

**MINUTES OF THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH held November 18, 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, , Dr. Leo Dumstorff, Matt Smallheer and Spencer Stoll and Dr. Kelly Wood.

**Members Excused:** Jennifer Demsar, William Kreeb, Dr. Anne Nas

**Others Present:** Myla Blandford, Executive Director, Raquel Williams, Director of Clinical Services & Systems Programs, Wendy Bradley, Director of HIV Care & Prevention, Janet Cronin, Accounting Manager, Brenda Fedak, Organizational Communications Manager and Aldara Henderson, Systems Quality Planner.

### **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, 2026 Holiday Schedule, 2026 BOH Meeting Schedule.

Dr. Kreeb moved, and Dr. Wood seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the Board of Health held on October 21, 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

President Thompson appointed Mr. Smallheer as acting secretary in Ms. Demsar's absence.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Thompson and Executive Director Blandford introduced Ms. Aldara Henderson, Systems Quality Planner, to recap the IPHA presentation she presented on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the IPHA meeting in Washington D.C.: Dismantling Silos: transforming the health of St. Clair County Illinois through enhanced collaboration.

President Thompson reported on behalf of the nomination committee and presented the 2026 Board of Health officers as follows: Dr. Kelly Wood, President, Jennifer Demsar, President-Elect, Dr. Leo Dumstorff, Secretary.

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

**Executive Director Blandford reported the following:**

- a. Executive Director Blandford shared the news of the passing of Carlos Ward, a previous long-time employee of the health department in the Environmental Division.
- b. Respiratory illness for the State remains very LOW, with COVID trending up but still very low in Illinois through 11/8/25. Flu is stable and RSV is trending up slightly, but still very low. It was noted that with the government shutdown, the CDC has not maintained respiratory statistics. Executive Director Blandford reported she gave an overview of IDPH's respiratory dashboard on St. Clair County's EMA Facebook live on Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- c. Measles – There are 1,723 confirmed measles cases as of 11/12/25 over 42 jurisdictions plus 23 travelers, with 3 deaths and 45 outbreaks. Eighty-six (87%) percent of the cases are associated with those outbreaks. Sixty-six (66%) percent of the cases are 19 years of age and under. Ninety-two (92%) percent of all cases are unvaccinated or vaccination status unknown. There are no confirmed measles cases in St. Clair County to date.
- d. IAPHA & DHS: WIC benefits have been funded through September 2026.
- e. PHAB update: the CQI Committee is meeting regularly and is brainstorming CQI projects. The Employee Committee met and is researching options for Years of Service recognition to be awarded in January 2026. There will be an employee satisfaction survey in early 2026. The annual holiday luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> with lunch being served from 11:30 to 1. There will be a decorating contest by division/floor and we would like at least one BOH member to do the judging on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.
- f. The Health Department accommodated an SIUE Dental student who developed a Dental Survey that will be distributed in the clinic.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance/Personnel Committee Report**

Mr. Smallheer began with expense claims processed since the October 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. Kreeb moved, and Dr. Wood seconded a motion to approve the expense claims. The motion carried.

Mr. Smallheer reported the St. Clair County Board approved the 2026 Holiday Schedule at the October County Board meeting. As the Board of Health is a co-employer with the County Board, the Executive Director recommends approval of the St. Clair County 2026 Holiday Schedule for Health Department employees. See proposed Holiday Schedule on page 7.a.ii for more detail. Ms. Thompson moved, and Dr. Wood seconded a motion to approve the 2026 Holiday Schedule. The motion carried.

Mr. Smallheer stated the monthly Board of Health meeting schedule for 2026 has been set for third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, with the exception of July 2026, whereas

the meeting date was adjusted to the second Tuesday of July due to the County Board meeting earlier than usual in July. The Executive Director recommends board approval. Mr. Kreeb moved, and Ms. Thompson seconded a motion to approve the 2026 BOH meeting schedule. The motion carried.

Mr. Smallheer continued, The HIV Care & Prevention division did not receive any proposals for emergency housing services from the second Request for Proposal (RFP) that ran on October 5, 2025.

Mr. Smallheer concluded with the following staffing updates:

Health Department staffing updates:

- Mr. Stephen Hardy is no longer employed with the St. Clair County Health Department effective November 3, 2025.

The Health Department is currently seeking to fill:

- One (1) full-time Services Provider – Clinical Services & Systems Division
- One (1) full-time Accounting Coordinator.

### **DIVISION UPDATES:**

The Executive Director highlighted the Administration Division activities for November and the Accounting Manager reviewed the financial highlights. The Directors of the Clinical Services & Systems (CSS) – Programs and HIV Care & Prevention Divisions reported on the highlights of their respective divisions. Executive Director Blandford concluded with highlights from the Environmental Programs Division and the Infectious Disease Prevention Divisions.

### **Health Care Commission**

Executive Director Blandford reported the HCC met on Tuesday, November 18th and SQP presented the 2026 priorities that will go into effect in October 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The hospitals and health departments will meet the last week of January to see where we are at with priorities. A lot of the workgroups have changed their focus. SQP is updating the committees focus and will work to assign HCC members to the committees. Executive Director Blandford acknowledged that Healthier Together has officially dissolved and their funds were disbursed to area organizations.

### **W.C. Scrivner Public Health Foundation**

Executive Director Blandford reported the next Scrivner Board meeting is December 2, 2025. Scholarship applications will be updated and made available for submission after the first of the year. A Glo Bingo is being planned for the spring.

### **Illinois Public Health Association**

The Executive Director reported the next IPHA is beginning Succession Planning Training and has been sending out information and updates on the government shut down. There is a large recall and safety alert out on BYHEART formula that IDPH and other agencies

have been pushing out information for.

**Medical**

Dr. Wood reported very exciting news in the obesity world with the release of new medications covered under Medicare and Medicaid, as well as for those who are private pay. Executive Director Blandford added that she recently signed a letter of support for SIHF to bring a gastroenterologist into the area.

**Community Organizations**

Mr. Kreeb reported the food pantries were very thankful for the support of local churches and community for the support shown during the government shutdown.

**Adjournment**

At 7:38 p.m. Dr. Wood moved and Mr. Smallheer seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The next Board of Health meeting is December 9, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Matt Smallheer  
Acting Board Secretary