

zaleDEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: November 28, 2023

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT

Derryl Block, RN, PhD, President
Kellen Bosma, DMD
Lorraine Daly
Erik Englehart, MD, Vice President
Karen Federici
Mark Mattson
Jill Olson
Anita Zurbrugg

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS ABSENT

Rukisha Crawford
Carlos Dominguez, DVM
Patricia Faivre

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Lisa Gonzalez, MPH, *Public Health Administrator*
Melissa Edwards, MPH, *Director of Health Promotion and Emergency Preparedness*
Greg Maurice, LEHP, *Director of Health Protection*
Adriana Milan, MPA, *Director of Administrative Services*
Stacia Runge, MSW, *Director of Community Health and Prevention*
Erin Frye, MPH, *Administrative Support and Marketing Manager*

CALL TO ORDER

The DeKalb County Board of Health meeting of November 28th, 2023 was called to order at 6:00pm by Dr. Block, President.

AGENDA

On a motion by Ms. Olson, seconded by Ms. Zurbrugg, the Board of Health Meeting Agenda of November 28, 2023 was approved. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Full Board

On a motion by Ms. Daly seconded by Dr. Bosma, the Board of Health Meeting Minutes for September 26, 2023 were approved. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee

On a motion by Dr. Englehart seconded by Mr. Mattson, the Nominating Committee Minutes for November 14, 2023 were approved. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONS TO BE HEARD FROM THE FLOOR

None.

PRESENTATION

1. Adult & Travel Immunizations

Ms. Runge provided an overview of the routine and recommended vaccines the health department offers to adult clients. She noted Pneumonia, Influenza, Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (TDAP), Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) and COVID-19 as common vaccines administered.

Ms. Runge explained the health department accepts private insurance and Medicaid as forms of payment for immunizations. She shared Medicare Part B is also an accepted form of payment for COVID-19, Influenza and Pneumonia vaccines. Ms. Runge stated Rabies, Typhoid and Yellow Fever vaccines are also offered on a self-pay basis.

Ms. Runge shared since 2018 the number of clients and number of vaccines administered per year has steadily decreased. She noted that increased availability of vaccines at pharmacies and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as sheltering in place, reduced travel, vaccine hesitancy, and vaccine burn-out, have all contributed to the trend of decreasing adult vaccinations.

Ms. Runge explained COVID-19 vaccinations also decreased since 2021. She shared in 2021 approximately 58,300 COVID-19 vaccines were administered, in 2022 approximately 4,400 COVID-19 vaccines were administered, and so far in 2023 approximately 250 COVID-19 vaccines were administered.

Ms. Runge shared travel consultations are conducted over the phone by nursing staff who research travel safety warnings by destination focusing on potential food and water exposures, animal exposures, any outbreaks of communicable diseases and overall personal safety so they can relay pertinent information and recommendations to clients. She explained the nursing staff reviews the client's vaccination records to determine gaps in required and recommended vaccines, ensures the client is up to date on routine vaccinations such as Influenza and COVID-19, and suggests travel specific vaccinations such as Typhoid, Yellow Fever, and Rabies. She notes, when applicable, nursing staff recommends clients return for Tuberculosis (TB) testing eight weeks after traveling from areas with endemic TB infection.

Ms. Runge shared data on the number of consultations provided, Typhoid vaccines administered and Yellow Fever vaccines administered between 2019 and 2023. She explained the reason no Yellow Fever vaccinations were administered from 2019 through 2021 was because the health department was unable to obtain the vaccine due to a worldwide shortage.

Ms. Runge explained the DeKalb County Health Department (DCHD) is one of the only providers of travel vaccines and consultations from DeKalb County to the west Stateline. She shared this provides opportunity to build the program.

Ms. Runge shared vaccination efforts in 2023 include outreach and community engagement activities and increased promotional efforts. She explained outreach activities occurred at the Sandwich Back to School Bash, DeKalb 55 Club, Malta 55 Club, Genoa library, Sycamore Pumpkin Fest, and three NIU flu clinics. She explained promotional efforts include social media, print media, and the health department's newsletter.

Dr. Block asked if NIU gives travel vaccines through Northwestern Medicine (NM) Kishwaukee Hospital or DCHD. Ms. Runge explained since NM took over as NIU's service provider, they do not provide many vaccines but instead refer students needing travel vaccines to DCHD.

Dr. Block asked what populations DCHD sees coming for travel and adult vaccines. Ms. Runge explained there are clients who have been receiving their vaccines from DCHD for 30 years and say they would not go anywhere else.

Ms. Zurbrugg asked to what extent health departments are working on the issue of vaccine hesitancy. Ms. Runge replied that vaccine hesitancy is a topic at many meetings across healthcare providers in northern Illinois but it is a difficult to know what efforts are most effective.

