

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH** held September 19th, 2023, starting at 6:30 pm, in the third-floor conference room of the St. Clair County Health Department, 19 Public Square, Suite 150, Belleville, Illinois and zoom teleconference for visitors who wish to attend virtually.

**Members Present:** Dr. Julie Wittenauer – President, Dr. Leo Dumstorff – President-Elect, Jennifer Demsar, William Kreeb, Matt Smallheer, Cindy Thompson, John West and Kelly Wood.

**Others Present:** Myla Blandford, Executive Director, Kathy Weisenstein, Deputy Executive, Sharon Valentine, Director of Environmental Programs, Susan Rehrig, Director of Infectious Disease Prevention, Barbara Whitaker, Director of Health Promotion & Wellness, Maria Sutherland, Director of Clinical Services & Systems/Medical Provider, Janet Cronin, Accounting Manager and Brenda Fedak, Organizational Communications Manager.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All were asked to stand and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President-Elect Dumstorff called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and opened the meeting to public comment as required under the Open Meetings Act. No members from the public were in attendance. All board members present received via email, or United States Postal service, a Board packet containing: the agenda, minutes to the previous Board meetings, Division Directors' Reports, the Finance/Personnel Committee Report, statistical report, various financial reports including the payment register, balance sheet, budget to actual reports on detailed income.

### **MINUTES**

Mr. Smallheer moved, and Ms. Thompson seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the Board of Health held on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President-Elect Dumstorff opened the meeting with a Report from Executive Director's Evaluation Committee. Mr. Smallheer presented the summary of the Executive Directors Evaluation, noting that Executive Director Blandford received a score of 5, the highest possible, for all 12 Elements by all (7) respondents on her evaluation. Consensus from the Board of Health is that Ms. Myla Blandford is doing a 5 Star, excellent job as Executive Director of the St.Clair County Health Department.

President Wittenauer deferred the Nominating Committee report for the slate of 2024 officers until October Board of Health meeting.

President Wittenauer deferred to Executive Director Blandford for the bylaws update. Director Blandford gave an overview of the changes Governor Pritzker recently signed into law [Public Act 103-0311](#) (previously HB 2447), which expands the permissible reasons to allow remote

attendance at a meeting to include unexpected childcare obligations. This change to the Open Meetings Act (“OMA”) became effective as of July 28, 2023. Remote attendance can only be considered if a quorum is present at the physical location of the meeting. The question of voting privileges for remote attenders was not clear. Executive Director Blandford deferred to the State’s Attorney, who could not officially advise on this change. Director Blandford will consult with Board Attorneys for clarification and any specific language to include in the bylaws. The revised bylaws will be presented at next months meeting.

Concluding, President Wittenauer called for Executive Director Blandford’s report.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director Blandford reported the following:

- a. All expired Board member terms were reappointed by the County Board. We are waiting on documents from Courthouse.
- b. Scheduling of a hearing regarding 661 Janeita Ct., O’Fallon, IL (follow up from HD hearing in 2022). The proposed date and time is after the October board meeting at 7:45 pm, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. More information to follow.
- c. The monovalent COVID vaccine was released and is recommended for everyone 6 months + older this year. We currently have very little vaccine in house, but we are anticipating more this week and next week. Our current stock will initially be for the VFC program, the uninsured and under-insured population. CDC just released details of a “Bridge Program” so that these populations can receive the vaccine at no cost. We will also be purchasing private stock of the COVID vaccines, which is very expensive. We have been working on getting set up to bill medical insurance for these and other adult vaccines. St. Clair County’s (SCC) COVID hospitalization rate is currently LOW, with 7.4 per 100,000 admissions.
- d. Trainings/Events: September 30<sup>th</sup> is the Scrivner Golf tournament, as well as the PrideFest in Downtown Belleville. Staff will be offering FREE Flu shots, HIV testing, Mpox vaccine at PrideFest; Say Boo to the Flu Clinic is October 14<sup>th</sup>. Board members are welcome to come and get their flu and COVID shots that day and join in the festivities. Our annual Training for 2023 will be held October 23 – November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- e. Union Legal Update – The meeting scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 9:30 am cancelled due to a State contract. We continue to wait on the Labor Board Judge
- f. The fiscal review team will need to meet once the 2024 budget is drafted. Accounting Manager Janet Cronin anticipates sending the budget draft to County by the end of September. BOH will approve the budget at the October BOH meeting.
- g. Christmas luncheon date has been set for December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 11:30 to 1 pm. Board members are welcome to join the staff for the luncheon. Roy’el catering will cater the luncheon as they have done in the past several years.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Finance/Personnel Committee Report**

