

MINUTES OF THE RE-SCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING OF THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH held April 15, 2025, 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: Cindy Thompson – President, Matt Smallheer – President-Elect, Dr. Leo Dumstorff Dr. Julie Wittenauer and Dr. Kelly Wood.

Members Excused: Jennifer Demsar and William Kreeb.

Others Present: Myla Blandford, Executive Director, Susan Rehrig, Director of Infectious Disease Prevention, Kristy Mullins, Director of Environmental Programs, Raquel Williams, Director of Clinical Services & Systems Programs, 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 Thompson 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. There were no attendees visiting in person or online via Zoom.

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 and monthly Stats.

MINUTES

Dr. Dumstorff moved, and Dr. Wood seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the Board of Health held on March 18, 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Thompson reminded Board Members Statements of Economic Interest were due May 1st, 2025. President Thompson reported to the board that Dr. Wittenauer is moving out of the county in the coming months and would be resigning from the board effective June 30, 2025. President Thompson and Executive Director Blandford stated Dr. Wittenauer would be missed and thanked her for her service on the board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Blandford reported the following:

- a. Nurse Practitioner – Executive Director Blandford reported Nurse Practitioner Maria Sutherland will continue to provide clinical services on a part-time basis, one day a week on Fridays. The clinic staff are currently restructuring staff to

accommodate IBCCP and TB services.

- b. Respiratory illness in St. Clair County through 4/25/25 is LOW; COVID, Flu and RSV are all trending down in Illinois: National COVID positivity 3.8%.
- c. H5N1 – 70 Human cases in the United States affecting 1,020 dairy herds that are impacted across 17 states with one (1) death in Louisiana being reported. There are a lot more cases in the poultry field. To date, there are no reported human cases of H5N1 in Illinois.
- d. Measles – there are 712 measles cases as of 4/10/25 in Texas, New Mexico, Ohio, Kansas and Indiana, with 7 outbreaks. 93% of the cases are associated with those outbreaks. 70% of the cases are 19 years of age and under. The majority is all cases are unvaccinated or vaccination status unknown. IDPH released a [Measles Outbreak Simulator Dashboard](#) to assist schools in estimating the proportion of the school population that is susceptible or at risk using vaccination data by school. The dashboard also gives a breakdown of the different exemptions that the schools have, as well.
- e. The Environmental Division, along with the IEPA and the City of Belleville, are hosting a Household Hazardous Waste Collection event Saturday, May 3rd at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds Park from 8 am to 3 pm by appointment only.
- f. New Payroll System Implementation – There have been a few issues, but we've been running two payroll systems side-by-side since March 9th. Brenda and Janet have spearheaded this project since last August. It's been a lengthy process but hopefully, we are down to the last week of having dual entry.
- g. Update on the security walls: Mid to late April is the current time-frame estimate for the completion of the security walls on the third floor and in the basement.
- h. IPLAN/Residential Survey – 100 surveys have been collected to date.
- i. Travel Vaccines – We're waiting on Dr. Badahman to finish his training, then we should be good to go to start offering the travel vaccine. This should be a good new revenue stream for the health department.
- j. Funding: The board should have received a notice forwarded from IDPH which referenced potential budget cuts. At present, the only grant they think will be impacted is the Respiratory Surveillance Grant, which has some leftover COVID funds. It is about \$600,000 spread out over two years. We received an initial upfront cash payment, of which about \$66,000 is left. The state received notice on 3/24/25 that the funding should stop and that they were not guaranteeing any payments beyond that timeframe for reimbursement. We won't be doing anything more significant out of that grant until we receive something substantial from IDPH. Originally, IDPH stated they had contingency plans for funds to cover some of the budget cuts, but apparently not for this grant. The good news is that this is the only grant impacted right now.
- k. BBO (Better Birth Outcomes) Restructure: Around the turn of the year we had received notification for restructuring the Better Birth Outcome Program from IDPH. SCCHD was originally identified as the pilot for the program. Currently our annual funding is \$232,260 for a caseload of 60 with the equivalent of about one and a half nurses scheduled for the program. The restructure would have required us to have 9 nurses to run the program, which is not possible for our health department to sustain. The State went in another direction and identified St. Clair County as the pilot, whereas other agencies within SCC would be eligible to run the program effective July 1, 2025. The updated restructuring has a new algorithm

