JOHNSON CO. HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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August 26, 2026

Johnson County Board of Health Meeting

The Johnson County Board of Health met on August 26, 2026, in the Health Department Board Room at 7:30 am. Those in attendance were Dr. Pease (Chairperson), Dr. Pauszek, Susie Baker, Ruth Freese, Chele Heid and Amanda Stevenson Holmes. Those in attendance from the Health Department were Elizabeth Swearingen, Dr. Qualls, Lisa Brown, Bob Smith and Cheryl Snider.

Approval of June's minutes:
A motion was made by Chele Heid and a second was made by Susie Baker. The motion passed.

Executive Session: No business at this session.

Health Officer:
Dr. Qualls moved his office to the nursing area. He has gained a new perspective on what they do.

Dr. Qualls has given some thought to working with the hospital on chronic disease management. A better perspective for public health would be chronic disease prevention. He would like to focus on diet for longevity.

The Health Department is looking forward to Dr. Weaver's visit in September. There are several things he would like to speak with her about.

Nursing:
Cyclosporiasis is starting to take a decline in Johnson County. There were 9 cases.
Annie currently has 8 lead cases open which she is investigating. She has 4 which still needs to be confirmed through follow-up. She did 3 tests here in July and August. The others were referred.
Sexually transmitted infections:

- 12 HIV
- 8 Hep C
- 25 Chlamydia and Gonorrhea
- 20 Syphilis

There are several repeat patients coming for testing. We give testing free and the question to the board was, what do we do with these repeat patients. Betsy suggested we reach the limit of what we have and then limit the "frequent flyers" to 1 per quarter. It will need to be included in the next fee schedule.

There was 1 active TB in July and August to date, and 33 Latent.

There is 1 ongoing case for TB. The patient has many ongoing health issues, one of which they thought was brain cancer. Come to find out, the patient had TB in the brain and throughout his body. Now he is on 12 months of treatment and is recovering. Kylie has another case which is ocular.

- There are currently 33 patients being treated for TB.
- 31 QuantiFeron tests were given.
- 24 TB skin tests were performed.
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The nursing division took 257 full sharps containers for disposal.

Emma is our new school liaison and is doing a great job in ramping up our after-hours and weekend clinics. In office clinics saw 126 patients. Last week, at the Parks and Recreation clinic saw 70 patients. There will be another clinic in October at the Parks and Recreation building.

Environmental:
Bob reported that Johnson County has 700 food facilities with 25 plan reviews pending. Some are new establishments, others are remodels.

Starting in January, mobile food trucks will need to get a state issued license. With this license a food truck will be able to go to any county in the state. The local county will be responsible for inspecting these trucks. The license will cost approximately $450.00, in which the county will get half. What is concerning is that there are a few mobile units banned in Johnson County. What is to stop them from going to another county and getting the license there and coming here.

We are in the middle of mosquito season. People are encouraged to evaluate their property and dispose of items that contain standing water such as old tires etc.

Every licensed pool has been inspected. There are 60 licensed outdoor pools. There were 37 pool closures over the summer for various reasons.

The Health Department has a new instrument that can locate septic tanks and distribution boxes. This will come in handy to help construction companies from driving over and damaging septic locations and years from now be able to find the septics for older homes.

There have been issues with cockroaches roaming from one house to another. With infestation, a house can be so infested that the cockroaches will leave one house, cross the yard, and go to the neighbor's home. Our office is working with a landlord to get help for one individual who has COPD.

We had a case of hoarding in which Animal Control removed 47 cats. The ammonia smell hit you from outside of the residence. They were indoor cats; however, they were so feral they had their own colony within the home. The cats were spraying the walls and baseboards. The mental health needs of the owner are important, and our office works with mental health providers in these types of situations. We must work with adult services and child services sometimes to get help for these individuals.

We have a new environmentalist in the office. Lauren is doing an excellent job. She is helping us get caught up with inspections. She is also taking on some of what Jaycie Miller did as the Health Educator. She is working with stocking Narcan boxes and the Recovery Cafe'. Lauren learned that Johnson County has a higher rate of lung cancer than surrounding counties. She would like to work on prevention and work with the School Liaison on youth prevention programs.

A while back our office had the Sheriff's Department call us on a residence who was having a large party. They were serving food and liquor with no permits. It was $20 to enter the property as advertised. They need to have permits for the pool, food, and drinks. The property is owned by a 25-year-old Haitian with armed guards at the gates. There is some fear there is some immigration fraud happening. Other agencies are investigating also.

On September 4th, the JC Library is sponsoring the "Longest Table". This is to encourage the community to sit down and have a meal together. This is 16 tables of 8 bringing in food they have prepared at home to share with each other. The problem is this is an organized event which has no permit. They know better, so now its Greek's Pizza. Even with the new rules from the State, you cannot do a pitch-in like this with the food being made in family homes. Food MUST be prepared at a qualified facility.

Emergency Preparedness:
Our office purchased Starlink, which is a satellite-based communication service that can be used if a tower goes down or something happens and there is no internet. We purchased 4 units. We will keep one, the county EMA Mobile Command will have one, Greenwood Hazmat will have one and the last will go to the Sheriff's Department to be used by SWAY and the Bomb Squad. Training for this will be incorporated into the LEPC Full Scale Exercise on October 6th.

With the rain received in the last few weeks, Johnson County did fine. Edinburg had a bit of an issue as their sewer and overflow are together. Some restaurants closed as their drains backed up, which is what they are instructed to do. The Health Dept. helped the town of Rocky Ripple with guidance on flooding. They needed help in getting their FEMA assessment done. It was a matter of direction on paperwork and who to call.

Lisa Brown was voted in as our District 5 chair of the local health department committee. Lisa will be going to the Indiana Preparedness Symposium next week in Carmel. One of the topics will be how to evacuate a long-term care facility if needed.

Vital Records:
From June through August there were 179 deaths to date. Four are pending in July, August is not complete yet.

- Tobacco 10
- Child Death 1
- No suicides or homicides

There were 5 births in Johnson Co., all homebirths.

Jodi will be going to the fall IVRA conference in October where she will take another certification test.

Greenwood Health Care had a resident fall which resulted in death. The coroner was not contacted as she should have been per protocol. After much to do between the doctor and Coroner, an investigation into the issue was initiated and put on record. When no one can or will sign a death certificate, it comes to the Health Officer and Dr. Qualls was called on to sign the record.

Community Health:
Nothing to report currently.

Health First Indiana (HFI):
We are looking to change our Key Performance Indicators. There are some areas that we have not been focusing on since Jaycie left.

Board of Health Oversight:
None

New Business:
We are the lead sponsor for the Friday Night Football Game of the Week on Corn Country. We will be able to produce our commercials (anything we want to talk about) and they can run simultaneously with our billboards.

We had mandatory ADA training. Now every employee will need to sign a statement stating they have been ADA trained. Our building has been built with ADA compliance, and our staff would help anyone with a disability get what they need.

There will be some benefit time changes with exempt employees. They do not want exempt employees to take benefit time hourly. These exempt employees include Betsy, Lisa, Dr. Quall and our two nurses.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45am.