## Knox County Health Department Board Members:

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Caroline Steinman, MD

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## Financial Report

Beginning Balances:

1159 Fund $68330.42

1168 Fund $50862.31

1206 Fund $67179.30

Ending Balances:

1159 Fund $47466.83

1168 Fund $30440.49

1206 Fund $51737.75

Message from the Knox County Health Officer

Knox County

health Department

The year 2020 began with the news of a new virus variant that caused disease. The virus was known as the SARS-CoV-2. The virus was first identified in Wuhan, China and then spread throughout the world. The virus was both highly contagious and deadly. In March of 2020, a state of emergency was declared in Knox County and public health measures with face masks, social distancing, and sanitization were encouraged to impede the spread of the virus. Despite these measures, the virus has infected over 3000 residents of Knox County and contributed to the death of approximately 80.

With the state of emergency, restaurants, bars, retail stores and many businesses were closed in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus. Despite some success, as the community reopened, the numbers of cases, hospitalizations and deaths increased. Local schools and Vincennes University opened in the fall and have remained open with good success.

With revolutionary new technology available, vaccines have been developed and are being administered at Good Samaritan Hospital and by a COVID vaccine clinic operated by the Health Department.

Despite most of the public health news of the year being dominated by the COVID-19 virus, the Health Department reopened in late spring and continued close to normal function throughout 2020.

Highlights from 2020

## Vital Records Stats

## XX New Birth Records Posted

* XXX Birth Certificates Issued
* XXX Death Certificates Issued
* X Genealogy Death Certificates Issued
* XX Death Records Posted
* XX Burial Permits Issued
* X Legal Name Changes
* X Birth Notifications
* XX Adoptions

## Environmental Stats

* XX Environmental Permits issued
* XX Septic Inspections
* More than XXX pre-construction site evaluations
* X occasions assisting other agencies on projects
* Declared XX dwellings unfit for human habitation, three of which contained methamphetamine labs
* XX dog bit complaints investigated

***Vital Records***

Roxanne Kempfer manages vital records. The State of Indiana implemented a new vital records system in 2020, which is designed to better serve the needs of the community. Birth and death records, as well as assistance for genealogical studies, will continue to be provided by the department.

***Environmental***

The environmental department, which oversees the approval and maintenance of septic systems in the county, is staffed by Mike Beaman. Mike also serves as the Health Department administrator and oversees staff and office management for the health department in addition to handling dog bite reports and working with other community agencies to declare dwellings unfit for human habitation.

***Sanitation***

## Vital Records Stats

## 324 New Birth Records Posted

* 2471 Birth Certificates Issued
* 2734 Death Certificates Issued
* 10 Genealogy Death Certificates Issued
* 630 Death Records Posted
* 840 Burial Permits Issued
* 4 Legal Name Changes
* 1 Birth Notifications
* 14 Adoptions

## Environmental Stats

* 64 Environmental Permits issued
* 54 Septic Inspections
* More than 150 pre-construction site evaluations
* 2 occasions assisting other agencies on projects
* Declared 0 dwellings unfit for human habitation, three of which contained methamphetamine labs
* 65 dog bite complaints investigated

## Food Safety Stats

## 347 inspections of restaurants, convenience stores, grocery stores, mobile food trucks, and events

* 40 food complaints investigated
* $28,152.57 collected in fines and fees from retail food establishments



Cassandra Heinlein is the health department sanitarian. Cassandra was initially hired as part time employee. After quickly adapting to the various aspects of the sanitarian duties, Cassandra was made the head sanitarian and expanded to full-time hours. While the fees that are charged for food licenses go directly to the Knox County general fund, fees that are charged for noncompliance with regulations are now placed into a non-revolving account for the Health Department. This account may be used for expenditures of the Health department that have been approved by the board and are not otherwise covered in other areas of the budget.

***Vector Control***

The position of vector control specialist continues to be filled by Madeline Hatcher. A large extent the activity of this department is seasonal, and also varies with the weather and moisture. Mosquitos with West Nile Virus were again found in Knox County, but no human disease was reported. Much of the vector control was accomplished with larvacidal tablets and spraying equipment purchased in 2019. Madeline currently serves as the Vice President for the Indiana Vector Control Association and works with other Indiana counties for effective mosquito management programs.

## Grants

CARES Act:

* Amount $100,000
* Purpose to purchase personal protective equipment and supplies needed for the COVID-19 response.

Special grant:

* Amount $42,000
* Utilized for supplies and personnel costs for the COVID-19 clinic

Immunization Grant:

* Amount $50,000
* Fund equipment, personnel, and promotion of vaccinations

## Immunization and Communicable Disease Stats

* 3669 vaccines administered
* 116 Communicable disease cases investigated and logged
* 47 elevated lead levels evaluated and followed

## Office Management and Bookkeeping

Madeline Hatcher manages an extensive number of duties at the Health Department, including but not limited to:

* Preparing the budget/payroll
* Writing grant proposals
* Maintaining reports to qualify for grants
* Cross-trained in vital records and sanitation, as well as medical billing

***Emergency Preparedness***

Howard Hatcher continues to fill the position of Emergency Preparedness. Hatcher was planning a mock pandemic influenza outbreak response in early 2020, when a real pandemic swept across the country. The planned simulated event never took place. However, due to the coordinated planning prior to the simulated event, Hatcher was prepared to handle the REAL emergency of the COVID-19 pandemic. Large volumes of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) were obtained and distributed to County health care and business entities. At the close of the year, Hatcher began the planning for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to the community. The role that he has played in this real time of emergency in the county has enabled Knox County to be one of the best prepared and equipped counties in the state.

***Immunization Clinic***

Although being closed for much of the spring, the immunization clinic has reopened and has largely caught up with the backlog of vaccinations in the community. A part time nurse, Vickie Stephens, was hired to assist in the clinic and has adapted well to the routine. The vaccine for Human Papilloma Virus continues to be a priority to promote in the community and the overall administration numbers for this vaccine remain disappointing.

***COVID-19 Clinic***

With the COVID-19 pandemic and the eminent administration of protective vaccine, the emergency preparedness department under the direction of Howard Hatcher began to prepare for the ability to administer efficiently large numbers of vaccine. To manage the clinic, Betty Lankford, a COVID-19 Specialty Nurse, was hired. Together Betty and Howard evaluated the clinic at the Health Department and determined that a larger site was needed. To accomplish this, Community United Methodist Church was asked for the use of their community center to be used as the clinic. Without hesitation, they offered their building to be used for the clinic. Subsequent arrangements were made for the clinic regarding equipment, logistics and volunteer staff. With these in place, the clinic began operation in January of 2021 complementing the clinic established by Good Samaritan Hospital. The clinic under the established leadership has begun to function well to serve the community in COVID-19 vaccine administration.