



Ripley County Health Department
102 West First North Street
Versailles, Indiana 47042
812.689.5751
healthadmin@ripleycounty.in.gov

Ripley County Health Board Meeting
July 8, 2025 5:00 PM
Commissioner's Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order: Health Board President Jason Smith

5:01 PM – Jason Smith called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call: Health Board President Jason Smith

Paul Ketcham was not present. All other board members were in attendance.

3. Approval of April Meeting Minutes: Health Board President Jason Smith

Health Board approves of minutes for April's Executive Session.

4. Health Officer's Report: Health Officer Dr. Welsh

5:03 PM – Dr. Welsh spoke with WRBI about fireworks and food safety related to the 4th of July. Injuries during the holiday have increased over the past three years. Dr. Welsh participated in webinars discussing IDOH Disaster Management and Response, with a focus on infectious diseases. He also recommended IDOH training for radiation exposure response was recommended for local Health Departments, EMS, and hospital personnel. Dr. Welsh attended a two-day disaster response and military integration training at Muscatatuck and discussed potential joint training for the Health Department and EMS at that facility.

5:09 PM – Dr. Welsh noted that in a non-budget year, the state may adjust the HFI two-year budget cycle. A resolution may be considered to revisit the HFI budget if the economy improves.



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5:10 PM – The Ripley County Health Department recommends that individuals follow the vaccine schedule. While vaccination rates for children are strong, adult vaccination rates are lower. Dr. Welsh encouraged adults to get vaccinated. He also advised residents to keep pets hydrated and to check on senior neighbors during the summer heat.

5. Health Department's Quarterly 2 Report: Health Administrator Tara Briggs

5:13 PM – Tara Briggs provided an overview of how the Health Department walkthrough went. She addressed the current budget and funding situation, noting that cutbacks will be made next year on mini-grants for community-led initiatives. She also addressed the need for updated ordinances.

5:19 PM – Jason Smith inquired about how future quarterly reports should be received. The board agreed to continue using the storyboard reporting format. The Health Department's spending plan was discussed. Jason Smith requested that all salaries be placed on the county budget. However, Tara reported that, when she submitted the budget proposal, she had only submitted one position for county budgeting, with two salaries remaining on the HFI budget. Jason Smith asked for more expenses to be placed on the county budget because of HFI cutbacks.

5:25 PM – The board discussed whether to hire a school liaison. It was decided to place a temporary hold on hiring but to retain the position for future consideration.

5:31 PM – Tara discussed the mini-grant process and highlighted several community-supported and proposed projects.



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5:33 PM – Tara stated the department is working to engage all parts of Ripley County and suggestions were made to increasing public awareness of Health Department activities throughout the county.

6. New Hire: Health Administrator Tara Briggs

5:34 PM – New staff member Pilar Gomez introduced herself to the Health Board.

5:35 PM – The transition of Margaret Mary from Ripley County to Franklin County was discussed. Concerns were raised about continuity of service during the move.

5:38 PM – Recent guidance from the Attorney General regarding birth certificate changes was discussed.

5:39 PM – A question was asked about mobile vaccine clinics. Tara will follow up with staff to schedule mobile vaccine clinics.

5:40 PM – The need to improve communication regarding boil water advisories was discussed. Specifically, hospitals and senior citizens require better methods of receiving these notices.

7. Health Department Staff Comments:

5:42 PM – There was a discussion about wild animal bites and rabies, particularly involving bats.

5:44 PM – Harm Reduction reported the disposal of 59 pounds of medical waste through the medication drop box. The Public Health Nurse provided an update on STI testing, and adult vaccines were also discussed.



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8. Health Board and Officer Vacancy: Health Board President Jason Smith

5:45 PM – Attorney Lynn Fledderman is stepping down and has identified a replacement. The Health Board is required to submit five names to the Ripley County Commissioners for consideration. However, only one candidate met all requirements. Attorney Joseph Miller is qualified and willing to serve. The board agreed to submit his name to the County Executives for appointment.

5:49 PM – Attorney Joseph Miller introduced himself.

5:51 PM – The Health Officer vacancy was posted on May 6th on the county website. It was noted that three required trainings exist for incoming Health Officers. Only one resume has been received so far. The vacancy will remain open until filled. Dr. Welsh will continue to serve in the interim to ensure continuity and to prevent negative impacts.

9. Public Comments:

5:57 PM – The public was asked for comments. None were offered.

10. Next Meeting Scheduled: Health Board President Jason Smith

The next Health Board meeting is scheduled for October 14th. The date will be revisited closer to that time.

11. Adjournment: Health Board President Jason Smith

6:00 PM – Jason Smith entertained a motion to adjourn. Attorney Lynn Fledderman motioned, and Donna Pitts seconded.



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These minutes were prepared by Tara M. Briggs. The Health Board approves these minutes on

October 28, 2025 (date).

Jason Smith, Health Board Chair

Amy Glaser-Carpenter, M.D.

Cindy Lauber, N.P.

Donna Pitts, Pharmacist

Joseph Miller, Attorney

Paul Ketcham, Batesville Cons. School Corp.

Suzanne Martini, M.D.





