

MINUTES OF THE RE-SCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING OF THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH held May 20, 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, William Kreeb, Dr. Julie Wittenauer and Dr. Kelly Wood.

Members Excused: Dr. Leo Dumstorff and Matt Smallheer.

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, Ordinance No. 25-1309-Tax Levy, 2024 Food Voucher Reimbursement Request, 2025 Food Voucher Request, RFP Affidavit of Publication, The Fource Groupe RFP Agreement and campaign presentation.

MINUTES

Mr. Kreeb moved, and Ms. Demsar seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the Board of Health held on April 15, 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Thompson reported that the three board members whose terms were expiring at the end of June, Jennifer Demsar, Cindy Thompson and Kelly Wood, have agreed to continue to serve on the Board of Health for another three-year term. The names will be submitted to the County Board for approval.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Blandford reported the following:

- a. Respiratory illness in St. Clair County through 5/10/2025 is very LOW (ED

Data/ARI metric); COVID, Flu and RSV are all trending down in Illinois: National COVID positivity 2.9%.

- b. H5N1 – 70 Human cases in the United States affecting 1,065 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 1,024 confirmed measles cases as of 5/16/25 over 31 jurisdictions, with 3 deaths and 14 outbreaks. 92% of the cases are associated with those outbreaks. 68% of the cases are 19 years of age and under. 96% of all cases are unvaccinated or vaccination status unknown. There are no confirmed measles cases in St. Clair County to date.
- d. May 3rd Household Hazardous Waste Event served 282 households.
- e. Tire Collection Drive - The Environmental Division is working with the IEPA for a tire collection event tentatively scheduled for September 4, 5 & 6, with the first two days dedicated to business and the third day for residents to dispose of tires.
- f. New Payroll system implementation – We are in the last week of timekeeping in two systems. The new system will be a better system moving forward, but still working on a few bugs and issues.
- g. Update on security wall installation: Egyptian will be here on May 23rd to complete the installs of the missing parts. The electricians will follow to finalize the wiring for the Prox panels. We did get email approval to move the med room.
- h. IPLAN/Residential survey – To date we have 340 + responses; paper surveys to be entered ; New hire for SQM; Aldara Henderson will stay on through summer for work group meetings, data dive and IPLAN draft.
- i. Travel vaccines - Vaccine was ordered today! Director Williams reported the new service will start Tuesday (May 27th).
- j. Funding: RSOG grant is \$600,000 over 2 years; 65k in prepayment remaining: Permanent injunction; appealable for 30 days.
- k. BBO: SCHD did not apply for the new grant as expectations could not be met. East Side Health District did apply.
- l. P & F: Food voucher program - There is a request for reimbursement of 310 vouchers from 2024 and a request for funding of 100 vouchers for 2025. A formal request will be forthcoming, but as of now, the P & F will ask you to approve the request at this meeting.
- m. P & F: Marketing proposal – A contract from The Fource Group from the published RFP & proposed marketing program in included in the board documents.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance/Personnel Committee Report

Ms. Demsar began with expense claims processed since the April 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. Wood seconded a motion to approve the expense claims. The motion carried.

Ms. Demsar reported the Board of Health must submit the annual public health tax levy request to be included in the County Board Levy Ordinance. The Executive Director recommends that the Board approve a request for the public health tax at the rate of .014 per \$100 assessed valuation. Based upon the anticipated assessed valuation of the County, this rate will generate approximately \$1,544,490 in the 2025 County fiscal year if the County Board does not abate the tax. Mr. Kreeb moved, and Dr. Wittenauer seconded a motion for the Board to approve the request to submit the annual public health tax levy request to be included in the County Board Levy Ordinance. The motion carried.

Ms. Demsar continued, The Chronic Disease Prevention Workgroup plans to continue the fruit and vegetable voucher program for 2025 and is requesting the following: 1. Reimbursement in the amount of \$310.00 for food vouchers redeemed in accordance with their (approved) 2024 request to the Board of Health. 2. One-hundred (100), \$10 food vouchers in the amount of \$1,000.00 to distribute in the 2025 calendar year. A formal request is pending. The Executive Director has reviewed the expense documentation and the preliminary request and recommends Board approval. Dr. Wood moved, and Mr. Kreeb seconded a motion to approve the food voucher reimbursement for 2024 and the pending request for the 2025 food voucher program. The motion carried.

Ms. Demsar reported that on April 20, 2025 a Request For Proposal (RFP) was published in the Belleville News-Democrat requesting proposals for grant driven Public Health Marketing strategies and website enhancements as grant funds are allocated, for a 3-year period through June 30, 2028. The RFP also included a request for a marketing campaign, to include digital media, and print designs, with an all-in budget of \$24,000 to be spent by the end of the current grant year, June 30, 2025. One proposal was received from The Fource Group. After review, Executive Director Blandford is seeking board approval of The Fource Group Marketing Proposal for the current marketing media spend and for a 3-year period ending June 30, 2028. Dr. Wittenauer move, and Dr. Wood seconded a motion to approve The Fource Group as the recipient of the published RFP and the conditions as outlined. The motion carried.

Ms. Demsar concluded with the following staffing updates:

Health Department staffing updates:

- Ms. Abigail Dumey accepted a full-time Systems Quality Manager position within the Administration Division effective May 13, 2025.
- Mr. Byron Johnson III accepted a full-time Accounting Coordinator position within the Administration Division effective May 13, 2025.

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 Community Health Needs Survey deadline was through May 16th, 2025. There are several paper copies of the survey that are being entered now.

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. The Glo Bingo event has been postponed to a later date to still be determined. The scholarships were awarded to three recipients on May 13th at the Scrivner meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2025.

Illinois Public Health Association

The Executive Director reported that currently all discussions are centered around funding. Meetings are scheduled for the release of the Cost and Capacity Assessment information, which is a 148-page document for the St. Clair County Health Department.

Medical Society

Dr. Wood reported she is currently waiting on the State for the documentation to offer primary care services at Total Body Renewal in Columbia, Illinois.

Adjournment

At 7:32 p.m. Ms. Demsar moved, and Dr. Wittenauer seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The next Board of Health meeting is June 17th, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Jennifer Demsar
Board Secretary