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| ANNUAL REPORT  2022 |

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| Knox County Health Department |  |  |
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Board of Health Members 3](#_Toc501116467)

[Mission Statement 3](#_Toc501116468)

[Message fron the Health Officer 3](#_Toc501116469)

[2022 Highlights 4](#_Toc501116470)

[Department Reports 5-11](#_Toc501116472)

[Looking Forward 12](#_Toc501116479)

[Financial Statement 13](#_Toc501116485)

[Records Issued 13](#_Toc501116486)

# Board of health members

Tanner Bouchie \*Chairperson

Heidi Hinkle, RN \*Vice Chairperson

Caroline Steinman, DO

Charlene Grove, RN

Kyre Cleveland

Heather Ludwig, MD

David Linenburg

Bryan Jewel – Board Attorney

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| 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 year 2022 has been a busy year for Knox County Public Health. The COVID-19 Pandemic continued to evolve as the virus mutated to new strains, and in doing so it became more contagious and less virulent. Home testing that became readily available and has made it difficult to estimate the number of cases. People continued to be hospitalized and deaths still occurred but have had a dramatic decrease from 2021. The COVID-19 vaccination clinic remained busy with booster shots and the new Bivalent vaccine that became available.

Other areas of the health department were busy as well. Vital Records, Sanitation and Environmental all were steadily busier with their daily duties. Personnel changes were also seen in 2022 with the retirement of Michael Beaman. Michael was a 16-year employee of the health department and is greatly missed. Joseph Robey took the septic position that Michael once held. Cassandra Smith took over the role of administrative assistant in addition to her managing the financial aspects of the health department.

With the new awareness on public health from the pandemic, Governor Holcomb appointed a commission to study the effects of public health in Indiana. The committee report recommends a bigger role for health departments and more state funding to health departments and public health.

In anticipation of state funding, new programs, and roles that will be created for our health department, we started the search for a new building. We obtained a new location inside the Bierhaus Center, which will allow the health department to expand its programs and functions in Knox County.

In expansion of our programs, the health department has been successful in obtaining grants through Indiana Department of Health. These grants have assisted us in COVID-19 testing, Immunizations, Community Health Worker, and COVID Workforce. While we continue to fulfill the requirements of these grants, we hope to successfully see an impact of public health and lowering disparities in Knox County.

As we look forward to 2023, we will continue our historic roles in the community as well as to partner with other providers to expand public health, education, and outreach, to provide a better overall place to live in Knox County, Indiana.

**Highlights from 2022**

After 30 years of service to the Knox County Health Department, Environmentalist Michael Beaman retired. During his time at the health department, Michael worked in food safety, septic, chief environmentalist, and the administrative assistant. Michael accepted a different position after retiring, with the health department. Michael is now a consultant and assists with training employees in all aspects of septic and environmental safety. The employees of the Knox County Health Department truly miss Michael and wish him all the best doing his woodworking during his well-deserved retirement.

# 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 is new to the Knox County Health Department. Joseph oversees all septic related complaints, installs, and repairs of septic systems in Knox County. Joseph also handles complaints regarding wastewater, sewage, and septic issues. Joseph has been training side by side with Indiana Department of Health, and Michael Beaman.

**Sanitation – Tara Hayden**

Tara works in the food safety department. Tara has completed necessary training through 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, pushcarts, temporary vendors, and all festivals/fairs.

**Administrative Assistant – Cassandra Smith**

Cassandra supervises the vital records department, septic department, food safety department, and is the grant writer and grant manager for the health department. Cassandra took over the role of Administrative Assistant and Financial Officer. Cassandra also is the environmentalist that handles unfit homes due to harborage, pests, or drug manufacturing. She also manages all animal bite complaints, DCFS cases, tattoo establishment inspections/permitting, inspection/permitting of body artists, and is the Certified Community Health Worker for the Knox County Health Department. Cassandra took on the role of advertising and media for the health department.

