

MINUTES OF THE RE-SCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING OF THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH held July 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, Jennifer Demsar – Secretary, Dr. Leo Dumstorff, William Kreeb, Dr. Anne Nash, Spencer Stoll and Dr. Kelly Wood.

Members Excused: Matt Smallheer.

Others Present: Myla Blandford, Executive Director, 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, monthly Stats, Food Voucher Request form and The Fource Final Media Report.

MINUTES

Dr. Dumstorff moved, and Ms. Demsar seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the Board of Health held on June 17, 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Thompson welcomed Dr. Anne Nash to the Board of Health and asked board members to introduce themselves and had Dr. Nash introduce herself and share a little about herself. President Thompson congratulated Dr. Kelly Wood and Jennifer Demsar on their confirmed reappointment to the Board of Health for another three-year term. President Thompson reaffirmed she had also been reappointed to another three-year term.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Blandford reported the following:

- a. Division resignation: Susan Rehrig will resign her position as Director of Infectious

Disease Prevention in the October time frame. We wish her all the best and will miss her greatly.

- b. Respiratory illness in St. Clair County through 6/28/2025 is very LOW; COVID, Flu and RSV are all trending down in Illinois: National COVID positivity 3.1%.
- c. H5N1 – 70 Human cases in the United States with one (1) death being reported. To date, there are no reported human cases of H5N1 in Illinois.
- d. Measles – There are 1,288 confirmed measles cases as of 7/8/25 over 39 jurisdictions, with 3 deaths and 27 outbreaks. Eighty-eight percent of the cases are associated with those outbreaks. Sixty-five percent of the cases are 19 years of age and under. Ninety-five percent of all cases are unvaccinated or vaccination status unknown. There are no confirmed measles cases in St. Clair County to date.
- e. PHEP – The PHEP grant had a \$32,000 reduction in funding. There are indications this might be added back but we have not seen this as of yet. BBO program ended June 30th. No new updates at this time. At an IDPH meeting Monday, the federal cuts directly to IDPH were discussed. Due to the Medicare cuts, preliminary reporting is suggesting there will be 9 rural hospitals closing in Illinois. A link to the article will be sent out to the board.
- f. Tire Collection Drive – Will be for municipalities only. Construction at the fairgrounds is scheduled to start around August 12th or 13th and will not be available for the collection. The collection will be at 8313 Shiloh Valley Township Line Road, Lebanon, IL 62254.
- g. The first West Nile Virus positive batch of mosquitos in St. Clair County was reported July 11th, 2025.
- h. IDPH Opioid dashboard is currently showing a reduction in deaths in 2023. Statewide, the current data shows 2.27 fatal overdoses per 10,000 population involving opioids.
- i. In the P & F, there is a request to raise the Food voucher value from \$10 to \$20 per voucher. They believe the increase in the value will increase the redemption of the vouchers. The number of vouchers being made available will decrease to 50 from 100. The funding for the project will remain the same at \$1,000.
- j. In the P & F, you will also see a request to update the check request for expense claims from monthly to weekly, which overall will save time. Details of the request are outlined in the P & F.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance/Personnel Committee Report

Ms. Demsar began with expense claims processed since the June 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. Wood moved, and Dr. Dumstroff seconded a motion to approve the expense claims. The motion carried.

Ms. Demsar continued with due to the State of Illinois year-end of June 30, 2025 and

grant funder requirements to submit requests for reimbursement of program expenses by mid-July 2025, an additional expense claims run occurred on Tuesday, July 8, 2025. The usual expense claims run was processed on Tuesday, July 15, 2025. Expense documentation was reviewed by the Executive Director prior to processing the checks.

Ms. Demsar reported the Deputy Auditor for St. Clair County has approved weekly processing of expense claims as needed by the St. Clair County Health Department. Early processing of expense claims will reduce the overtime involved on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Expense claims processed earlier than the 3rd Tuesday of the month, with the exception of those expense claims requiring a manual check, will not be released until after board approval. In the course of usual and customary business, expense claims requiring a manual check may be released prior to board approval at the direction and approval of the Executive Director, which in turn will be presented to the board at the following meeting for approval. The Executive Director has reviewed the new procedure and recommends Board approval. Mr. Kreeb moved, and Ms. Demsar seconded a motion to approve the expense claims. The motion carried.

Ms. Demsar continued, the University of Illinois Extension is requesting that the value of the vouchers for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Voucher Program be changed from a \$10 value to a \$20 value and that the number of available vouchers be reduced from 100 to 50. The total reimbursement value of the program will remain at \$1,000 maximum. Final billings for reimbursement must be received by the health department no later than February 2026. The Executive Director has reviewed this request and recommends Board approval. Dr. Wood moved, and Dr. Dumstorff seconded a motion to approve the expense claims. The motion carried.

Ms. Demsar concluded with the following staffing updates:

Health Department staffing updates:

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The Health Department is currently seeking to fill:

- One (1) full-time Public Health Nurse
- One (1) full-time Director of Health Promotion & Wellness
- One (1) Systems Quality Manager.

DIVISION UPDATES:

The Accounting Manager reviewed the financial highlights. The Executive Director reported division highlights for the Administration, Environmental Programs and Infectious Disease Prevention divisions. The Clinical Services & Systems (CSS) - Programs Director reviewed highlights the CSS division.

LIAISON REPORTS

Health Care Commission

The Executive Director reported the next meeting for the HCC is September 2nd at 9 am. SQP will present the final report from the survey. We plan to present the report to the Board of Health at the September 2025 board meeting.

W.C. Scrivner Public Health Foundation

Executive Director Blandford reported the Scrivner Golf Tournament is scheduled for October 4, 2025, with a shotgun start at 1 pm. Registration starts at 12 noon. All management staff will be on board to work the tournament that day. Board of Health members are being asked to donate a basket for the raffle. Kristy Mullins will be sending out the sponsors from the past if board members are able to reach out for a raffle item, sponsorship or a team for the event. The PRIDE event is the same day at the health department where we will be offering services that day.

Illinois Public Health Association

The Executive Director reported IPHA has been talking a lot about funding and public health impacted grants. We are waiting on the ACIP revised recommendations on how to use vaccines to control disease in the United States.

Community Organizations

Mr. Kreeb reported agencies like St. Vincent DePaul and Salvation Army both have clients are 100% dependent on Medicare and are navigating what services are going to look like with the impact on funding.

Adjournment

At 7:33 p.m. Dr. Dumstorff moved and Dr. Wood seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The next Board of Health meeting is August 19th, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Jennifer Demsar
Board Secretary