**Whitley County Board of Health**

**January 23, 2025**

**1st Quarter Meeting Minutes**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Michael Mawhorter, DVM, Chairman; Robert Sausaman, R. Ph.; Grace Lotter MS; David Lieb, MD; Russell Gilliom, DDS; Carrie Crawford MSN, RN and Amy Sadler, MD

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Scott Wagner, Heather Reid, RN; Danielle Henderson, Darcy Hoopingarner, NP and Laura Weigold

**CALL TO ORDER:** Michael Mawhorter, Chairman of the Health Board called the meeting to order at 7:00AM.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES OF 4th QUARTER 2024 BOARD MEETING:** A motion was made by Grace Lotter to approve the minutes as amended and Amy Sadler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Scott reported that the new Indiana legislature has proposed the 2026 budget which includes HFI funding at about 1/3 of the current budget.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Health Board voted in a new Chairman and Vice Chairman for the 2025 Health Board. Russell Gilliom nominated Michael Mawhorter to remain as Chairman, the motion was seconded by Robert Sausaman. The motion carried.

Motion was made by Russell Gilliom to appoint Robert Sausaman as Vice Chairman. Robert Sausaman accepted the nomination. The nomination was seconded by Amy Sadler. The motion carried.

**REPORTS:**

Mark Burkett, DO, Health Officer was unable to attend. Scott reported that there have been 67 reported cases of the Bird Flu within the United States. There has been no human-to-human spread of the virus. None of the reported cases have been in Indiana.

Russell Gilliom asked about the overall number of TB cases in the state. Scott stated that the numbers have not changed over the past year.

Heather Reid, RN, Public Health Nurse reported that the Purdue Pharmacy will no longer be providing Priftin for our laten TB patients. She is waiting for a replacement medication to be prescribed for the current laten TB patient that we are treating.

Heather reported that while there have been changes made to the Child Protective Team, she has been asked to continue serving on the team. Heather accepted the position and will remain on the CPT team.

Heather reported that the Indiana Health Information Exchange website, which is the electronic transmission of healthcare related data from over 90% of hospitals, doctor’s offices and laboratories in Indiana, has been working well and she is finding it very helpful when conducting an investigation. She would like to see that we put funds into the 2026 budget to continue our access to the site.

Traci Little, Environmental Food Safety Inspections Officer, was unable to attend. Scott reported that she has been busy with the new permit renewal process. Scott also reported that the new Italian restaurant that will be in the old Nook location will be opening in February.

April Waugh, RN, Immunization Nurse, was unable to attend. Heather reported that the clinic continues to provide RSV, flu and travel vaccines. April has made reminder calls to families for follow up children’s vaccines.

Scott Wagner, Environmental Health Specialist, reported that the weather has slowed down new construction and complaints. He is still busy with HFI. Scott is also helping with food permits as the new permitting system has a learning curve for the vendors.

Russell Gilliom asked about the health department’s standing in the state. Scott reported that the state is no longer putting out a rating number, but they have provided us with our figures across the board and how they compare to other counties. Whitley County has moved down in ranking on childhood vaccinations. We are seeing improvement in suicide numbers. We continue to have more individuals dying under the average age of 75.

Danielle Henderson, Board Certified Lactation Consultant, reported that she has completed training on helping mothers with low milk supply.

Darcy Hoopingagner, Community Health Nurse, reported that she will be providing a postpartum support program along with BABE.

Darcy is chairing a 9-month long Women’s Wellness Program which will be held once a month at the Peabody Library.

In February there will be a mini health fair at Park Terrace along with some of our HFI partners. With places to a larger health fair in the spring.

April and Darcy are both now car seat safety trained, and April is working to receive car seats for the state.

Darcy is working to develop a Tobacco Coalition in Whitley County.

Ashley under the partnership with Darcy has contacted all six senior groups and will begin heart health education with them. Ashley is also set up the teach “Catch my Breath” a vaping educational program to the 5th and 6th graders in the Whitko school system.

Laura Weigold, Vital Records, Registrar reported that she had nothing to add to the data she had provided the Health Board.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The next meeting will be held April 24, 2025, at 7:00AM in Room A&B of the County Government Center.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30AM

Laura Weigold, Secretary

Whitley County Health Department Board