

**DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE: March 22, 2022**

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT**

Derryl Block, RN, PhD, President  
Kellen Bosma, DMD  
Rukisha Crawford  
Lorraine Daly  
Patricia Faivre  
Anita Zurbrugg

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS ABSENT**

Carlos Dominguez, DVM  
Erik Englehart, MD, Vice President  
Lizy Garcia, Secretary  
Paul Stromborg, MD

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Lisa Gonzalez, MPH, *Public Health Administrator*  
Cindy Graves, RN, MSHA, *Director of Community Health and Prevention & Health Promotion and Emergency Preparedness*  
Erin Frye, MPH, *Administrative Assistant and Marketing Manager*  
Greg Maurice, LEHP, *Director of Health Protection*  
Adriana Milan, MPA, *Director of Administrative Services*

**CALL TO ORDER**

The DeKalb County Board of Health meeting of March 22, 2022 was called to order at 6:02 pm by Dr. Block, President.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF MEMBERS**

Mrs. Gonzalez welcomed back the Board of Health to in-person meetings and introduced new DCHD staff Erin Frye, MPH, as Administrative Assistant and Marketing Manager, and Adriana Milan, MPA, as Director of Administrative Services. Mrs. Gonzalez welcomed Dr. Bosma to his first in-person meeting. Each BOH member introduced themselves by name and place of residence.

**AGENDA**

On a motion by Ms. Zurbrugg, seconded by Ms. Crawford, the Board of Health Meeting Agenda was approved. Motion carried.

## **MINUTES**

### **Full Board**

On a motion by Mrs. Daly, seconded by Mrs. Faivre, the Board of Health Meeting Minutes for January 25, 2022 were approved. Motion carried.

On a motion by Ms. Crawford, seconded by Mrs. Faivre, the Board of Health Executive Session Minutes for January 25, 2022 were approved. Motion carried.

On a motion by Ms. Zurbrugg, seconded by Mrs. Daly, the Board of Health Executive Session Minutes for July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 were approved. Motion carried.

On a motion by Dr. Bosma, seconded by Mrs. Daly, the Board of Health Executive Session Minutes for March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 were approved. Motion carried.

On a motion by Ms. Zurbrugg, seconded by Mrs. Daly, the Board of Health Executive Session Minutes for November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 were approved. Motion carried.

On a motion by Ms. Zurbrugg, seconded by Dr. Bosma, the Board of Health Executive Session Minutes for July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 were approved. Motion carried.

### **Nominating Committee**

On a motion by Mrs. Faivre, seconded by Ms. Crawford, the Nominating Committee Minutes of the Meeting for March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 were accepted. Motion Carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Lisa Gonzalez shared that the committees will report under New Business of tonight's agenda.

## **PERSONS TO BE HEARD FROM THE FLOOR**

None

## **PRESENTATION**

### **1. Healthcare Navigator and Medical Cannabis Pilot Project**

Ms. Graves provided an introduction to the Healthcare Enrollment Assistance Program/ Healthcare Navigator program. She shared the program began in 2013 due to implementation of the Affordable Care Act with funding provided through the Get Covered Illinois grant for the first two years. She shared the program began with three part-time application counselors and a secretary to assist the public with Marketplace and Medicaid applications. She explained in year-three the program faced challenges from a funding perspective as grant funding was diverted to higher need

counties such as Cook County and the program was ultimately defunded. Ms. Graves stated the former health department administrator approached the DeKalb County Mental Health Board who agreed to fund the program as many persons with mental health challenges were part of a vulnerable population that needed insurance assistance. She shared they funded a half-time position of Certified Application Counselor at \$27,000 annually from 2015 through 2021.

Ms. Graves explained in the summer of 2021 the Health Department applied for the Federal Navigator Grant and was awarded \$158,00 per year for the three-year grant cycle. She shared grant funds allowed the capture of administrative costs and outreach activities. She explained as the funding changed to a federal source, the counselor became known as a Navigator.

Ms. Graves provided an overview of the three ways to obtain health insurance; through your employer, through a private insurance policy, or through public coverage which includes Marketplace, Medicaid, or Medicare. She shared if a person has an opportunity for health insurance through their employer, they do not qualify for public coverage programs.

Ms. Graves explained marketplace is a federal program to help individuals shop for, and enroll in health insurance, where sign-up can only occur during the open enrollment period, usually November 1<sup>st</sup> thru December 15<sup>th</sup>, or through a qualifying special life event. She shared the program requires a person be a U.S. citizen and if they are married, they must file a joint tax return. She explained income is projected for the upcoming year and reconciled at tax time. She explained new provisions beginning March 2022 allow the health department to assist individuals who missed open enrollment this year to obtain coverage.

