

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH held November 19th, 2024, 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. Leo Dumstorff – President, Cindy Thompson, President-Elect, William Kreeb – Secretary, Jennifer Demsar, Matt Smallheer, Dr. Julie Wittenauer and Dr. Kelly Wood.

Members Excused: John West.

Others Present: Myla Blandford, Executive Director, Kathy Weisenstein, Deputy Director, Susan Rehrig, Director Infectious Disease Prevention, Barbara Whitaker, Director of Health Promotion & Wellness, Maria Sutherland Director Clinical Services & Systems-Provider, Kristy Mullins, Director of Environmental Programs and Brenda Fedak, Organizational Communications Manager.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

President 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. There were no visiting attendees 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, monthly Stats and miscellaneous board reports.

MINUTES

Ms. Demsar moved, and Dr. Wood seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the Board of Health held on October 15, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Dumstorff deferred to Executive Director Blandford for the Executive Director's report. Executive Director Blandford reported Mr. West had contacted her and stated he would need to resign from the Board of Health due to the fact he was moving out of the county to St. Louis, Missouri. There was a brief discussion about the Board recognizing Mr. West for his contributions to the Board of Health over the years.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Blandford reported the following:

- a. Golf Tournament Update – \$6,429 profit with a few hundred in outstanding charges.
- b. St. Clair County – Through November 9, 2024, In Illinois, Respiratory Illness is low: COVID is trending down, hospital admissions are low; National positivity rate for COVID is 3.6%; Flu & RSV are trending down.
- c. St. Clair County is currently seeing incidence of Pertussis cases.
- d. H5N1 Update – There are currently 53 human cases of H5N1 in the United States across 15 States, affecting 549 dairy herds.
- e. Update to security upgrade: Egyptian Business Furniture is aware that the walls need to be ordered and billed by December 31st, 2024. Installation will be during January and February 2025.
- f. P&F Matters:
 - a. Food Ordinance - Approved by County Board & posted on our website and the county website.
 - b. 2025 Annual Budget – We received no feedback from County or at Public Hearing for the county budget.
 - c. Clinical Services & Systems – Director of Programs effective December 2, 2024 is Raquel Williams. She will be replacing Barb Whitaker when she retires on December 13, 2025.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance/Personnel Committee Report

Mr. Kreeb began the Finance Committee report with the expense claims processed since the October 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. Smallheer moved, and Ms. Thompson seconded a motion to approve the expense claims. The motion carried.

Mr. Kreeb concluded with the following staffing updates:

Health Department staffing updates:

- Ms. Brandi Kirkwood transferred from a full-time Client Services Representative position to a part-time <600 hours Client Services Representative position.
- Ms. Justice Bell resigned her full-time HIV Benefits coordinator position effective November 15, 2024.
- Ms. Raquel Williams has accepted the position of Director of Clinical Services & Systems-Programs and will transfer from her current position as Nurse Manager of Clinical Services & Systems effective December 2, 2024.

The Health Department is currently seeking to fill:

- One (1) full-time Emergency Preparedness & Volunteer Coordinator
- One (1) full-time High-Risk Prenatal RN Case Manager
- One (1) full-time Better Birth Outcomes – Staff RN
- One (1) full-time Clinical Services Representative (CSR)
- One (1) full-time Public Health Nurse

- One (1) part-time Breastfeeding Peer Counselor
- One (1) full-time Director of Health Promotion & Wellness
- One (1) full-time HIV Benefits Coordinator

DIVISION UPDATES:

The Executive Director shared the financial report in the absence of the accounting Manager. Deputy Director shared updates from the Administration Division. The Directors of the Infectious Disease Prevention, Environmental Health, Health Promotions & Wellness and Clinical Services & Systems Divisions reviewed highlights from their respective divisions.

LIAISON REPORTS

Health Care Commission

The Executive Director reported the Health Care Commission (HCC) is applying for the Health Equity Zone (HEZ) \$500,000 grant. The health department is planning to send out our local Survey after the first of the year.

W.C. Scrivner Public Health Foundation

Executive Director Blandford reported the next Scrivner Foundation Board meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2025.

Illinois Public Health Association

Executive Director Blandford reported Cost & Capacity Assessment (CCA) and reported the transformation initiative was withdrawn.

Executive Session

At 7:04 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Demsar and seconded by Ms. Thompson to move to Executive Session. The motion passed. Staff left the meeting, except for Executive Director Blandford, Deputy Director Weisenstein, Director Mullins and Communications Manager Brenda Fedak. Executive Director Blandford gave updates on pending litigation, anticipated litigation and Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Adjournment

At 7:19 p.m. Dr. Wittenauer moved, and Dr. wood seconded a motion to close the Executive Session and adjourn the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The next Board of Health meeting is December 10, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. William (Bill) Kreeb
Secretary