

**MINUTES OF THE RE-SCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING OF THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH** held June 17, 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, Jennifer Demsar – Secretary, Dr. Leo Dumstorff, William Kreeb, and Dr. Julie Wittenauer.

**Members Excused:** Dr. Kelly Wood.

**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, monthly Stats, and The Fource Media Report.

### **MINUTES**

Dr. Dumstorff moved, and Dr. Wittenauer seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the Board of Health held on May 20, 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Thompson announced that this will be Dr. Wittenauer's last board meeting and wished her well on behalf of the board. President Thompson then welcomed new board member Spencer Sholl and invited the board members and staff to introduce themselves. Mr. Sholl has been appointed to Mr. West's unexpired term, which will end on June 30, 2026.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Executive Director Blandford reported the following:**

- a. Respiratory illness in St. Clair County through 6/7/2025 is very LOW (ED Data/ARI

metric); COVID, Flu and RSV are all trending down in Illinois: National COVID positivity 3.0%.

- b. H5N1 – 70 Human cases in the United States affecting 1,073 dairy herds that are impacted across 17 states with one (1) death being reported. To date, there are no reported human cases of H5N1 in Illinois.
- c. Measles – There are 1,197 confirmed measles cases as of 6/12/25 over 35 jurisdictions, with 3 deaths and 21 outbreaks. Ninety percent of the cases are associated with those outbreaks. Sixty six percent of the cases are 19 years of age and under. Ninety five percent of all cases are unvaccinated, or vaccination status is unknown. There are no confirmed measles cases in St. Clair County to date.
- d. Tire Collection Drive – Will be for municipalities only. Construction at the fairgrounds is ongoing. The site will not be available for the collection.
- e. Update on security wall installation - The electricians will follow to finalize the wiring for the Prox panels.
- f. IPLAN/Residential survey – Executive Director Blanford referenced the 2025 Community Health Survey Preliminary Results document that was handed out and gave an overview of the demographics, individual and community health concerns and recapped the top three concerns: Mental Health (641); Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Disorder (559); and Health Lifestyle (448).

Aldara Henderson (SQP) submitted an abstract to APHA referencing the highly successful collaborative work being done in St. Clair County with our partner agencies through the Health Care Commission. The abstract was selected for an oral presentation by the SQP during the APHA national meeting in November.

- g. The Fource Group sent a preliminary report of the performance of the BCCP ad campaign for Women’s health month. The campaign ends June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- h. Funding: Respiratory Surveillance and Outbreak Grant (RSOG) grant (\$600,000 over 2 years) was reinstated upon appeal. The health department relies on this grant for H5N1, Measles case and other respiratory communicable disease follow up for funding.
- i. BBO: Better Birth Outcomes program will end June 30, 2025. SCCHD did not apply for the grant due the inability to meet the staffing requirement for nurses for the grant.
- j. P & F: Food voucher program - We are currently waiting on the formal request for the 2025 ask for \$1,000 in funding.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

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

Ms. Demsar concluded with the following staffing updates:

Health Department staffing updates:

- Ms. Addison Denton accepted a full-time position as WIC Nutritionist/CPA within the Clinical Services & systems Division effective June 10, 2025.
- Ms. Zandalee Epting accepted a full-time position as Housing Coordinator with the Ryan White HIV Program within the Infectious Disease Prevention Division effective June 23, 2025.
- Mr. Patrick Henderson started as an Accounting Intern within the Administration division effective June 11, 2025.

The Health Department is currently seeking to fill:

- One (1) full-time Public Health Nurse
- One (1) full-time Director of Health Promotion & Wellness

### **DIVISION UPDATES:**

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 Systems Quality Planner drafted a preliminary survey data review. The SQM and SQP are currently working on the data dive. We will compare the new data with the residential data from the last survey. We hope to bring the final report to the board by the September 2025 board meeting for the board to decide on what priorities we want to look at for this year.

#### **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. The PRIDE event is the same day here at the health department where we will be offering some services that day. Staff is currently working on our final roster for that event. The Glow Bingo will be scheduled sometime after the golf tournament.

#### **Illinois Public Health Association**

The Executive Director referenced the SIREN document and the letter sent out by Dr. Vohra in early June in response to the changes announced for ACIP at the CDC. (Copies were handed out at the meeting). IDPH has put together a new set of workgroups in response to the Cost and Capacity Report looking at core services and workforce development. More information will be forthcoming in August. RSOG billing was reinstated after it was initially cut.

**Adjournment**

At 7:36 p.m. Dr. Wittenauer moved and Ms. Demsar seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The next Board of Health meeting is July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Jennifer Demsar  
Board Secretary