Ms. Graves shared information on how financial assistance for Marketplace is calculated using a chart on household size and percentage of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). She explained premium tax credits cover a larger group of people for those between 100% and 400% of the FPL and subsidies, also known as cost-sharing reductions, only cover those between 100% and 200% of the FPL. Ms. Graves emphasized the coverage, whether you have the bronze, silver, or gold plan, is the same and the only difference between the plans is what is paid for it.

Ms. Graves provided an overview of Medicaid. She shared it is a state-run program that provides coverage to low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults, and people with disabilities. She explained Medicaid applications are based on the past few months earnings and Medicaid enrollment is year-round and reconciled during a rolling redetermination period. She explained in order to qualify for Medicaid you must meet income and residency guidelines. She shared the last two years the redetermination period has been on hold due to the pandemic. Ms. Graves explained that Medicaid is run through managed care organizations and those currently provided in DeKalb County are Aetna, Meridian, BCBS Community, and Molina. She shared new provisions beginning in 2020 allowed income eligible immigrant seniors to apply for Medicaid and was further expanded to include income eligible immigrant populations ages 55 and over.

Ms. Graves explained Medicaid expansion expands the number of people who are qualified for the program. She shared a graph depicting the various states in 2017 and 2021 who have and have not adopted and implemented Medicaid expansion.

Ms. Graves shared the number of Marketplace and Medicaid applications completed through the health department from July 2016 through February 2022 at 626 and 1046 applications, respectively. She shared the program supports the goal of the health department to diminish healthcare barriers and help people obtain healthcare coverage.

Dr. Block asked Ms. Graves if she knew what percentage of the applications come through the health department versus through other means. Ms. Graves replied the health department does not have the data to answer that question. Ms. Graves shared when a woman is pregnant the health department provides a statement of Medicaid Presumed Eligibility so they may be seen by a healthcare provider before being covered by Medicaid. She shared originally the person would then go to the Medicaid offices to continue the application process, however, the health department decided to further assist with the application process at the health department.

Ms. Graves shared two infographics being used for outreach at bus stations. She shared one promoted the open enrollment period for the last open enrollment session and the other focuses on explaining qualifying events that would prompt a special enrollment period.

Ms. Crawford asked Ms. Graves if a person has to reapply for Medicaid each time they move. Ms. Graves explained yes, they have to because different counties have different plans available.

Ms. Zurbrugg asked Ms. Graves what processes, if any, the Health Department had to go through to assist with the entirety of the Medicaid enrollment process. Ms. Graves responded that there was a natural extension of assisting with Medicaid Presumed Eligibility to assisting with the rest of the application process. Lisa Gonzalez added the State improved their web-based platform allowing employees to access the materials needed to assist with the application process.

Dr. Bosma asked Ms. Graves if she knew how many people do not have Medicaid that are eligible for coverage in the county. Ms. Graves explained she does not have that information. She added the health department does reach out to NIU to assist students and their families who qualify apply for coverage. She shared approximately 15% of students qualify for coverage.

Ms. Graves provided a presentation on the Medical Cannabis Patient Program (MCP) at DeKalb County Health Department. She shared the State agencies responsible for medical cannabis are the Department of Public Health, the Office of the Secretary of State, the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, the Department of Agriculture, the Illinois State Police, and the Department of Human Services.

Ms. Graves shared in August 2013, Illinois became the 20<sup>th</sup> State to authorize a program for the cultivation and dispensing of cannabis for medical purposes. She stated by the end of 2017 it was clear to IDPH that self-applications were not going well with 70% containing errors and requiring reconciliation. She shared IDPH turned to Local Health Departments due to a proven track record of assisting with client applications. She shared it was not required but the health department would be paid for each error free application. She shared by 2018 DeKalb County Health Department was running the MCP.

Ms. Graves shared a list of qualifying conditions for the program. Ms. Zurbrugg asked if these conditions need to be medically diagnosed by a physician to qualify. Ms. Graves shared the physician is required to have a relationship with the patient and must conduct a physical examination within 90 days of the application. She shared the physician is attesting to the fact that the person has a qualifying condition, not prescribing the cannabis. She stated once the person is at the dispensary, trained staff assist the person in choosing the appropriate compound and in what form. Mrs. Gonzalez shared many of the health department referrals are from the cancer center and pain clinic.

Ms. Graves shared a personal anecdote about a woman she knows in her 90s who was experiencing nausea, weight loss, and severe rheumatoid arthritis. She shared this woman obtained a medical card and she is now on a CBD and THC mix and is eating without nausea and experiencing less pain. Ms. Graves described various forms cannabis can be purchased in including the flower, topicals, edibles, extract, tincture, and vape.

