

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**RUSH COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

"Committed to Public Health"

ENVIRONMENTAL

NURSING

VITAL RECORDS

FINANCIAL

PREPAREDNESS

RUSH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Officer	Russell Daugherty, MD
Administrator	Dixie Meyer, RN
Environmentalist	Dan Burklow
Public Health Nurses	Alicia Hill, RN/Dixie Meyer, RN
Vital Records/Bookkeeping	Amy De Jager
Vital Records - Part Time	Kim Neeb/Sarah Martz/Wendy Armstrong
Preparedness	Chuck Kemker
Attorney	Geoffrey W. Wesling

BOARD MEMBERS

Jonathan LeSar, MD - *Chairperson*

Beth West, RN - *Vice Chairperson*

Emily Ellis, PharmD

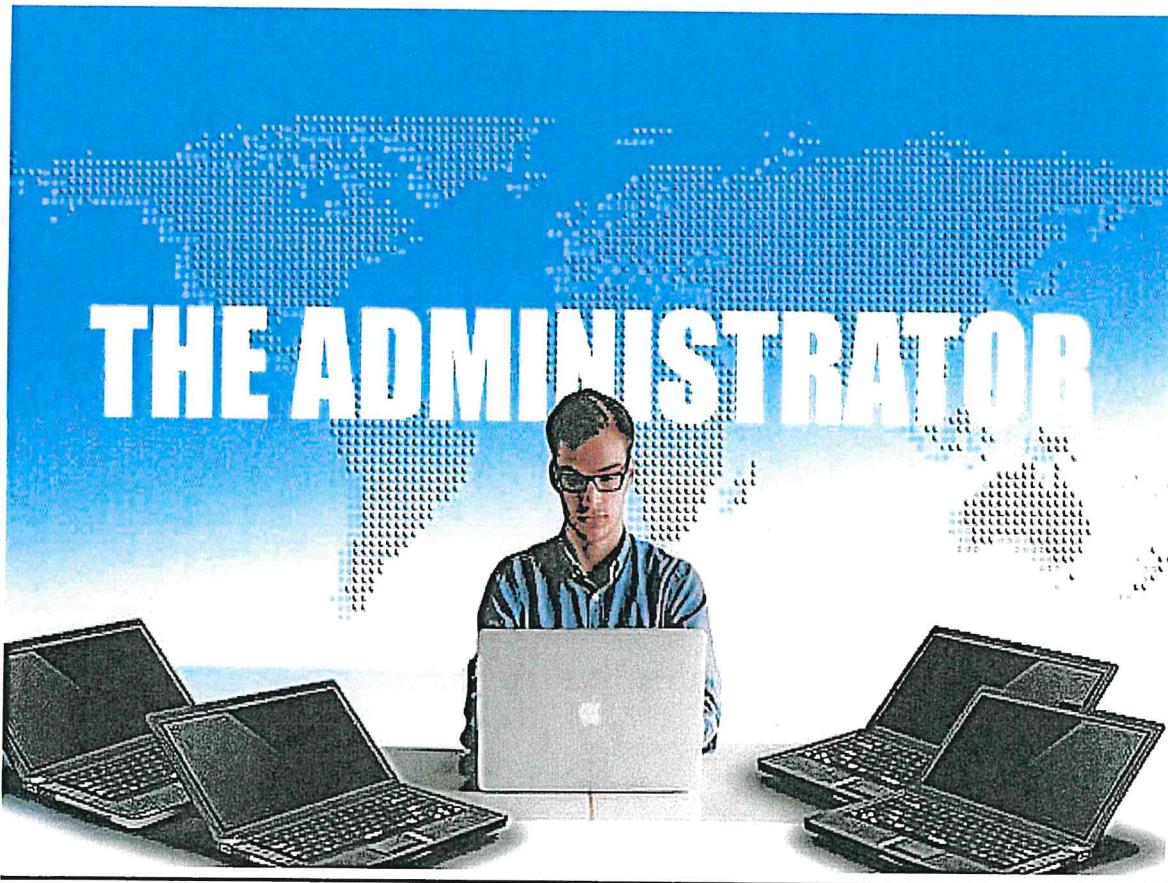
Debbie Burkhardt

Bruce Levi

Michael Justice

Alisa Winters

2023 Administrator's Report



ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The year 2023 was an exciting year for upcoming changes for the Rush County Health Department. Information from the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) began to discuss the Governor's Public Health Commission to provide increased funding for local health departments. The staff continued to provide services in all our departments, Nursing, Environmental, and Vital Records. The only staff changes were in the Vital Records department. Kim Neeb was hired as the part-time Vital Records Clerk in August. Alisa Winters joined the Health Board in April. This completed all the positions of the Health Board.

As the year progressed, the Governor's Public Health Commission kept the local health departments updated on the progress of what was being present to the 2023 Legislative General Assembly and the passing of the Senate Enrolled Act 4 which transforms public health.

This became known as Health First Indiana to provide funding so counties can determine the health needs of their community and implement evidence-based programs focused on prevention.

Each county had the opportunity to opt for this new funding in addition to the funding that was already in place. The Rush County Commissioners did vote to opt for the Health First Indiana for the Rush County Health Department.

Eventually IDOH notified each county on how much funding would be received and budgets would be done. The amount of the funding was determined depending on how many counties opted in. The Core Services were identified, and Key Point Indicators (KPI) were established for health departments to follow.

As far as Rush County Health Department, it was determined that more staff would be needed to accomplish the Key Point Indicators required. The 2024 budget for Fund 1161(Health First Indiana) was set with hiring more staff, training and what was needed to start expanding programs to complete what was required. A Health Care Plan was written to be used as a guide to accomplish the KPI's.

The daily duties of the administrator varied from reviewing issues in each department, schedules, and so on. Reviewing employee's hours and payroll. Interviewing and hiring new employees, meeting with Human Resources and the Auditor as needed. Answering questions and problem solving. Occasional meetings/phone calls with the Health Officer to keep him updated.

