update After Action Report Improvement Plan (AARI) & Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF8) Organizations. Local Board of Health (LBOH) meeting.

12th Joe Williams Knox Co. Drug Court (DC) was supplied with 50 Narcan Kits.

13th 50 Narcan request to Indiana Department of Health/Overdose Lifeline (IDOH/ODL) for the HD.

14th Continuing AARI & ESF8 update.

16th Vern Houchins notified the HD that he secured a \$6,000.00 Elks Beacon grant to the HD for supplies to mitigate the spread of Covid.

17th 100 Narcan kits and 20 Fentanyl received from Overdose Lifeline - Joe Williams DC picked up 40 Narcan Kits from the HD.

18th Continuing to update AARI & ESF8. Supplied 40 Narcan for demonstration at DC by the Vincennes Police Department (VPD).

20th Janic Barniak, VCVB, made an introductory visit to the HD reference 04/08/2024 Total Solar Eclipse (TSE), and SharePoint Access was Enabled

26th Public Health Day / Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting (LEPC).

27th Krystle Russell visit discussed smoking cessation program for HD

31st List of supplies for relief sent to Vern Houchins for compliance with the Elks grant.

February 2023

1st Monthly test WebEOC & 800MHz Radio with Central Dispatch

2nd Planning and research started reference the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse (TSE)

5th Finalizing draft of 2022 PHEP Annual Report for the LBOH

7th Discussed the AARI with D10 Coordinator Morgan Dillon

8th Vern Houchins & Jim Gleason presented the 6k Beacon Grant check to the LBOH.

8th TSE briefing to the LBOH.

9th Harry Nolting briefed on new HD programs.

9th Public Defender Board Meeting (PDB)

9th CoAg School Webinar

10th Good Samaritan Hospital Emergency Management Sub Committee meeting (GSHEM)

10th Advanced Micro-Electronics (AME) monthly Training

14th Teams Meeting

14th Monthly test of 800MHz radios & ZELLO with D10 Hospitals, EMAs, and Health Departments

15th AME updates Laptop and Printer

16th Email exchange with Overdose Lifeline (ODL) & Indiana Board of Health (IBOH) reference Narcan

17th Zoom conference with IDOH, ODL and Dr. Stewart on likelihood for HD to be a hub in Knox County

21st TSE meeting with GSH w/Adam Thacker, Dr. Stewart, Nurse Betty Lankford

21st Pathogen training Hedde Center GSH

21st Naloxone report sent to IDOH.

22nd TSE briefing with HD staff regarding harm mitigation.

22nd Letter of Intent (LOI) to participate in PHEP BP5 Funding received, signed & sent to IDOH.

23rd ESF8 Point of Contact (POC) w/Knox County Fire Chiefs

23rd Teams meeting with IDOH reference Narcan.

27th HD staff meeting regarding the TSE.

28th Redcap survey for Covid-19 test kits & Flu shots completed.

March 2023

1st List of community leaders sent to Kaylyn Marting, IDOH Mobile Ops D10 Site Lead.

1st Narcan research for dispensing

2nd Monthly test WebEOC & 800MHz

3rd Scheduled meeting with Local Coordinating Council (LCC) – Knox County Cares (KCC)

6th Orders placed for Covid-19 relief using Elks Beacon Grant

7th Morgan Dillon D10 Coordinator visit

8th The HD is now a member of the LCC of the Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP)

9th Distributed Narcan kits and BinaxNow kits to Farbest Foods

10th Krystle Russell 2nd visit discussed smoking cessation.

13th Distributed Narcan and Fentanyl kits to Wabash Valley Corrections WVCV

13th Updating ESF8 POCs

14th Distributed Narcan and Fentanyl kits, gloves, sanitizer, and disinfectant to Steen Twp FD

14th Participated in the IN/KY SW Tornado Drill

15th Vincennes Police Department Meeting (VPD)

15th TSE/Safety meeting – eye injury prevention – eclipse glasses ordered.