Ms. Daly asked if the dispensaries or employees of dispensaries are licensed to assist in this process. Ms. Graves explained the Department of Professional Regulation ensure training is completed and employees are qualified to talk through the different types of cannabis available. She shared training is not necessarily related to the diagnosis but focus on the symptoms a person is having. She shared the cannabis is used to treat the symptoms, not the diagnosis.

Ms. Graves explained medical cannabis is not covered by insurance. She explained there is a 7% tax levied and between 19.55% and 34.75% retail tax dependent on the potency. She shared the revenue distribution after costs of administration and expungement; the remaining funds are distributed at 2% to public education and safety campaigns, 8% to the Local Government Distributive Fund, 25% to the Recover, Reinvest, and Renew (3R) Program, 20% to mental health services and substance abuse programs, 10% to pay unpaid bills, and 35% to the General Revenue Fund. She shared in 2020 the income on cannabis tax in Illinois was 670 million dollars and in 2021 it was one billion dollars.

Ms. Zurbrugg asked how we discuss and reconcile public health concerns of medical versus recreational use of cannabis. Ms. Graves responded she is in support of the Medical Cannabis use as it supports the betterment of people who have problems. Mrs. Gonzalez shared those are considered two separate entities as there are still concerns from a public health perspective regarding recreational use.

Ms. Crawford asked Ms. Graves if she has heard of children, on the medicinal side, using cannabis products. Ms. Graves replied there have been a couple of children in the program. Mrs. Daly shared in her time working in the school district, a student could take it [medical cannabis products] at school if they had a diagnosis and prescription but a parent had to come administer it.

Dr. Block shared on the State website the verbiage is medical use cannabis and adult use cannabis; not recreational use.

Mrs. Faivre stated there used to not be much research on the effects of medical or recreational use of cannabis. She asked if the increasing number of qualifying conditions reflects improved

research. Ms. Graves replied she was unsure of how much hard research is being done. Mrs. Gonzalez shared there would not be federal research at this time as medical use of cannabis is not approved at the federal level.

Ms. Graves shared a graphic showing the states that have a state regulated cannabis program. She shared if a person crosses state lines into a state where it is not legal, they can be arrested. She also shared that a person working a federal contract is not allowed to test positive for cannabis even if they are in a state regulated cannabis program as it is still federally illegal.

Ms. Zurbrugg asked how many other counties in the state have cannabis programs or if we are the only one. Mrs. Gonzalez replied for region 1 she believes there are two others in the nine-county region that offer these services. She shared reimbursement to the Health Department is \$75 per error-free application. She explained because the health department was already assisting with enrollment it was not difficult for employees to familiarize themselves with a similar platform.

Ms. Graves shared the number of MCPP applications completed from 2018 through 2021 were 126, 248, 114, and 156 applications per year, chronologically. She shared legalizing adult use may have affected the numbers. She shared in 2021 the health department rendered \$12,000 from the Medical Cannabis Pilot Program.

## **2. COVID-19 Situational Update**

Mrs. Gonzalez provided a COVID-19 Situational Update. She shared the health department continues to provide a weekly COVID-19 dashboard update on the Health Department website. She stated as of March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 COVID-19 positivity rate was 1.8%. Mrs. Gonzalez shared effective January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the IDPH Surge Center began to reach out to all cases who opt in from the auto text. She explained the health department continues to provide oversight of schools, daycares, and congregate care settings with mitigation strategies and outbreak management. She shared as of Friday last week there were four long term care settings in outbreak status.

Mrs. Gonzalez shared COVID-19 outbreak activity in January and February 2022. She stated with the positivity rate decreasing we have seen the number of outbreaks decrease from January to February.

Mrs. Gonzalez shared a COVID-19 testing update regarding BinaxNOW testing. She stated in February the schools were provided with 3,300 test kits. She explained at this point the schools are doing very little testing and the hope is the supply will last through the school year. She shared funds are diminishing for these types of supplies and it is uncertain whether the partnership between the health department and the schools for distribution of the kits will be able to continue next year. She added if the health department has the supply, it is willing to partner in this endeavor moving forward.

Ms. Zurbrugg asked if the BinaxNOW test kits detect the new variant. Mrs. Gonzalez responded that it does detect the omicron variant but it is unclear whether it will detect newer variants.