**Emergency Preparedness – Howard Hatcher**

Monthly Teams Meeting and Webinars - Reporting Covid vaccine data to CHIRP - BinaxNow Testing – BP3 and BP4 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant – BP3 & BP4 Deliverables – AAR IP - Naloxone Grant – Tracking - Securing used, expired, & wasted Covid vaccine & vials - Monitoring Squarespace Scheduling & Generating Patient Registry – Reporting LHD status to EMResource - Submission of ICS 213 RR to isdhdeplogistics@iash.in.gov and Ordering PPE from Langham Logistics - 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 9.12, & 800MHz Radio Test. - Quarterly IHAN tests - Quarterly Call Downs, Q1 1 July – 30 September (92 days) Q2 1 October – 31 December (92 days) Q3 1 January – 31 March (90 days) Q4 1 April – 30 June (91 days). - Exercises w/ D10, LEPC, ISDH, HCC & GSH. – Sanitizing the immunization clinic (SHD/VO) -

BinaxNow tests administered when requested to HD employees, firefighters, and residents traveling abroad.

January 6, 2022, supplied BinaxNOW Reagent to Willow Manor

January 7, met with Vanessa Phillips and discussed PDB Grant

January 13, 2022, distributed 600 Level 1 gowns to PACE, Palmyra Township FD, Willow Manor, and the Betty J. McCormick Senior Center.

January 14, 2022, delivered 200 BinaxNOW Kits to GSH

January 18, 2022, distributed level 1 gowns to the Knox County Housing Authority, Scott Family Dentistry, Breuker DDS, and Guardian Home Health Care.

January 19, 2022, coordinated the delivery 120 BinaxNOW Kits to the Dubois County HD from the Knox County HD with ISP D35 Post Command. (Trooper Ryan Johnson)

January 20, 2022, provided 40 BinaxNow kits to Laci, DOHS for SIRYV.

January 24, 2022, participated in the COVID 19 Response Interim After Action Report.

January 26, 2022, 6 Narcan and 6 Fentanyl Kits along with 1K masks delivered to the VCSC.

(MSY)

February 2, 2022, supplied 200 N95 Masks to Friends Home Health Care.

February 4, 2022, Booster Clinic VCSC

February 11, 2022, Students vaxed, CMS & LHS

February 25, 2022, 100 Masks to Knox County Probation

February 26, 2022, Presentation of the History of Civil Defense and Homeland Security.

February 28, 2022, discussed the consideration for a TTX (Radiation) with EMA Director regarding Russia’s nuclear posture.

March 1, 2022, planning to exercise 800MHz radios for all D10 HDs and D10 HCC with GSH EM Troy Sanders and KCCD Rob McMullen.

March 9, 2022, verified MOU with PACE is covered by Burkhart Ins.

March 17, 2022, 800MHz Radio training at D10 HDs Oakland City meeting (Troy Sanders).

March 22, 2022, ICS213RR to Depologistics to “stockpile” supplies from Langham Logistics per DEP Deputy Director Kiley Huntington.

March 27, 2022, The HD Pandemic Plan was sent to Melinda Carie, GSH for the Magnet Story EP.

March 30, 2022, HD staff toured the Bierhaus Building as a possible new location for the HD.

April 4, 2022, 2022-2023 Naloxone Grant submitted to the IDOH.

April 12, 2022, the Red Cap survey was completed by the HD to receive and provide Test Kits to the public free of charge.

April 19, 2022, Active Shooter TTX at the Homeland Security Bldg., VU. Sponsor was Professor Lou Caprino and the HSC. Knox County participation was by first responders. (Police, Fire, Health, Central Dispatch, GSH, and IDHS officials)

April 28, 2022, Warrick Co TTX and HSEEP Incident Command Training with LEPC, Ohio Twp FD Station, Newburgh, Indiana.

May 2, 2022, KCARC 6th location can now be used to warehouse PPE and test kits. (Nash Dunn)

May 6, 2022, procured from the IDOH 612 (2 pack) iHealth and 4,056 FLOW*flex* COVID 19 Antigen Rapid Test Kits for free distribution in the HD immunization clinic and vital record office.

