

From: Lori Kelley <lkelley@co.monroe.in.us>
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To: Jennifer Crossley <jcrossley@co.monroe.in.us>, Peter Iversen <piversen@co.monroe.in.us>, Kate Wiltz <kwiltz@co.monroe.in.us>, Marty Hawk <mhawk@co.monroe.in.us>, Liz Feitl <lfeitl@co.monroe.in.us>, David Henry <dhenry@co.monroe.in.us>, Trent Deckard <trentdeckard@co.monroe.in.us>
Subject: Health Department Update

Good evening Council,

On February 20, 2025, the Board of Health voted to no longer pursue Public Health Accreditation.

This decision was made based on associated costs, time commitment involved, and the lack of anticipated return on investment. While accreditation is a valuable credential in many industries, the resources required to achieve and maintain it outweighs the benefits for the Health Department.

We understand that this may come as a disappointment to some, and that this may lead to misconceptions that we are underqualified. Please know that this was a well-considered decision by the Board of Health, made with the long-term success of the department in mind. This decision is in no way a reflection of our commitment to quality, growth, and accountability.

Across the state of Indiana, there are only two local health departments that are accredited. Public health accreditation for local health departments is considered an accolade, not a factor for funding or representative of service quality. The department worked on accreditation for nearly a decade, which represents a commitment to perseverance and setting the stage for future application(s) to the Public Health Accreditation Board, though when viewed from an alternative perspective, highlights the importance of organizations remaining focused on being the best stewards of public funds, time, resources, and personnel. When considering the costs of having an award, compared to costs used for public health purpose, the answer seems clear. We believe this decision allows us to focus our efforts on other strategic initiatives that will better serve our goals, community, and mandated core services.

We remain focused on our mission to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Monroe County.

Thank you for all you do to serve our community,

Lori Kelley, MA, CFRM, MHA, RT (R)(CT)(MR)| Health Administrator
Monroe County Health Department
119 West 7th Street | Bloomington, IN 47404
Phone: 812-349-2068 | Fax: 812-349-7346
To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Monroe County.

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