Mrs. Gonzalez shared COVID-19 vaccine clinic and vaccine data. She explained in January the Health Department gave over 1,500 vaccines and in February 387 vaccines were given. She stated the number of vaccinations given continue to decrease as the demand for vaccines has been decreasing. She shared recommendations for booster vaccinations may change the vaccination numbers moving forward. She stated vaccine clinics are currently held at the health department 5 days per week but beginning in April vaccine clinics are set to be held 3 days a week to minimize vaccine waste.

Mrs. Gonzalez shared COVID-19 Vaccine for children under 5 has been discussed and may be provided at the Health Department. She shared the FDA had a meeting scheduled but it was postponed to allow the agency time to consider additional data. She stated at this point the health department is on standby waiting for a decision to be made.

Mrs. Gonzalez shared in February Governor Pritzker signed Executive Order 2022-06 lifting the mask requirement in most indoor settings, including in K-12 schools and daycares. She shared all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, continue to be required to wear face coverings where federally required, on planes, buses trains, and other forms of public transportation and in transportation hubs such as airports and trains and bus stations per CDC, in congregate facilities, and in health care settings. She stated people with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should continue to wear a mask and that school districts and private businesses can continue to require masks at their discretion.

Mrs. Gonzalez shared the new CDC COVID-19 Community Levels terminology that IDPH is adopting. She explained decision making at the local level will be made in part through determination of designation of high, medium, or low community level status. She stated DeKalb County is currently in Low community level. She emphasized community level status is what will drive decision making and recommendations to the community moving forward.

Mrs. Gonzalez provided information on the newly launched nationwide Test to Treat initiative. She shared the initiative allows individuals to get tested for COVID-19 and receive treatment at the same location. She emphasized people will also continue to be able to be tested and treated by their own health care providers. She stated the only location currently in DeKalb County offering the Test to Treat program is Walmart in DeKalb.

Mrs. Faivre asked if the Health Department would consider being a Test to Treat center. Mrs. Gonzalez replied not at this time due to lack of demand and limited availability.

Dr. Block requested if board members have a feeling about whether the board of health meeting should be masked or unmasked with continued low positivity rates to reach out to her individually.

## **COMBINED REPORT**

Mrs. Gonzalez shared if anyone had any questions regarding the combined report to reach out to her.

## **FINANCIAL DATA**

On a motion by Ms. Zurbrugg, seconded by Mrs. Daly, the Financial Statements for the months of January and February 2022 were approved. Motion carried.

On a motion by Mrs. Faivre, seconded by Dr. Bosma, the Claims for the months of February and March 2022 were approved. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Draft 2021 DCHD Annual Report**

Mrs. Gonzalez shared the Board of Health Bylaws state by June 30th of each year, the health department will publish an annual report explaining the Health Department's activities and expenditures for the past year. She shared beginning in 2022, the Board of Health is to review draft content of the annual report for discussion and/or Board feedback with the final report approved at the May 2022 meeting and published publicly thereafter.

Mrs. Gonzalez explained the format of the 2020 report had been revised and due to the recent revisions the 2021 report will share the same format. She shared, as the Administrator, she will be writing a message from herself to the community summarizing the health departments efforts throughout 2021.

Mrs. Gonzalez shared, similarly to the previous year, the COVID-19 response section is expected to be a main focus of the 2021 annual report. She explained 2021 was different in that the health department had vaccines available. She shared there will be a section on data related to vaccination efforts and case management. She stated data will include the number of clinics, the number of vaccinations given, and the number of outbreaks.

She shared an information management section will highlight types of information pushed out to the public such as recommendations for masking, current eligibility for vaccines, and current school guidelines. She shared this section would also highlight marketing statistics.

Mrs. Gonzalez explained another large part of COVID-19 response in 2021 was community collaboration. She shared information such as who the health department worked with, that clinics were held in every school district, and the partnership with NIU regarding the convocation center to provide mass vaccination clinics. She shared the section would outline how the health department collaborated with the community and how partnerships were used in pandemic response efforts. She shared statistics on providing BINAX testing kits would also be included. Mrs. Gonzalez explained before 2020 only one year of statistics was provided in the annual report and now three years are provided for meaningful comparison. She shared the 2021 report will include the data from years 2019, 2020, and 2021. She shared the report provides brief descriptions of health department programs under health protection and community health and prevention.



Mrs. Gonzalez explained the Community Health Needs Assessment section will likely be abbreviated compared to past years as it has been difficult due to the pandemic to perform IPLAN activities. Mrs. Gonzalez shared the financial statement section will include an unaudited summary of expenditures and revenue.

Ms. Zurbrugg asked if it would be possible to capture a few quotes for the community collaboration section of the report. Mrs. Gonzalez replied she will reach out to business or collaborative partners for those quotes.

