



GOVERNOR'S PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

Public Comments Summary

Number of Comments: 7

Timeframe: November 4, 2021- December 13, 2021

No. of Comments	Topic	Summary
4	Public Health Workforce	<p>One commenter from Hillsdale submitted four separate comments. She is an RN of over 40+ years and a volunteer working as a first responder. In her comments, she is passionately advocating for outreaching to first responders who are predominately volunteers and know their local communities best to listen, support, and better understand what is happening at the ground level. She also recommended contacting community advocates/leaders (including local community foundations and critical assess facility and school district administrators) and also advocated for the role of philanthropy. She cited the Paramedic to RN program that began in Indiana 16 years ago as an example of the success that can be achieved if you "go upstream" to the volunteers to listen and learn about solutions.</p> <p>In addition, she talks about the importance of recognizing and supporting the work of first responder/front line workers and volunteers as a way to address some of the public health challenges outlined in the Indiana 2015-2021 State Health Assessment/State Health Improvement Plan (SHA-SHIP), with specific mention of the challenge/issue of "unintentional injury" of the workforce listed in the plan. She strongly advocates for investing in these volunteers through listening, supporting, and training in order to create opportunities to address some of Indiana's public health challenges, and as a way to retain and advance volunteers who are passionate about serving their communities. In her final comment, she again strongly recommends outreaching to volunteers at the grassroots level to listen, learn, and create opportunities that can then be expanded more broadly across the State.</p> <p>In all of her comments she has willingly offered to share more information and/or provide any support needed to move things forward.</p>
1	Emergency Preparedness	<p>One commenter from Bloomington advocated for better funding for public health and disease prevention, suggested using Rainy Day Funds for this purpose, and noted the adverse effects of underfunding to the state's economy and citizens' well-being. He also addressed emergency preparedness, advocating for: health education about vaccines in public schools; county health department exercises to prepare for infectious disease emergencies; identification of personnel who can serve in an emergency (e.g. retired physicians and nurses); stockpiling of supplies such</p>

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		as personal protective equipment; templates for public health messaging; maintenance of up-to-date lists of healthcare and other contacts and resources available statewide through IDOH; and a companion inventory of health care facilities indicating capacity and capabilities for public health emergencies.
1	Other	This commenter from Indianapolis is upset about the solicitation they received from Indiana Family and Social Services Administration when accessing the Healthcare Marketplace, asking about her interest in other public benefits (e.g., SNAP and Medicaid), and also feels it is an invasion of her privacy and that she is being profile based on her zip code. She is also opposed to her health plan sending rent and mortgage assistance information.
1	Public Health Governance	One commenter from Clinton is recommending adding someone to the Commission from a rural health department to represent rural counties in Indiana.