16th Narcan, Fentanyl, and C19 kits to Knox County Work Release

16th D10 meeting Oakland City FD

20th Distributed C19 kits and hand sanitizer to 1st Christian Church

21st Distributed masks to Colonial Assisted Living (CAL)

22nd Distributed C19 kits to CAL

22nd Distributed C19 kits to the Jail (SD)

23rd Assisted Knox County Commissioners by securing Coroner's properties in the lower level (LL) of the Bierhaus Building (BB) inside of a secure room nine (9).

23rd Krystle Russell 3rd visit discussed smoking cessation.

27th Distributed C19 kits, wipes, sanitizer to Mistine Halter for Dominican Republic relief trip

27th Comprehensive Addiction & Recover Act Grants (FRCRA) to Fire Chiefs & First Responders

27th Distributed Narcan, Fentanyl and C19 kits to Deputy Coroners Millspaugh, Like & Atkinson

28th Homeland Security Event at VU (Capstone)

29th Coordinated the Coroner's Office Equipment for long term storage with Richard Hand (GSH)

30th Hoosier Uplands (HU) visit w/Dr. Stewart, Betty Lankford, Krystle Russell, and Michael Edwards regarding and memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the HD and HU, smoking cessation.

31st 2nd Homeland Security Event at VU (Capstone)

April 2023

2nd WebEOC & 800MHz tests

2nd IDOH optIN registry pin received for C19 kits for survey from ODL and IDOH

3rd updated C19 cases and deaths reported to (NBS) the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) Base System (NBS)

5th LCC meeting Green Activities Center (GAC)

5th 36 Narcan kits & 36 C19 kits distributed to LCC membership.

6th Narcan, Fentanyl, C19 kits, disinfectant, sanitizer, gloves, and masks to SD

6th unfit housing and relocation of resident - case closed (Sharon Denny)

10th Fentanyl kits ordered for ODL.

11th D10 Coordinator Morgan Dillon visit

11th 800MHz radio test with D10 Hospitals, EMAs, & HDs

11th VPD meeting

12th LBOH meeting

14th GSH EM meeting

17th Naloxone Award letter received.

18th Elks Beacon Grant documented for Vern Houchins record.

20th East Coast Migrant Head Start Program Rivet HS

20th Fentanyl and C19 kits to VFD

26th ACADIS Classes

May 2023

1st 800MHz test Central Dispatch (911)

3rd LCC meeting Beckes Student Union (BSU) 24 C19 & 24 Narcan kits distributed to members.

8th WebEOC test with Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS)

9th D10 HCC LHD EMA 800MHz Radio Test

9th VPD Meeting

10th D10 Coordinator Mogan Dillon visit

11th Final planning for D10 HCC Drill

12th GSH EM Meeting

18th HCC Drill Ft. Branch

18th D10 HCC Meeting Ft. Branch

22nd Tabletop Exercise (TTX) Hedde Center GSH

22nd Resource Fair River Front Pavilion Vincennes Indiana

25th Open House HD BB

June 2023

1st TSE Zoom meeting.

1st WebEOC, 800MHz test

6th BP5 Attachment A received, (new provision now requires a backup PHEP)

7th Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) enabled on/Android.

7th Regarding the backup provision in BP5 Attachment A PHEP Hatcher consulted with Dr. Stewart if the HD was going to proceed with BP5. Dr. Stewart said the HD will continue with BP5.

7th BP5 LOI was signed and sent to the IDOH.

9th GSH EM Meeting

9th ASA TSE Zoom Workshop Albuquerque NM

13th VPD Meeting

14th WebEOC upgraded to 9.16.

