



JOHNSON CO. HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Environmental Health &
Vital Records
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December 10, 2025

The Johnson County Board of Health meeting was held on December 10th, 2025, in the Health Department conference room. Those in attendance from the Board were Doctor James Pease (Chairperson), Susie Baker, Ruth Freese, Chele Heid and Dr. Mike Pauszek. Paul Hass, board attorney, also attended. Those in attendance from the Health Department were Dr. Qualls, Betsy Swearingen, Lisa Brown, and Cheryl Snider.

The meeting began at 7:30 am. There was a motion to approve the minutes for the August meeting by Chele Heid and Dr. Pauszek gave a second to the motion. Another motion was made to approve the October minutes by Dr. Pauszek and Susan Baker gave second to the motion.

Health Officer's Report:

Dr. Qualls stated we would be starting our performance reviews after the first of the year. He has looked online for a review specifically for health officers. He found something he could adapt to the job description. A couple of the items discussed were strategy, strategy formulation and strategy implementation. He then mentioned that the county government is pressing to give a large portion of our HFI funds to the Johnson Memorial Behavioral Health facility. He thinks once the facility is up and running, it will be greatly used. There is a great need for this type of facility. After pushing back many opening dates, it is hoped the center will be opened in January 2026.

Nursing Report:

We began STI testing in October. There were five Chlamydia and two were treated. Our walk-in clinics are on Mondays. Data entry for syphilis was rejected by the program. Apparently, the system is quite specific. If the data is not put exactly right, then it rejects the information. We have ten children going through the lead treatment program. There are three active TB cases, 43 patients being treated for latent TB. We administered five skin TB skin tests and 18 QuantiFERON (QFT). Nursing had 125 patients and 272 vaccines given, nine HIV tests and 1 Hep B. Lisa, Jaycie and Betsy met with the Johnson County Library to discuss a one stop service on 4 Saturdays in 2026. This would include TB testing, "Stop the Bleed" and CPR trainings.

There have been many changes in the Nursing Division. Medical Assistant Sarah has left and is working from home. Our new Medical Assistant Cindy is running the clinics, administering vaccines and QFT. She is doing a great job.

Environmental:

Food renewals are coming in. We are trying to get into every food establishment this year. Our warehouses like Amazon are the hardest to get in to inspect. These places have vending machines that need to be inspected. We are not renewing Johnson's BBQ's license. Betsy went to close the place, however, the gentleman working asked to be given to the end of the year to get things fixed. Betsy obliged and gave them to the end of the year on the condition that the fix list had to be 100% completed. If not then we would terminate their license. Johnson County has a couple of new high-end restaurants. Mo's in Greenwood and Gastro Pub in Franklin.

Emergency Preparedness:

We are in Q2 of our grant for emergency preparedness and have completed the requirements of meetings and exercises. Connie and Betsy are in the process of making sure all the supplies given out have receipts and had been sent to claims for 2025. Everything the fire departments asked for this year has been supplied. Those things include stretchers, medicine vaults for the ambulances, and even an automatic chest compressor. We've bought some cadaver bodies so the coroner's office can do training with all county EMS personnel.

Vital Records

Deaths 116

- Cancer Deaths 24
- Suicides 1
- Tobacco related 11

Births 29

Breast Cancer Awareness:

We will not be renewing our Breast Cancer Awareness Grant for 2026. JoEllen is retiring and we do not have the staff to take over. We have several places we can refer a patient to.

Community Health:

Nothing reported.

FHI:

Connie and Betsy met with the state to go over the end of year financials. The Health Department has received an extra \$11 thousand because another county opted out of the HFI program. We received a portion of that money. The funding is based on not every county spent their money in 2024. We accepted the money in 2025 and spent approximately 60% of the money. We will be giving Johnson Memorial about \$150 thousand in rollover which will

leave us to spend an additional \$700 thousand in 2026. We are trying to be good stewards of the money. We have requested a meeting with the commissioners and the legal department to discuss how we would like to spend that money.

Personnel:

We tried to reclassify Connie's job description based on the new ordinance passed by our County Council. The Auditor believes the job should be classified as exempt as Connie has a lot of overtime. The job description was rewritten and everything she does in her job was listed. It was sent to the Council, but no one replied. Her job description was compared to other office managers of her level and went through piece by piece. Every other department was paid higher. The Council refused to reclassify and there is nowhere to appeal. Our new School liaison will be starting December 2nd. Her name is Emma Dickens.

New Business:

Dr. Pauszek has been reappointed to the Johnson County Board of Health. Dr. Stropes is also up for re-appointment but has yet to fill out the form. One of the goals of the Health Department is to set up an indigent clinic for Franklin. The focus would be disease management for the underserved. This would include diabetes support, hypertension, COPD etc. Getting people their meds is hard and very costly. We can tap into some funds for that type of service.

There was nothing else to discuss and the meeting was adjourned.

