



McHenry County
Board of Health - Regular Meeting
MINUTES

March 17, 2025, 6:30 PM
County Board Conference Room
Administration Building, 667 Ware Rd., Woodstock, IL 60098

Members Present: Joseph Clarke, Pamela Althoff, Barbara Amsler, Cecilia Carman, Sarah Clarke, Cindy Gaffney, Melissa Katz, Juliana Morawski, Guadalupe Ortiz, Michael Szurek

Members Absent: Kristen Maguire, Kyle Marcussen

Full comments on all agenda items are included in the video recording of this meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm by J. Clarke.

Also present at meeting: Melissa Adamson, Public Health Administrator, Anne Marrin, Director of Planning & Operations, Lindsay DeReadt, Director of Nursing, Meaghan Haak, Director of Community Health, Patricia Nomm, Director of Environmental Health, Maryellen Howell, Director of Veterinary Public Health, Darleen Volant, Administrative Specialist

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. PUBLIC RECOGNITION

3.1 Proclamation Recognizing 20 Years of Service of Dr. Irfan Hafiz with the McHenry County Department of Health

Mr. Clarke presented Dr. Hafiz with the proclamation. Dr. Hafiz thanked the Department for the recognition of service and noted that he will still be available as a back-up, if needed.

3.2 Proclamation Recognizing April 7-14, 2025, as National Public Health Week

Mr. Clarke read the proclamation to board members and staff.

4. MINUTES APPROVAL

Mover: Cecilia Carman

Seconded: Sarah Clarke

Approved by Voice

5. DEPARTMENT & DIVISION UPDATES

Ms. Adamson introduced and welcomed Lindsay DeReadt as the Department's new Director of Nursing.

Ms. Adamson thanked the fiscal staff for their hard work, noting they have been instrumental in working with IT, who set up an invoicing workflow in OnBase, and in coordinating staff training. Staff are currently testing the process, and the hope is to be live in April.

Medical records and billing systems are being evaluated. The department has hosted several live demos to get staff input and determine if we will move in a different direction.

Ms. Adamson thanked Nick Kubiak, PIO for putting together the Annual Report and all the staff who gathered the data and statistics.

She highlighted the Administration Report noting turnover in one of our programs, and thanked staff for stepping up to minimize disruptions. Ms. Adamson also informed board members that she will be in Springfield next week for a meeting regarding workforce transformation.

Director Nomm said we have been awarded a Hazardous Household Recycling Event by the IEPA. We will be able to accommodate 1200-1400 participants and will take place at Prairie Ridge High School on June 7th.

Another solid waste project the division is working on is called Recycle Coach. It's intended to enable each county in the state to have a one stop shop for all solid waste information. She explained the steps and what information needs to be collected and entered.

Director Howell said the division is seeing an increase in relinquished animals and an increase in unclaimed owned animals, meaning we know who the owner is but they're choosing not to reclaim their animal. However, we are seeing an increase in requests for relinquished animals. There is a need for more spay and neuter and rabies vaccinations but there aren't enough surgery spots.

Director Howell also noted that in surrounding counties, she is seeing a staff shortage and said that going through the CPQ process and raising the grades helped us get a professional staff and maintain them.

There will be offsite clinics in April, May and June taking place at the McHenry County fairgrounds. The Department will offer rabies vaccines and micro-chipping. Once the dates have been set, this information will be sent to the media.

Director Marrin informed board members that the Department has an all-staff meeting scheduled on Wednesday, April 9th at the McHenry VFW Hall. There will be a speaker and facilitator for a workshop called Scaling Minds, interactive and team building activities. Director Marrin added the VFW is allowing us to use the venue for free. Lunch will also be included in this half-day event.

The department is also working closely with McHenry County College. They are offering a DDI training workshop for management and leadership studies. This will help staff with conflict management and fostering productivity and creativity. The workshop will take place from April-June.

The Department will be signing a contract with Sentry Security for Building A for a new security system. It should be operational by the end of the month.

The Crystal Lake Construction Project is moving ahead. Staff picked out colors and finishings for the building. Staff are meeting this week with Stuckey and other contractors and will be getting the construction schedules. We will also be scheduling weekly meetings and safety meetings.

Director Haak said CPR classes have always been provided to the nursing staff, and two years ago, they were extended to county employees. The division is now looking to provide these classes to the public. We currently have four MRC volunteers and two staff members that are trained to teach the classes, and two more staff are in training.

Operation Dropbox has kicked off and we have 45 sites signed up. This year, we will be expanding it to a two-day event.

Last week Emergency Response participated with MCDH Leadership, EMA and IT in a tabletop exercise concerning cyber security, which is considered the #1 threat to the county. Director Haak said it went very well.