20th IDOH Radiation Surge Operations Plan Received

21st Region 4, Migrant Program Oaktown Town Hall

22nd D10 Coordinator Morgan Dillon visit

28th Narcan presentation at Purdue Ag Bldg Narcan and C19 kits to attendees

July 2023

3rd 800MHz radio test w/911
5th WebEOC monthly test w/IDHS
BP5 contract between PHEP/Hatcher and HD prepared for signatures (HD/County Commissioners & Council)
10th RedCap Survey BP5
11th 800MHz D10 Hospitals, EMAs, and HDs
11th Migrant event Rivet HS
12th LBOH meeting, PHEP Contract approved for BP5.
13th D10 Coordinator Morgan Dillon visit
13th TSE Zoom meeting.
13th BP5 Deliverables 1, 2,3,4, completed.
13th HD Staff meeting
18th Commissioners approve PHEP Contract
20th D10 LHDs Meeting Oakland City FD
21st Verified InfraGard a partnership with the FBI.
24th The Indiana Health Alert Network (IHAN), EMResource, and SERV-IN reviewed
25th Blue Jeans Center Monroe City Vax/children w/Cara Rivera RN
27th LEPC meeting
28th 144 Narcan kits = 288 Doses Received for distribution
30th Michael Catt interviewed by Dr. Stewart as PHEP Backup for BP5

August 2023

1st 800MHz and WebEOC test
1st Lead investigation Oaktown w/Billie Winger LPN
2nd Demonstrated use of 800MHz Radio for Joe Robey HD Environmentalist
2nd LCC KCC meeting - 24 Narcan kits to members
2nd EMA weekly WEA test
4th C19 kits to SD
7th OptIN inventory survey by REDCap completed -BP5 Grant Executed
8th County Council approved PHEP pay/reimbursement/BP5.
8th D10 800MHz radio test – Hospitals, EMAs, & HDs

9th LBOH meeting

10th Introduction to Matthew Holden, Engineer/Superintendent of the Knox County Hwy Dept.

10th Joe Robey is designing LL BB Rm 6 for shelving for HD supplies & equipment & records.

11th GSH EM meeting

15th Commissioners meeting City Hall

16th SD inmates moved desks & file cabinets into offices at the BB.

17th SD inmates moved desks & file cabinets to the LL BB

18th SD inmates continued moving desks & cabinets in LL BB

21st Password changed, WebEOC & JUVARE

22nd NBS, EMResource, and WebEOC reviewed.

23rd Notified Public & Parochial Schools, Knox County Government of Heat Wave Warning issued by IDOH.

24th Continued Heat Wave notification to the above units

28th AME reinstalled WebEOC, NBS, and EMResource – the programs had stopped working.

31st Migrant Health Day, Oaktown Hacienda

September 2023

1st WebEOC and 800MHz test – NBS & EMResource reviewed.

2nd go 8th PHEP Arizona/vacation.

10th D10 Coordinator Morgan Dillon visit

10th WebEOC and 800MHz radio monthly test

11th Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and MPP Plans reviewed.

12th D10 800MHz radio tests Hospitals, EMAs, and HDs

13th Public Defender Board (PDB) Budget meeting

13th LBOH meeting

14th Narcan kits and C19 kits to Krystle

19th Commissioner meet.

20th MGT 403 for the safety of the underserved populations during a crisis event

21st D10 meeting LHDs Oakland City FD

22nd GSH Security Director Keith Monroe & Matt Ruppel visit.

22nd HD Staff meeting minutes submitted to D10 Coordinator Morgan Dillon as a deliverable Bi-annual meeting with HD nurses.

26th TSE discussion with EMA Director John Streeter regarding training on SITE TRUNKING for 1st responders, medical, and others in preparation for the TSE on 04.08.2024

October 2023

2nd WebEOC and 800MHz Radio Monthly Test – NBS & EMR reviewed.

3rd Commissioners meeting

3rd Registered for Great American ShakeOut

4th 24 Narcan and 48 C19 kits to Vincennes University Campus Police (VUPD)

4th 48 C19 kits to Courage House & 24 C19, and 12 Narcan kits to LCC

6th NBS report to HD Staff

10th D10 Coordinator Morgan Dillon visit

10th 800MHz Radio test

10th VPD meeting

11th NBS reviewed.

13th GSH EM meeting

17th Commissioners meeting

18th LBOH meeting

19th The Great Central US Shakeout exercise sent by email to public officials.