(Total tests 5,280)

May 16, 2022, the 2022-2023 Naloxone Grant Award was approved.

May 23, 2022, delivered 90 iHealth 2-pack rapid test kits to Knox County Probation, Work Release, and the County Clerk’s office for distribution to the courts.

May 24, 2022, 1 case of iHealth kits to the VHA.

May 26, 2022, 1 case iHealth kits to the Knox County Jail.

June 28, 2022, Evaluator Zoom meeting Dubois County HD

June 29, 2022, D10 Functional Exercise Disaster Response Gibson Center

June 30, 2022, the IDOH sent Two (2) Monkeypox kits to the HD which were then delivered to the GSH Lab.

July 1, 2022, commenced statistical research on C19 Deaths

July 7, 2022, Level one gowns and masks to CAL.

July 11, 2022, 1 case of Flow*flex* test kits to Vincennes City Government

July 15, 2022, Narcan and Fentanyl Kits to SIRYV

August 10, 2022, ALICE Training

August 17, 2022, C10 AARI plan updated.

August 23, 2022, 150 A & 50 C Masks to DF Funeral Home

August 24, 2022, 144 Flow/*flex* kits to work release.

August 29, 2022, Naloxone tracking report submitted to IDOH.

September 1, 2022, C19 deaths statistical research continuing.

September 14, 2022, 400 BinaxNOW Kits to GSH (Terry Potts)

September 20, 2022, statistical information on C19 positive cases, deaths and vaccine completed for Dr. Stewart

September 29, 2022, BP4 Deliverables ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 submitted.

October 5, 2022, HD POD Baker Center/ARC

October 13, 2022, two Naloxone Kits received from IDOH.

October 17, 2022, HD POD Gentle Care

October 18, 2022, 48 Naloxone Kits received from IDOH.

October 21, 2022, HD POD Oak Village

October 22, 2022, HD POD GAC VU

October 25, 2022, Micro Training against malware and spyware, using Securing Lateral Account Movement (SLAM) and Remote Access Trojan (RAT).

October 27, 2022, HD POD CAL

November 30, 2022, 3rd Naloxone report filed with IDOH.

December 1, 2022, Meeting with Joe Williams Director of the Knox Co. Drug Crt. The HD supplied the Drug Crt. with 12 Fentanyl Kits and 40 Narcan Kits.

December 1, 2022, order placed with Langham Logistics for 1K M Nitrile gloves.

December 2, 2022, order placed with Langham Logistics for BinaxNOW COVID 19 Antigen Self-Test Kits (2 count) and 25 each ZLK IRT101 infrared thermometers.

December 14, 2022, EMA Advisory Council Annual Meeting at Helping His Hands (HHH). Director John Streeter gave state of the EMA for year 2022. The EMA EMOC has been invaluable at disasters in Mayfield Ky, (tornado) and Evansville, In., (explosion) and other activities here and elsewhere. (Rendezvous, July 4th, County Fair, and more) Eclipse planning here and around the world has commenced and will involve government, NGOs, the public, and others. Vincennes will be ground zero on April 8, 2024, (at 3:05pm EDT for 4m 4.9s @ 54.8 °) for the Total Solar Eclipse (TSE).

December 14, 2022, Reordered 1200 BinaxNOW test kits from Langham Logistics

December 19, 2022, HD POD Gentlecare

December 21, 2022, order of 1200 BinaxNOW test kits received.

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, Heath Officer for Knox County, the mission to protect, provide, and improve the health and environment for all the people is resilient.

**Head Clinic Nurse – Betty Lankford**

Betty reports that the Knox County Immunization Clinic has continued to vaccinate during the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 vaccinations include Pfizer, Moderna, Bivalent Pfizer & Moderna, Novavax, and then began vaccinations of Pfizer and Moderna for patients as young as 6 months old. The need for the COVID vaccine has fluctuated 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 these mobile clinics that were offered at Vincennes University, Long Term Care Facilities, the Knox County Jail, Migrant workers, GSH Baby Shower event, the KCARC influenza and COVID clinics, Keta, and Party at the Pavilion.