As Administrator I have divided my time between nursing and administrative duties. I have tracked the hours spent in both areas.

Administration hours: 1112

Nursing hours: 366.75

Rush County Health Department

Nursing Division

2023 Annual Report

In the nursing division, there are two full-time Public Health nurses, Dixie Meyer, RN and Alicia Hill, RN. With her experience with Vital Records, Alicia remains helpful in that area. Since Dixie is also the administrator and still does some nursing, Alicia handles most of the homecare patients, lead case management, immunizations and so on.

As Health First Indiana progressed in 2023, the nursing division began to review our current programs and made plans to begin to meet all the requirements as directed by IDOH starting in 2024.

The Nursing Division of the Rush County Health Department has continued to evaluate our programs during this past year. We have worked hard to maintain our services. The goal will always be to promote the health and wellness of our community to make Rush County a healthier place to live.

Registered Nurses

Hours worked- 1876.5 Miles driven- 5946

Phone calls/office conferences- 1345

Chargeable Office visits- 47

Field visits/ on behalf of-100

Immunizations

Immunizations Clinics are held the first Thursday of each month. Additional clinics were held for school-aged children during the summer. The Vaccine for Children Program offers vaccinations at no cost to the recipient. Immunizations are offered to children on Medicaid, have no insurance, or their insurance does not cover vaccines. The vaccines that are offered to children through the age of eighteen, include the following: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, haemophiles influenzae B, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, pneumococcal, meningococcal MCV4 and Men B, HPV, hepatitis A and B, rotavirus, Covid and influenza. Our plan is to expand VaxCare to children with health insurance in 2024.

Immunization Clinics (VFC)	18 sessions
Under 1 year of age	9
1-4 years of age	15
5-9 years of age	13
<u>10+ ears of age</u>	<u>29</u>
Total number attending	66
Total vaccines given	189

Adult Vaccine

In the past, the health department has offered vaccines that are purchased with grant money. IDOH offers 317 program which provides vaccine for adults with no insurance. The health department ordered Tdap, Flu, Covid, Prevnar 20, and Pneumovax 23 through the 317 program. VaxCare was added for the adult vaccines in August. VaxCare files with health insurance and the health department received compensation for each vaccine given. Vaccines are given by appointment. All ages are welcome to receive these vaccines at no cost. The nurses do go to different locations to offer Covid, Flu, and Pneumonia vaccines, such as businesses for their employees, homecare patients, and any homebound patients when notified.