24th D10 HCC meeting

26th Duke Energy TTX with LEPC

30th VPD meeting

31st EMResource updated – NBS viewed.

November 2023

1st WebEOC and 800MHz Radio test

1st LCC KCC meeting – 12 C19 and 12 Narcan kit distributed to members.

2nd NBS and EMR reviewed.

8th LBOH meeting

9th D10 Coordinator Morgan Dillon visit

10th GSH EM meeting

13th ESF8 EMA Director Streeter and GSH Emergency Manager Troy Sanders reviewed ESF8 Public Health and Medical Services Annex with PHEP Hatcher and backup Michael Catt

14th 800MHz Radio test

14th IDOH LHD Update

14th VPD meeting

16th D10 HDs meeting Oakland City FD

17th VPD meeting

17th Commissioners meeting

20th HD Staff meeting

20th PDB meeting

21st VPD meeting

27th PHEP computer failed - AME rebooted.

28th CPR computer failed – AME rebooted.

December 2023

WebEOC and 800MHz Monthly test

4th NBS reviewed.

5th Commissioners meeting

6th LCC KCC meeting – 36 Narcan, 24 C19 kits, masks, and hand sanitizer packets to members

8th GSH EM meeting

12th 800MHz Radio test

15th D10 Coordinator Morgan Dillon visit

18th The first C19 order of 1,245 kits from Health Partner Ordering Portal (HPOP) was placed.

19th HCC meeting Hedde Center GSH

19th Commissioners meeting

22nd Training transcripts, 2nd quarter staff meeting, ESF8 partners meeting, Communication Drills w/ESF8 partners, volunteers, and the AAR on drills was filed with D10 Coordinator Morgan Dillon as deliverables for BP5.

29th Certificates for ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 were emailed to D10 Coordinator Morgan Dillon.

Memorandum

The PHEP outreach is a 24/7 operation therefore the summary, history, and tasks may not include all daily contacts, phone, email, person to person discussions and/or informational and promotional activities with Government, NGOs, D10 HDs, IDOH, visitors, HD staff. The relentless flow of changing information received by the PHEP is a study of importance for preparedness.

Under the leadership of Dr. Alan Stewart, Health Officer for Knox County, the mission to protect, provide, and improve the health and environment for all the people is resilient.

PHEP/Environmentalist – Michael Catt

Many new and exciting things have transpired over the course of the year 2023 at the Knox County Health Department. New pushes and an emphasis on public health from the Federal, State, and local levels are sure to create even more opportunities in the year to come.

Lead Inspections / Risk Assessments

The State of Indiana lowered the action level for pediatric elevated blood lead levels (EBLLs) in 2023. With the suspected influx of case management and environmental investigations stemming from this, the State Department of Health offered several grant opportunities to local health departments to assist in mitigating expected costs. The Knox County Health Department was fortunate enough to be awarded the grant covering costs associated with obtaining State certification to conduct lead risk assessments, a portable x-ray fluorescence machine (XRF) for the instant testing of lead-based paint, and the cost of professional services relating to lead risk assessments.

Residential Lead Risk Assessments: 4

Residential Lead Inspections: 1

Automotive Lead Inspections: 1

Animal Bites

In Indiana, all animal bites to people must be reported to the local health department where the bite victim lives. Physicians are required by law to report animal bites to people. Animal bite reports should be sent to the local health department within 24 hours of receiving the complaint. Since taking over animal bite reporting, follow-ups, and quarantine procedures in April of 2023, the Knox County Health Department has received:

Total Animal Bite Reports: 28

Dog on Human Bites: 22

Dog on Dog Bites: 5

Raccoon on Human: 1

Specimens Sent to State Lab: 1

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) firmly believes effective public health preparedness requires a well-prepared workforce. Public health emergency preparedness (PHEP) work is unique in its partnership development needs and expectations. Beginning in July of 2023, the IDOH began requiring all local health departments to maintain at least one dedicated employee as preparedness coordinator with a back-up staff member identified. Since July (and for years prior under the impeccable leadership of Howard Hatcher), the PHEP sector of the Knox County Health Department has networked with many local groups and organizations including:

PHEP District Level Coordinator Morgan Dillon

Knox County Cares (Local Coordinating Council)

Good Samaritan Emergency Management

Knox County Emergency Management

District 10 Healthcare Coalition

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Resources, training options, and funding are just a few of the things exchanged within these entities as well as planning and ideas. Several supplies are provided to these organizations, and others, through the Knox County Health Department's emergency preparedness program such as:

Hand Sanitizer

Surgical Masks

Antibacterial / Decontamination Equipment

Covid-19 Test Kits

Non-contact Thermometers

The Knox County Health Department remains a cornerstone in the community for health preparedness as well as disease prevention and control. It's a pleasure to make a difference each and every day!

Head Clinic Nurse – Betty Lankford

Betty reports that the Knox County Immunization Clinic has continued to vaccinate for COVID-19. Vaccines include Pfizer – Bivalent, Moderna-Bivalent, Pfizer, Moderna, and Novavax. The need continues for the Covid vaccinations with fluctuations as different variants have become more relevant. Betty continues her community outreach programs with the assistance of our volunteers. The immunization clinic has been more accessible through the mobile clinics that have been offered such as KETA, increased availability to Migrants, East Coast Migrants School, Colonial Assisted Living, KCARC influenza and COVID clinics, VU health Fair, Long Term Care Facilities such as Fox Ridge and Gentle Care Knox County Jail, GSH Baby Shower in the spring and fall. This year KCHD acquired Community Health from GSH. With that came a need for CPR classes and instructors to meet the needs of the community. Outreach services were expanded to include attending Farmer's Market once/month for blood pressure and oxygen saturation readings, Kiwanis, Vincennes Savings, Dumes, Uebelhor, Men's Health Fair, Ewing Printing, Library, Court house employees, Jamestown Apt, and Wabash Food Wellness. STD training, testing and treatment, was initiated along with having Megan Davis providing Hep C clinic on site 1 day/week. Two LPN's received training for phlebotomy.

Lead Manager/LPN Nurse – Billie Winger

Billie continued as Lead Case Manager and assisted with FIMR cases through December 31, 2023.

We have done 40 Blood Lead Levels this year. Billie worked with Michael Catt, our lead investigator, in coaching and educating families who have been affected with high blood lead levels. Billie also represents Knox County Health Department on the Knox County Fetal Infant Mortality Review team. The FIMR team meets on the 3rd Thursday every other month.

Head Immunization Nurse – Cara Rivera

Cara is the head immunization nurse and Primary Vaccine Coordinator with ISDH. Cara oversees the ordering of all vaccines, private insurance and VFC/317, TB and LTBI investigations and reporting in NBS, immunizations for children and adults lead testing and reporting. Cara also attends the yearly sight visit with the state.

Cara Reports:

- the KCHD has taken over GSH Community Health and worked alongside several businesses to administer flu vaccines and TB Tests for several businesses. Cancer screenings were held here at Knox County Health Department and had a tremendous turn out. Cara took part in the Men's Health Fair this year and reports that several covid and flu vaccines were administered.
- Once a month on Saturdays, Cara set up booths at the Farmer's Market and offered Covid vaccines, Covid home tests, blood pressure checks and blood sugar testing.
- Took care of vaccinations for children at the Southwest Indiana Regional Youth Village.
- Administered Covid/Flu vaccines for nursing homes, home bound patients, any vaccinations that were needed for inmates at Knox County Jail, TB Skin Testing, HIV and STD testing.

- Cara went to Oaktown back in the summer for blood pressure and blood sugar checks for migrant workers and followed up with a few of those patients that had hypertension and did not have a Dr. Dr. Stewart was able to get them on blood pressure medication until they could find a PCP.