with a full case management component with required home visits once a month for 450 clients. They are also structuring how they identify high and low risk cases. We're not sure on the specifics and we do not know how they're going to designate those 450 clients. The grant will be approximately a million dollars and would require 9 nurses who are basically on the road most of the time and potentially a 10th nurse in the clinic. The designated agency would be required to have their staffing in place and ready to do within 30 days of receiving the grant award, which is expected to be announced 4/28/25. The timeline is not realistic. We do not intend to submit an application for the grant because we cannot meet the requirements. It is not clear how our clients will be served after 6/30/25.

- I. WIC: We received notice of a \$6,000 reduction in WIC funding for the upcoming fiscal year, which is not a huge loss. Funding in some categories increased, but our case load was reduced, which is not realistic because our case load continues to grow. We will budget the same for the program as we had this year and see what happens.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance/Personnel Committee Report

In Ms. Demsar's absence, Dr. Dumstorff read the Finance and Personnel report.

Dr. Dumstorff began with expense claims processed since the March 2025 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. Dr. Wittenauer moved, and Dr. Dumstorff seconded a motion to approve the expense claims. The motion carried.

Dr. Dumstorff concluded with the following staffing updates:

Health Department staffing updates:

- Mr. Gage Baudino accepted a full-time Clinical Services Representative (CSR) position within the Clinical Services & System Division effective April 7, 2025.
- Mr. Phillip Watson accepted a full-time Sanitarian I position within the Environmental Programs Division effective April 28, 2025.
- Ms. Maria Sutherland, Clinical Services Provider, transferred from a full-time position to a part-time position within the Clinical Services & System Division effective April 7, 2025.
- Ms. Doree Pitre has rescinded her acceptance of employment effective April 8, 2025.

The Health Department is currently seeking to fill:

- One (1) Accounting Coordinator
- One (1) WIC Nutritionist CPA
- One (1) full-time Clinical Services Representative (CSR)
- One (1) full-time Public Health Nurse
- One (1) full-time Director of Health Promotion & Wellness
- One (1) full-time Systems Quality Manager

- One (1) full-time Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS)

DIVISION UPDATES:

The Executive Director shared updates from the Administration Division and deferred to the Accounting Manager for the financial highlights. The Infectious Disease Prevention Director, Clinical Services Medical Provider, Environmental Programs Director and Clinical Services & Systems-Programs Director reviewed highlights from their respective divisions.

LIAISON REPORTS

Health Care Commission

The Executive Director reported that the Community Health Needs Survey was released on April 1st and will run through April 30th. There have been 100 surveys completed to date.

W.C. Scrivner Public Health Foundation

Executive Director Blandford reported the Scrivner Golf Tournament is scheduled for October 4, 2025, along with the PRIDE event as previously scheduled. There were no other viable dates at The Orchards to hold the tournament. After reviewing the application for a BINGO license, The Glo Bingo event will need to be re-scheduled for a later date. We will look at Friday, (8/8) or (8/15) for the event. This will give ample time to complete the licensing process. We received 14 Public Health scholarship applications and no applications for the Dr. Jan Attala Public Health Advanced Nursing Degree scholarship. Scholarships will be presented at the May 13th Scrivner Board meeting.

Illinois Public Health Association

The Executive Director reported that she attended a meeting in Springfield three weeks ago and was put on a subcommittee for Workforce Transformation Development. Dr. Vohra spoke with the Directors in the morning and came back in the afternoon to let us know he had been notified about the \$125 million budget cut, the COVID era money, which was the Respiratory Surveillance Grant.

Medical Society

Dr. Wood reported she has decided to do primary care again and incorporate it into the services offered at Total Body Renewal in Columbia, Illinois.

Executive Session

At 7:22 pm Mr. Smallheer moved, and Dr. Dumstorff seconded a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss updates on pending litigation and the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The motion passed and the board move into Executive Session.

Adjournment

At 7:35 p.m. Dr. Dumstorff moved, and Dr. Wittenauer seconded a motion to close the Executive Session and adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The next

Board of Health meeting is May 20, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Leo Dumstorff
Acting Board Secretary