Flu vaccine- Regular: 71 High dose: 46
Pneumovax-23: 1 Prevnar-20: 13 Tdap: 10
Covid Bivalent: 13 Covid SpikeVax: 54

The following list is where the Rush County Health Department nurses gave the Flu, Pneumonia, and Covid vaccines.

Anderson Township Volunteer Fire Department Fish Fry
Courthouse employees
Commons Apartments
Shares

Tuberculosis

The Rush County Health Department has maintained Tuberculosis Control as we have for many years. The Indiana State Department of Health guidelines are followed. All information is reported to IDOH via NBS website as with all communicable disease reporting. The IDOH Regional TB nurse always works closely with our department and is vital in providing our nurses with up-to-date information to handle any Tuberculosis cases properly. In 2023, there were no active cases of Tuberculosis.

Mantoux testing is offered, and any positives are followed up with chest X-rays and further follow-up. Any treatment of Latent TB is ordered through IDOH and education on the medication is done with each latent TB case that decides to take the preventative treatment. In 2023, there were two cases of Latent TB that were offered treatment.

Mantoux testing was done on members of a local church who traveled on a mission trip in Africa. There was a possible exposure while in Africa, and all those who were in contact were tested and were negative. It was recommended to the minister that anyone who travels in those areas should be tested at least two months after travel.

The following is what testing our department administered and the results:

	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Did not return</u>
Employment	36	34	0	2
Miscellaneous (College, Daycare families, Foster care, Rehab, & etc.)	10	9	0	1
Follow-up	7	7	0	0
Totals	53	50	0	3

Communicable Disease Investigations

Rush County Health Department investigates communicable disease cases in our county, according to the IDOH Communicable Disease Rule. NBS (NEDSS Based System) is used and vital in tracking communicable diseases in the county. The Indiana Department of Health Student Epidemiology Response Team (IU-SEIT) has been assisting our county in conducting case investigations for the following: Salmonellosis (including Typhoid/Paratyphoid Fever), Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia Coli (STEC) (including Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome), Spotted Fever Group Rickettsiosis including Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and Listeriosis. The Indiana Department of Health Infectious Disease & Prevention Division Epidemiology Field Team aids with the following: Animal bites, Campylobacter, Cryptosporidiosis, Hepatitis A, Histoplasmosis, Pneumococcal disease-invasive, Shigella, Streptococcus-Group A, Varicella, and Vibrio. RCHD investigates the rest of the cases. Both programs are very helpful to our department. As you can see below, animal bites and lead are the most frequent cases investigated with Covid cases declining. Lead cases have continued to increase as the new guidelines have been implemented. The following table is the Case Status Report.

**Rush County Health Department
2023
Communicable Disease Report**

Disease/Condition	Case Status						Total
	Confirmed	Not a Case	Probable	Suspect	Unknown		
2019 Clinical Novel Coronavirus	2	0	0	0	0		2
2019 Novel Coronavirus	435	4	201	0	0		640
Animal Bites	63	2	0	0	0		65
Campylobacteriosis	0	0	2	0	0		2
Carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPO), clinical	1	0	0	0	0		1
Haemophilus influenzae, invasive	1	0	0	0	0		1
Hepatitis C Virus Infection, past or present	9	0	3	0	1		13
Influenza-Associated Death	1	0	0	0	0		1
Latent Tuberculosis Infection	4	0	0	1	0		5
Lead	3	20	4	11	0		38
Pertussis	0	1	0	0	0		1
Salmonellosis, excluding S. typhi and S. paratyphi	1	0	0	0	2		3
Strep pneumoniae, invasive	3	1	0	0	0		4
Streptococcal disease, invasive, Group A	1	1	0	0	0		2
Varicella (Chickenpox)	0	1	1	0	0		2
Vibriosis (non-cholera Vibrio species infections)	1	0	0	0	0		1
Total	525	30	211	12	3		781

Home Health Services

Home Health Care Services have provided care to twenty-two citizens of Rush County, such as medication set-up, assessing and monitoring their vital signs, lung and heart sounds, and general condition. Also, giving emotional support to the patient as well as their caregivers. Many of our patients have memory issues and need assistance with medications. Heart disease, diabetes and emotional/mental conditions are major conditions that we help manage. Education is provided as needed. These visits are conducted under each patient's Provider's orders and any changes are reported as such. Our Home Health Care service has enabled people to remain in their home safely.