Medical Billing Specialist – Brian Taylor

Brian is the medical billing specialist with the health department. Brian maintains and tracks all of Knox County Health Department's billing contracts and works at reaccreditation every two years for our Medicaid, MHS and Medicare billings. Brian is responsible for all patient payments, insurance claims, and booking appointments for patients. Brian also assists by covering Vital Records, Immunization Clinic, filing patient records, and assists in various ways around the KCHD.

Outreach/Education Coordinator – Pamela Stewart

The IDOH Co-Ag grant has made it possible for the Knox County Health Department to carry out Gembusters and FITKIDS, county wide health programs first established by the former Community Health Department of Good Samaritan Hospital. We initially worked in partnership with Community Health, and with the closing of that arm of GSH, we now offer these outreach programs independently.

We began the fall semester of 2023 with a joint meeting of all four county superintendents to see how we could best assist them to encourage healthy living. In addition to existing programs, they expressed interest in smoking and vaping cessation as well as dental care initiatives. Both are endeavors that we are pursuing and including in our plans.

Our fall semester was devoted to Gembusters. After a training session our facilitators visited kindergarten classrooms to teach about germs and proper sneezing and handwashing techniques. All four school systems in the county participated as well as pre-schools and an adult group. We served 491 students in 27 classrooms.

This spring semester of 2024 we will be offering FITKIDS for third and fifth grade students. This outreach centers on healthy eating and exercise, and this year we are adding a dental component. Once the training session is completed our facilitators will be in the classrooms helping our young people to be aware of the benefits of good food choices and daily activity.

Vision Statement:

Lead the effort and create strategic partnerships to promote good health, and to eliminate health disparities in Knox County, Indiana

No words exist to adequately show our appreciation for the time and dedication of our facilitators. These outstanding individuals are the backbone of our endeavors and the momentum that moves them forward. Their dedication, initiative, and unique gifts make our outreach a reality. They care about people and make time to take on the responsibility to better the lives of our Knox County residents. Kudos and thanks to each one of them.

2023 Immunization Report

The Knox County Immunization Clinic is staffed by Betty Lankford RN-Clinic Administrator, Cara Rivera LPN-Head Immunization Nurse, Billie Winger LPN-Lead Case Manager/Communicable Disease Nurse, Karen Franklin RN-Immunization Nurse, Pam Personett and Brian Taylor - Medical Billing Specialist.

In 2023, the immunization clinic saw a total of 3,425 patients. The clinic staff provided a total of 541 standard vaccines and 1,178 Covid-19 vaccines. Influenza vaccine administrations increased to 556 and 409 for high dose. The clinic participated in several off-site outreach clinics and community events.

The staff has been trained to provide STD testing for HIV, Hep C, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and Chlamydia. Two nurses have been trained for phlebotomy while one nurse was already able to draw blood. They are also working closely with Vanderburgh County Health Department to provide STD treatments to patients that are unable to travel to Evansville.

The staff received training on how to perform a Blood Lead Level and an A1C.

Looking Forward

Under the guidance of Dr. Alan Stewart, the health department is excited to form new partnerships and establish new programs to promote public health within Knox County.

- Lead Evaluation & Testing
- Narcan Coordination
- Fentanyl Detection
- Harm Reduction Needle Exchange Program
- Participation in more community outreach programs and events
- STD Evaluation and Treatment
- Education and Program Expansion
- Fit Kids
- Germ Busters
- Community Education
- Smoking Cessation
- Community Health Worker Outreach

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial Statement 2023

- 1159 Fund \$193,052.13
- 1168 Fund \$54,435.19
- 1206 Fund \$65,952.18
- 4922 Fund \$11,994.04
- 8131 Fund \$248,640.48
- 8120 Fund \$2,731.91
- ARPA Fund \$4,469.61

Records Issued

- 1,708 Birth Records
- 2,167 Death Certificates
- 2 Genealogy Certificates
- 11 Death Certificate Reprints
- 8 Paternity Affidavits
- 68 Septic Permits Issued
- 6 Unfit Dwellings
- 28 Animal Bite Complaints
- 246 Retail Food Permit
- 9 Tattoo Establishment Permit
- 21 Tattoo/Body Artist Permit