Mr. West began with the Finance Committee report with the expense claims processed since the August Board of Health meeting reflect the usual and customary transactions by the Department.

The Executive Director has reviewed the expense documentation and recommends Board approval of the expense claims. Mr. Dumstorff moved, and Ms. Thompson seconded a motion to approve the expense claims. The motion carried.

Mr. West concluded with the following staffing updates:

**Health Department staffing updates:**

- Ms. Kerri Sierra-Scott resigned her position as Community Navigator effective Monday, August 7, 2023.
- Ms. Lori Hughes resigned her Client Services Representative effective Thursday, August 31, 2023.

**The Health Department is currently seeking to fill:**

- One (1) full-time Staff Nurse/Public Health Nurse
- One (1) part-time Breastfeeding Peer Counselor
- One (1) full-time Client Services Representative
- One (1) full-time Community Navigator

**DIVISION UPDATES:**

The Deputy Executive Director shared the Administration Division updates. The Accounting Manager shared highlights from the financial report. The Directors of the Infectious Disease Prevention, Environmental Programs, and the Health Promotion & Wellness Division reviewed highlights from their respective divisions.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

**Health Care Commission**

The Executive Director reported the Health Care Commission partners met with partners on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Data was shared by the two health departments and the hospitals. Through surveys, the top five (5) priority areas will be identified. Survey development is underway. Plan to send out to the public the first part of November. A retreat for Healthier Together to determine where the group in going for 2024 is being planned.

**W.C. Scriver Public Health Foundation**

Executive Director Blandford reported there are currently 13 teams signed up, 24-hole sponsors sold and \$600 in donations have been obtained so far. Directors and managers are set to be “all hands-on deck” to work the event. The next Scriver meeting will be December 5, 2023.

**Illinois Public Health Association**

Executive Director Blandford reported she will be attending the IPHA Fall Conference in Peoria starting tomorrow through Friday. Workforce Development is a focus topic for IPHA.

**Medical Society**

Dr. Wood reported she has been seeing a rise in COVID positive cases in children and had a positive flu case in a baby. Dr. wood also shared that Lone Star ticks were rampant this year at a Boy Scout camp she attended with her boys. The tick population in Illinois this year is one of the worst, if not the worst, it has ever been. Dr. Wittenauer reported the monovalent new COVID vaccine is recommended for those 65 years and older receive a booster four (4) months after their first vaccine. The RSV vaccine is recommended for adults 60 years and older and for pregnant women.

### **Social Services**

Mr. Kreeb reported the new overnight clinic opened last week and had 68 people on the first night. Mr. Kreeb attributed the high number of people to the closing of Call for Help. One third (1/3) of the people there were from St. Louis, which is attributed to the closing of camps in downtown St. Louis.

### **Nursing**

Ms. Demsar reported no flu or COVID cases at her office as of yet. They have received vaccine but were advised to hold back distributing until October if possible. Ms. Thompson reported she has worked at both (Belleville) East and (Belleville) West and seen COVID positive cases in both schools.

### **Adjournment**

At 7:47 p.m. Dr. Dumstorff moved, and Dr. Wood seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is October 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. John West  
Secretary