Home Health Care 12 Month Report Statistical Review of Visits - January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Patient Visits -

	Home Care
Endocrine, Nutritional, Metabolic	204
Emotional, Mental	117
Nervous System, Sense Organs	0
Circulatory System	370
Respiratory System	138
Genitourinary System	0
Skin: Subcutaneous Tissue	0
Musculoskeletal, Connective Tissue	0
Neoplasms	0
Blood, Lymph & Spleen	0
Total Visits	836
Not at home -	12

Patient Age Range -

20-64	150
65+	686
Totals	836

Funding -

Charge	545
No Charge	291
Totals	836

Status of Visits

RN Visits	HC	Referred by	HC	Discharges	HC
Admits	26			Hospital	0
Re-Admits	1	Other HH Agency	3	Hospital	1
Re-Visits	809		Self-Family	LTC	2
Total Visits	836	SS Agency	0	LTC	1
			Providers	Died	1
		LTC	0	Other	0
			Total Admissions	27	Total Discharges

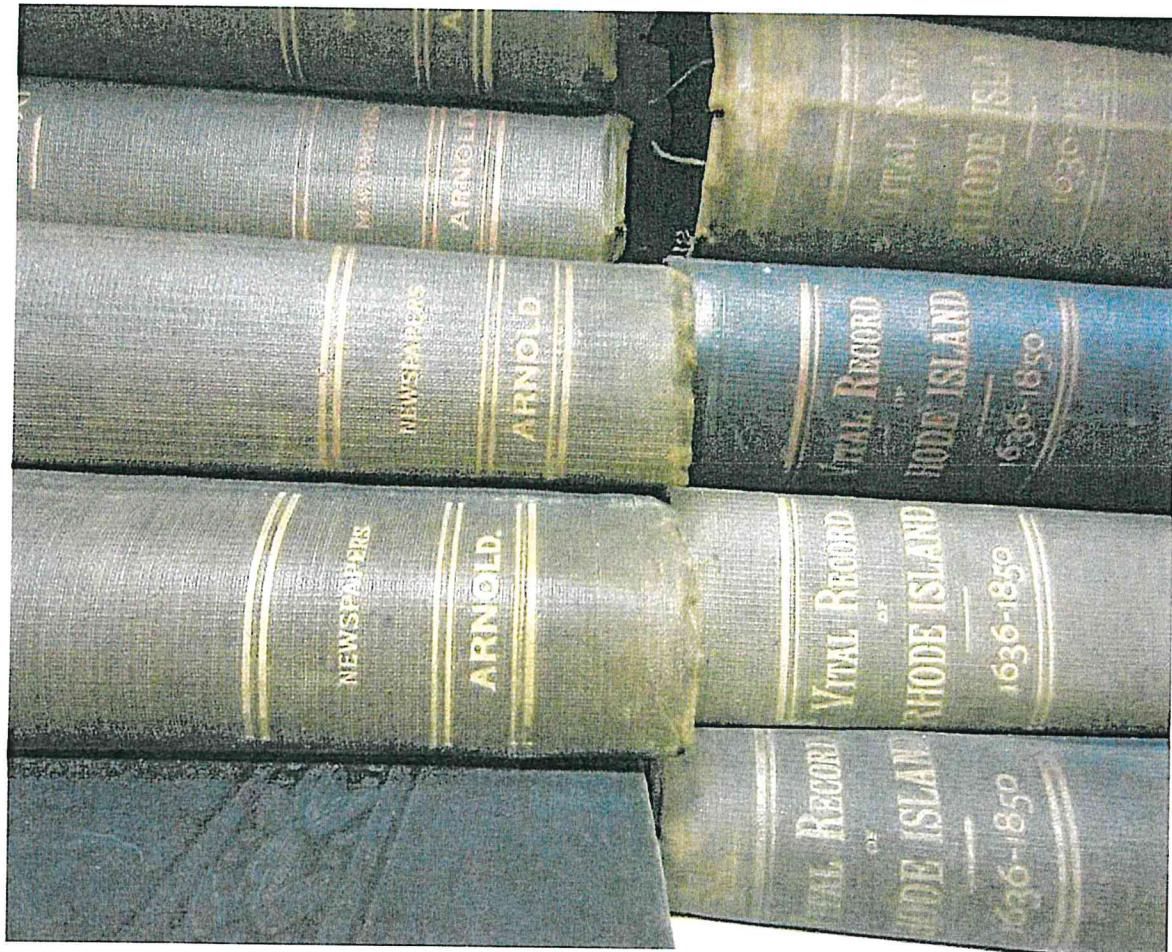
Workshops, Consultations, and Community Activities