Dr. Block asked if anyone knew what Northwestern Medicine did about their Community Health Needs Assessment over the last two years. Mrs. Gonzalez explained Northwestern Medicine worked with a contractual provider for the assessment. She shared Northwestern Medicine did release a plan and have a data book available to the public. She shared the Health Department will use that data to determine where gaps are and collect the remaining data needed.

## **2. 2021 Solid Waste Program Report**

Mr. Maurice provided an overview of the 2021 solid waste program report. He shared that 89.5% of waste deposited into the DeKalb County Landfill was from out of county waste per our county host benefit agreement with waste management. Mr. Maurice shared the landfill has a projected 39 years of life remaining at the current disposal rate. He shared the landfill has an average of just over 1900 tons of trash deposited per day. Mr. Maurice stated the waste generated in DeKalb County is 3.49 pounds per person per day. He shared this is an increase from 3.14 pounds per person per day in 2020.

Mr. Maurice shared the Health Department is working to expand rural recycling locations available in DeKalb in addition to the locations currently available in Genoa and Somonauk. He shared the hope is, with agreement from DeKalb County, to place a couple of recycling dumpsters just south of the Community Outreach Building. Mr. Maurice shared the current dilemma is the city of DeKalb has a contract with Lakeshore Recycling for waste management services and is reviewing whether it violates the terms of their contractual agreement with Lakeshore to allow Waste Management bins on city property. Mr. Maurice shared recycling composition estimates in the 2021 solid waste program report rely on voluntary responses from local businesses within the county.

Mrs. Faivre asked Mr. Maurice for more details on the food compost collection. Mr. Maurice replied typically from April to November you can put food waste in with your lawn waste to be broken down in the composting side of the landfill. He shared the landfill can then sell the compost to other vendors. He shared, for a cost, Lakeshore has an extra bin available for lawn clippings and compostable food.

Ms. Zurbrugg asked how the pounds per person per day is calculated. Mr. Maurice explained the total waste deposited in tons excluding special waste minus the out of county waste is converted from tons to pounds and then divided out by the population to determine pounds per person per day.

### **3. Nominating Committee Report**

Mrs. Gonzalez shared the process for new appointment of board members begins with the nominating committee meeting providing a recommendation to the County Board for County Board chairman approval of the nominee. Mrs. Gonzalez shared the nominating committee met in March and discussed nominating the attorney Jill Olson who has expressed interest and has the availability to serve. She stated the attorney on the Board of Health is not to provide legal counsel to the Board of Health as that is the States Attorneys role.

Mrs. Gonzalez shared that Ms. Olson has experience working with children and she participates in the DeKalb County Pre-K Trauma Committee and can provide beneficial feedback into the IPLAN and IPLAN objectives. Mrs. Gonzalez stated that if approved, Jill Olson would complete the 3-year term vacated by Jessica Harrill from 4-20-2022 through 12-31-2024 and would then be eligible for two 3-year full terms.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Dr. Block shared the Board will move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Biannual Review of Executive Session Minutes, under Subsection number 21 of Section 2 (c) of the Open Meeting Act.

On a motion by Ms. Crawford, seconded by Mrs. Faivre, the move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Biannual Review of Executive Session Minutes, under Subsection number 21 of Section 2 (c) of the Open Meeting Act was approved. Motion carried.

Dr. Block stated the Board of Health entered Open Session at 7:43pm.

On a motion by Ms. Crawford, seconded by Dr. Bosma, the motion to release the Executive Session Minutes of the meetings held September 24, 2019, January 28, 2020, July 24, 2020, November 24, 2020, March 23, 2021, July 6, 2021, July 8, 2020, July 27, 2020, and January 25, 2022 was approved. Motion carried.

On a motion by Ms. Zurbrugg, seconded by Mrs. Daly, the motion to accept Resolution 032222 to destroy verbatim recordings of the Executive Session meetings held on March 27, 2018, May 22, 2018, July 24, 2018, September 25, 2018, March 26, 2019, May 21, 2019, September 24, 2019, January 28, 2020, July 24, 2020, and July 28, 2020 was approved. Motion carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE AND NEWS**

Mrs. Gonzalez shared the Attorney General's website is back up and running and Board members are to take the Open Meetings Act training and return the certificate to the Health Department to have on file. She shared the States Attorney is offering an in-person meeting opportunity for Open Meetings Act and FOIA training in May. She stated FOIA training is not required but optional for Board members. She shared the online training is the minimum requirement for Board of Health members.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Ms. Zurbrugg, seconded by Mrs. Daly, the Board of Health adjourned at 7:47pm.  
Motion carried.

Lizy Garcia, Secretary  
DeKalb County Board of Health