Director DeReadt informed members that she has been meeting individually with staff and with directors and the Epidemiology team. Respiratory infections are coming down which is a positive trend for us. She gave a short summary of her past work history and how it brought her to her new position.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Mover: Cindy Gaffney

Second: Guadalupe Ortiz

Aye (10): Joseph Clarke, Pamela Althoff, Barbara Amsler, Cecilia Carman, Sarah Clarke, Cindy Gaffney, Melissa Katz, Juliana Morawski, Guadalupe Ortiz, and Michael Szurek

Absent (2): Kristen Maguire, and Kyle Marcussen

Approved (10 to 0)

6.1 Department 52 - Tuberculosis

6.1.a Disbursements

6.1.b Income & Expenses

6.1.c TB Report

6.2 Department 51 - Health

6.2.a Disbursements

6.2.b Income & Expenses

6.3 Special Funds

6.3.a Income & Expenses

7. CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS - NEW

7.1 Metopio

Administrator Adamson said this contract is for the Community Health Assessment, which is coming up in 2026 and is a requirement.

Director Haak explained that Metopio was chosen as our vendor. They are also our vendor for our Health Atlas, that stores all our secondary data.

They will be doing our Community Survey, 3 Focus Groups, a Key Informant Survey and will compile the information into one report.

Mover: Cindy Gaffney

Seconders: Melissa Katz

Aye (10): Joseph Clarke, Pamela Althoff, Barbara Amsler, Cecilia Carman, Sarah Clarke, Cindy Gaffney, Melissa Katz, Juliana Morawski, Guadalupe Ortiz, and Michael Szurek

Absent (2): Kristen Maguire, and Kyle Marcussen

Approved (10 to 0)

7.2 TB Medical Director-Ind. Contractor-Dr. Ihab Syed Ahmed

Dr. Ahmed will replace Dr. Hafiz as TB Director with similar contract terms. Dr. Hafiz will continue to be a back-up, if needed.

Mover: Cindy Gaffney

Seconders: Michael Szurek

Aye (10): Joseph Clarke, Pamela Althoff, Barbara Amsler, Cecilia Carman, Sarah Clarke, Cindy Gaffney, Melissa Katz, Juliana Morawski, Guadalupe Ortiz, and Michael Szurek

Absent (2): Kristen Maguire, and Kyle Marcussen

Approved (10 to 0)

8. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

8.1 2024 Opioid Overdose Trends, Maura Gossen

The presentation to the Board of Health was a review of opioid overdose trends in 2024 in McHenry County. The following topics were covered: overview of opioid overdose indicators, including accidental opioid overdose emergency department (ED) visits, opioid overdose emergency medical service (EMS) encounters, accidental opioid overdose mortality, and opioid exposures reported to the Illinois Poison Center (IPC), annual trends overtime for each opioid overdose indicator, health disparities among opioid overdoses, and top substances reported being used by IPC and the McHenry County Coroner's Office.

There was a decrease in accidental opioid overdose ED visits, opioid overdose EMS encounters, and accidental opioid overdose mortality from 2023 to 2024. There was a slight increase in opioid exposures reported to IPC from 2023 to 2024. While there is no statistical evidence, we believe that the decrease in ED visits, EMS encounters, and mortality is due to the increase in harm reduction efforts carried out by both MCDH and our partner agencies.

All data are available to view in the 2024 Opioid Surveillance Report which can be found in the Behavioral Health Data and Reports Page on the MCDH website, and in the McHenry County Health Atlas.

9. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1 Review and Approval of the McHenry County Department of Health Annual Report

Mover: Cecilia Carman

Seconders: Barbara Amsler

Approved by Voice

10. BOARD ISSUES

10.1 Personnel Policy Section 2.1: Vaccinations and Tuberculosis Screening Requirements

Director Adamson met with Dr. Tommaso, Director of Nursing, Director of Community Health and some staff members to discuss the Department of Health's vaccination requirements.

Dr. Tommaso stated that there are several vaccinations that are universally required for healthcare workers. The Department also requires an annual flu shot and a COVID booster shot. Director Adamson added we have these requirements to keep our employees and the people we serve safe.

It was decided to continue with the vaccination requirements that are currently in place.

11. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

12. APPENDIX

12.1 Media Appendix/Webstats

12.2 ENV Lab Report

12.3 PHN Reports

12.4 VPH Reports

12.5 Community Health Reports

12.6 ADM Report

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

P. Athoff moved to adjourn the Regular Session at 7:45 pm and enter into Executive Session to review executive session minutes, seconded by Cindy Gaffney. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Motion made by S. Clarke to return to Regular Session at 7:50 pm, seconded by B. Amsler. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

13.1 Executive Session Minutes Approval-October 16, 2023

C. Gaffney moved to approve and release the Executive Session minutes of 10/16/2023, seconded by B. Amsler. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

13.2 Executive Session Minutes Approval-July 15, 2024

C. Gaffney moved to approve and release the Executive Session minutes of 7/15/2024, seconded by S. Clarke. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

13.3 Executive Session Minutes Approval-February 10, 2025

J. Morawski moved to approve and release the Executive Session minutes of 2/10/2025, seconded by G. Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ms. Althoff to adjourn meeting at 7:52 pm, seconded by Ms. Clarke. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.