Some of these meetings/workshops met via Zoom/Teams. More meetings are now back to in-person.

AH	DM	Staff meetings
AH	DM	Health Board meetings
	DM	Rush2Health meetings
AH	DM	ISDH Webinar: Updates and School
AH		World TB Day
AH		Lead Training with IDOH
AH	DM	IDOH Lead Risk Assessment meeting
AH		Lead Webinar
	DM	Caring for Rush County
AH	DM	Emerson Health Fair
AH	DM	RMH Health Fair
AH	DM	Rush County Employee Wellness Fair
AH	DM	Local Public Health Leadership Symposium-Fall
	DM	District 6 HCC Special Pathogens Presentation
AH	DM	Immunization QI Site Visit & training
AH	DM	Vaccine QI meeting via Zoom
	DM	Vaccine QI Training - HPV
AH	DM	VFC Site Visit
AH	DM	IDOH District 6 Field Epidemiologist meeting
AH		Rushville Commons Apt-blood pressure checks
AH		Dementia Simulation Program
AH		Vital Records Conference
AH	DM	Quad County Nurse's meeting (Hancock, Shelby, Johnson, Rush)
AH		Public Health Nurse Conference
AH	DM	A to Z Immunization Training
AH	DM	Vax Care meeting and training
AH	DM	Indiana Health Information Exchange (IHIE)
AH	DM	Hepatitis Training
AH		IDOH Public Health Nurse Orientation

2023 VITAL RECORDS

REPORT



RUSH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

VITAL RECORDS REPORT FOR 2023

Beginning with the year of 1882, Rush County has recorded, and made available to the public, births, and deaths in Rush County. Although statistics have advanced to electronic records, we continue to maintain the value of manual archives, housed in books convenient for public viewing.

The Law mandates an "Open Book" Policy, the exception being protected information, such as adoptions and communicable diseases.

The year of 2023 brought us one (1) Birth, which happened to be a Female. One (1) Free Birth Certificate was issued, as we waive the cost for the first Birth Certificate received, following a new birth. There were no Stillbirths reported.

Rush County recorded zero (0) Adoptions, one (1) Amendment to Births and zero (0) name changes by Court Order.

One hundred and thirty-four (134) Deaths were reported for 2023; sixty-seven (67) were Males and sixty-seven (67) were Females. This compares to one hundred and eighteen (118) in 2022. Of those deaths, twenty-nine (29) were reported as Coroner Cases, with eight (8) being Autopsy Cases.

One free Death Certificate is issued to Veterans who served in the U. S. Armed Forces for Veteran Administration benefits. Nineteen (19) were issued in 2023.

Each month a list of persons that became deceased within Rush County is provided to the Social Security Administration in Richmond and is also furnished to the Auditor and Clerk of Rush County. The Auditor uses this information to purge names from the exemption list. The Clerk removes these names from their registry of residents.

Vital Statistics is required to pay a Coroner's Fee for the Coroner's Continuing Education Program each year. That cost is currently \$2.50 per Death Certificate.