**Lead Manager/LPN Nurse – Billie Wininger**

Billie has taken on the position of Lead Case Manager and assists with Fetal and Infant Mortality cases. In July 2022 Indiana Department of Health lowered the threshold for lead blood levels to 3.5 and 4.9 mcg/dL. With these changes the Billie has seen an increase in lead cases among citizens in Knox County. Billie works closely with our lead investigator on coaching and educating families who have been affected by high blood levels. Billie also joined the Knox County Fetal and Infant Mortality Review team. The FIMR team meets on the third Thursday every other month. Billie, along with the Knox County Health Department, has high hopes of lower the rate of fetal and infant deaths in the county by offering local resources and education.

**Head Immunization Nurse – Cara Rivera**

Cara is the head immunization and communicable disease nurse. Cara takes on the responsibility of CHIRP updating, patient scheduling, food borne illness outbreaks, and preparing the clinic for Indiana Department of Health inspections and VFC follow ups. Cara also assists Billie Wininger with all child and adult immunizations.

**Medical Billing Specialist – Pamela Personett**

Pamela is the billing specialist with the health department. Pamela maintains and tracks all our billing contracts and works at reaccreditation every two years for our Medicaid, MHS and Medicare billings. Pamela is responsible for all patient payments, insurance claims, booking appointments for patients, and handles any complaints or issues within the clinic walls.

**Outreach/Education Coordinator – Pamela Stewart**

In 2022 the health department received the Co-Ag Grant to assist with covid-19 and school educational purposes. This grant gives us the opportunity to establish a connection with our four local school districts to provide health and education services that they request. We have also furthered our partnering relationship with Good Samaritan Hospital to provide facilitators the opportunity to work in the schools and teach the Fit Kids Program. At this time, we also offer the Germ Busters program to kindergarten aged children. At the end of 2022 the outreach group assisted with vision and hearing tests within the North Knox School District. Pamela continues her work by looking for other valuable opportunities and establishing beneficial partnerships in Knox County. With our dedicated group of paid contract employees, we feel strongly that we will be able to provide the proper personnel, strong relationships, and improve the health and wellness of all Knox County citizens.

**2022 Immunization Report**

The Knox County Immunization Clinic is staffed by Betty Lankford RN-Clinic Administrator, Cara Rivera LPN-Head Immunization Nurse, Billie Wininger LPN-Lead Case Manager/Communicable Disease Nurse, and Pamela Personett-Billing Specialist.

In 2022 the immunization clinic saw a total of 5,594 patients. The clinic staff provided a total of 3,943 standard vaccines, and 5,625 covid-19 vaccines. Influenza vaccination has increased to 349 for high dose, and 393 for regular dose. The clinic participated in several off-site outreach clinics and community events.

The staff is also working closely with the Vanderburgh County Health Department, to provide STD treatments to patients that are unable to travel to Evansville.

Nurse Wininger has taken on the role of Lead Case Manager through the Indiana Department of Health’s HIPP Grant program. Wininger is proud to work closely with our Lead Investigator to lower elevated lead blood levels and provide education and knowledge to parents and patients.

**2023 Looking Forward**

Vision Statement:

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

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 2022

* 1159 Fund $422,458.52
* 1168 Fund $61,169.26
* 1206 Fund $63,479.60
* 4922 Fund $9,353.17
* 8131 Fund $320,921.70
* 8120 Fund $15,539.30

## Records Issued

* 1,812 Birth Records
* 2,542 Death Certificates
* 1 Genealogy Certificates
* 34 Death Certificate Reprints
* 33 Paternity Affidavits
* 125 Septic Permit
* 3 Unfit Dwellings
* 23 Animal Bite Complaints
* 259 Retail Food Permit
* 5 Tattoo Establishment Permit
* 12 Tattoo/Body Artist Permit

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