In 2019 we started using PayGov.US, this allows us to accept credit card payment by phone or walk-in.

The Staff within our office assists in helping all customers when needed. We strive to help with the needs presented by the Public

REPORT OF VITAL RECORDS

STATISTICS 2023

BIRTHS

Births Recorded: 0

Females: 1

Males: 0

Birth Certificates Issued: 280

Uncertified Birth Certificates: 6

Free Birth Certificates Issued: 1

Adoptions: 0

Amendments: 1

Name Change by Court Order: 0

DEATHS

Deaths Recorded: 134

Females: 67

Males: 67

Death Certificates Issued: 537

Uncertified Death Certificates Issued: 0

Free VA Death Certificates Issued: 17

Coroner Cases: 26

Autopsy Cases: 4

Stillbirths: 0

2023 FINANCIAL REPORT



RUSH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FINANCIAL REPORT January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

FUND BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2023 - \$221,298.06

Office Receipts

Vital Records - Birth	\$5,700.00
Vital Records - Death	\$10,003.00
Home Nursing	\$3,567.50
Office Injections	\$940.00
VaxCare	\$2,777.00
Septic Permits	\$4,600.00
Food Permits	\$19,680.00
Tattoo Artist Permits	\$75.00
Tattoo/Piercing/Body Modifications	\$300.00
Misc. Income	\$696.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$48,338.50</u>
Less \$2.50 per Death Certificate	\$1,337.00
TOTAL OFFICE RECEIPTS	\$47,001.50

Property Taxes	\$267,976.76
License Excise Taxes	\$15,607.55
Bank Taxes	\$2,375.29
CVET	\$1,186.68
TOTAL TAX RECEIPTS	\$287,146.28

GRAND TOTAL OF RECEIPTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

\$334,147.78

RUSH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Financial Report - January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

DISBURSEMENTS

Gross Payroll	\$222,882.52
Social Security	\$16,512.49
Health Insurance	\$34,554.00
Office Supplies	\$2,741.28
Copier/Computer Supplies	\$945.35
Environmental Health	\$639.15
Postage	\$394.86
Travel	\$1,222.41
Repairs/ Maintenance	\$625.61
Insurance	\$242.00
Cell Phone/Mifi	\$1,452.55
Litigation Fees	\$0.00
Dues /Subscriptions	\$120.00
Attorney	\$4,500.00
Health Board	\$1,455.00
Uniform Allowance	\$1,437.47
Registration/Conference	\$1,958.09
Accreditation	\$0.00
Website Maintenance	\$630.00
Furniture/Equipment	\$1,138.81
Council use only	\$0.00
Unappropriated (ref to FH)	\$0.00

GRAND TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS AS OF DEC. 31, 2023 **\$293,451.59**

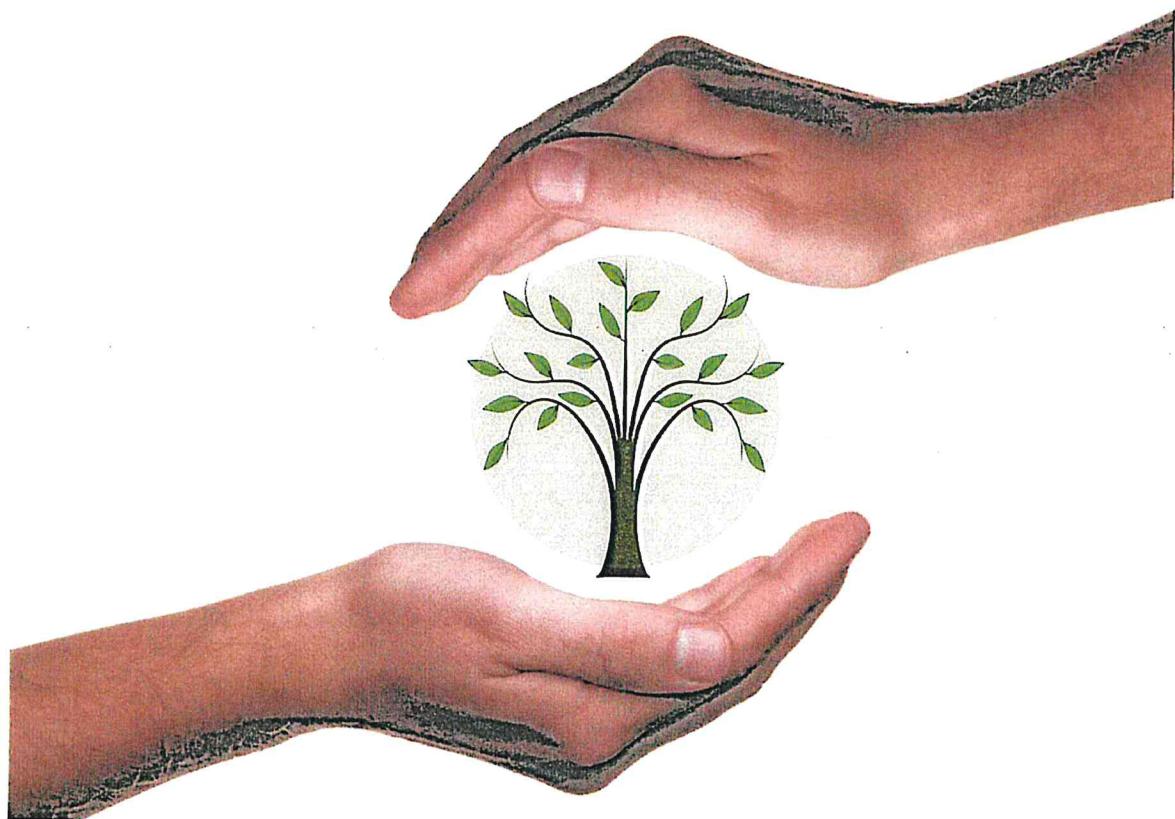
FUND BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022 **\$221,298.06**

2023 TOTAL RECEIPTS **\$334,147.78**

2023 TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS **\$293,451.59**

FUND BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 **\$261,994.25**

Environmental Health Specialist



The Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) has broad responsibilities for the prevention and suppression of conditions, which could threaten the health of the citizens of Rush County. Areas include private sewage disposal, retail and temporary food establishment permits and inspections, food-borne illnesses, mosquito surveillance, well water safety, complaints pertaining to the health and well-being of our citizens as well as public and semi-public swimming pool inspections. Additional responsibilities include being able to answer questions regarding the health department's role within the community as well as a broad range of questions pertaining to many of the aforementioned areas of responsibility within the health department, permitting and inspection of tattoo establishments and tattoo artists as well as oversight on the environmental cleanup of toxins left behind at a methamphetamine manufacturing site.

Private Sewage Disposal Ordinance of Rush County, the policies and procedures are regulated by the Residential On- Site Sewage Systems Rule 410 IAC 6-8.3. The Environmental Health Specialist reviews soil scientist reports, prepares minimum specification sheets for all on-site meetings, holds on-site meetings with installers and homeowners (or the homeowner's agent), checks plan reviews submitted by the installers following the on-site meeting, issues septic permits, and oversee the final installation of the tank sets, soil absorption fields and subsurface drainages. This all applies to new sites, repairs, and hook-up replacements of private septic systems.

In 2022, 44 residential on-site septic applications were submitted to the health department for consideration. Applications covered 16 replacements, 26 new residential on-site systems, 1 commercial on-site system, and 1 hook-up from a pool house addition. Of these 44, a total of 27 were moved to a finished/complete status. 17 of the 44 will carry over to the 2023 septic season.

47 soil reports from registered soil scientists were submitted to the department for review.

There was 1 dye test performed in 2022.

The Environmental Health Specialist works closely with the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) District Field Staff when concerns arise with on-site plan reviews, soil absorption fields (SAF), subsurface drainages, and final inspections.

All food permit holders in Rush County are charged according to Rush County Ordinance #2015-2. Fees for annual food permits and temporary food vendors are outlined in categories of Full Time Food Establishment, Caterer/Mobile Vendor, Mobile Pre-Packaged Frozen Food, Farmers Market Frozen Meat/Vegetables and Cider, First Time Food Permit (last quarter of year) and Temporary Food Permit.

A total of 95 annual food permits were issued in 2022, 81 profit and 14 not for profit. 44 Temporary food permits were issued throughout the year for different food vendors at festivals and the county fair.

Food inspections follow the Indiana State Department of Health Guidelines for Food Safety and the Rush County Ordinance. A combined total of 66 food safety inspections were completed during the year. These food inspections included for profit and non-for-profit food establishments both annual and temporary permitted. A total of 3 re-inspections were completed. A total of 14 critical violations, and 72 non-critical violations were discovered during these inspections. Most critical violations were corrected at the time of inspection or may require additional inspections.

The following indicates the top violations for Rush County Retail Food Establishments in no order.

Statute Number	Violation Description
191	No date mark
146	Food Labeling
187	Hot/Cold holding temps 41-135
229	Cleanability of food contact items
433	Mops suspended for drying, to prevent bacteria growth.
173	Cross Contamination

The CDC has determined that 60% of all food-borne illnesses can be attributed directly to the personal hygiene and health of the food establishment employee. As a result, the food establishments with extensive employee handling of raw ingredients should be inspected more frequently than those establishments serving pre-packaged or non-potentially hazardous foods.

ISDA District Food Protection Field Staff and ISDH Food Specialist continue to work with the local environmental Health Specialist to ensure proper food inspections.

The EHS oversees public and semi-private swimming pool inspections. There are currently two public swimming pools in Rush County. Inspections were held at each pool with both pools passing.

In addition, the duties under Indiana's Methamphetamine rule (318 IAC 1-1) with respect to environmental cleanup of toxic waste left behind at a clandestine drug manufacturing site are under the EHS division. In 2022, the department did not receive any Indiana State Police Occurrence Report that indicated Meth Lab had been found in any residence in Rush County.

The EHS investigates all formal written complaints dealing with all environmental and food issues. This year there were a total of 3 written complaints received by the Health Department. All complaint follow ups were made by the Rush County EHS.

Tattoo establishments and tattoo artists are to maintain annual permits and be inspected yearly through the health department. The Environmental Health Specialist oversees this operation. There are currently (0) permitted establishments in Rush County.

Dan Burklow obtained 5 certifications in 2022 pertaining to the EHS/Food inspector position. He has attended 4 different conferences and orientations as well. For 2023 the goal is to obtain the Category 8 certification through the Indiana State Chemist to allow us to start testing mosquitos in our area for West Nile.

Dan Burklow got hired on October 31, 2022, and since employment has been involved with all aspects of septic systems from permitting to final inspections. New code and legislation have also been a large part of learning how it is going to impact upcoming and current proposed septic systems. He has also been involved in food inspections and has worked with surrounding counties to familiarize himself with the current food code and standards set by the state.

Telephone calls, meetings, and reports continue to fill open spaces in the Environmental Health Services daily routine.

The goal of Environmental Health Services and the Environmental Health Specialist is to continue to strengthen our commitment by providing our Rush County Citizens with a Health Department Staff dedicated to the well-being of the citizens of Rush County. The EHS as well as the Health Department staff

strives to be a valuable resource to Rush County through cooperation and communication with consumers, state and federal agencies as well as the medical and law enforcement community, thus continuously educating and helping to prevent conditions which could threaten the health of the people of Rush County.

Rush County Environmental Health recap

Annual Report 2023

On Site Septic Systems

Septic Applications	49
New Soil reports	35
Permits Issued	28
Permits Canceled	0
Dye Tests	0
Replace/Repairs	19
Hook Ups	0
Commercial	3
New System	25
Installed	28

Food

Annual Permits Profit/Non-Profit	84
Routine Food Inspections	112
Re-Inspections	4
Temporary Permits	42
Temporary Inspections	30
Pre-Operational Inspections	2
Critical Violations	13
Non-Critical Violations	85
New Food Establishments	2
Closed Food Establishments	0
Ownership Change	1
Summer School Lunch Program Inspections	5