Mrs. Gonzalez shared efforts to address vaccine hesitancy will need to be a collaborative effort to overcome the public's mistrust as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Runge added many people thought receiving the COVID-19 vaccine would prevent them from getting COVID-19. She shared once messaging was corrected to explain that receiving the COVID-19 vaccine would help to reduce the severity of illness, not prevent it, it led to some individuals feeling mistrustful of vaccines.

Mr. Mattson asked if the health department ever put a spend behind social media outreach to address vaccine hesitancy and what the philosophy behind that is. Mrs. Gonzalez explained the availability of grant dollars determines whether money is spent on social media outreach and the impact of whether that brings people to DCHD is undetermined.

COMBINED REPORT

Mrs. Gonzalez reviewed health department staffing trends for record of recruitment and retention efforts. Mrs. Gonzalez shared as of October 2023 the health department had 44 employees, 40 of which were full time and 4 of which were part-time. She explained the health department had 5 new hires, 6 employees who separated from employment, and 1 open position. Mrs. Gonzalez also shared Kay Chase, WIC/FCM Coordinator, will retire on December 8, 2023 after 20 years of service and Dan Berres, Animal Control Warden, will retire on December 29, 2023 after 25 years of service.

Mrs. Gonzalez provided a strategic plan. She reviewed a short-term goal to utilize web-based solutions to more efficiently onboard and train employees with an objective of developing and implementing an onboarding and orientation training system. She shared a 2-year contract with NEOGOV, the LMS vendor, was executed and senior management attends weekly meetings with

NEOGOV's implementation team to orient to the platform and began development of the ONBOARD component of the platform. Mrs. Gonzalez explained the ONBOARD platform is expected to launch in the first quarter of CFY2024 and then staff will begin development of the LEARN platform.

Mrs. Gonzalez provided a second strategic plan update. She reviewed a short-term goal to explore workforce improvement strategies for local public health workforce with an objective to partner with Illinois Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), Northern Illinois University (NIU), Kishwaukee Community College and high schools for collaborative resource sharing. She shared a working relationship was established with NIU AHEC and a public health student was hosted for professional observation and interview opportunity. She explained staff are exploring enhanced pipeline opportunities with NIU to recruit existing public health students to provide work and internship experiences with the hope of improving long-term retention of qualified staff. Mrs. Gonzalez shared moving forward, the internship recruitment process will be streamlined to include formal internship descriptions and enhanced strategies for recruitment.

Mrs. Gonzalez provided a third strategic plan update. She reviewed a long-term goal of improving succession planning with an objective of DCHD to develop and adopt a formal succession plan. She explained she worked in collaboration with the Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators (IAPHA) Workforce Development Subcommittee to secure resources for statewide Succession Planning 101 training and a contract has been signed by IAPHA who will partner with NIU Center for Governmental Studies to offer training.

Mrs. Gonzalez provided an IPLAN update. She shared two meetings were held with representatives from the Northwestern Medicine (NM) CHNA Planning Team to discuss the upcoming community survey and the timeline for CHNA and IPLAN completion and at the end of October, the survey tool was finalized and DCHD received the link to promote widely.

Dr. Block asked how the survey is being distributed. Mrs. Gonzalez explained the survey is being pushed out via social media, email newsletters, print media, bus ads, bus shelter ads, at local movie theatres, chambers of commerce and to clients by staff at the health department.

Mrs. Gonzalez offered to answer or clarify any additional questions regarding the combined report included in the Board of Health packets. No additional questions were posed.

FINANCIAL DATA

On a motion by Ms. Zurbrugg, seconded by Ms. Daly, the Financial Statements for the months of September and October 2023 were approved. Motion carried.

On a motion by Dr. Bosma, seconded by Dr. Englehart, the Claims for the months of October and November 2023 were approved. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Nominating Committee Report

Mrs. Gonzalez shared the Nominating Committee recommends to reappoint Rukisha Crawford for a sixth 1-year term, appoint Kimberly Heinisch for a Community Member opening for a first 3-year term and appoint Dr. Michael Thornton for a Physician opening for a first 3-year term to the Board of Health. Mrs. Gonzalez explained Mark Mattson is recommended to be reappointed for a first 3-year term on the Board of Health. Mrs. Gonzalez shared Anita Zurbrugg, Mark Mattson, and Lorraine Daly, are recommended as officers in the Board of Health for the positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary, respectively.

On a motion by Ms. Olson, seconded by Dr. Federici, the 2024 Board of Health Member Recommendations to be presented to the DeKalb County Board was approved. Motion carried.

2. 2024 Meeting Dates & Times

Mrs. Gonzalez shared the Board of Health meets the fourth Tuesday of every other month at 6:00pm. She stated the meetings for 2024 are January 23, March 26, May 28, July 23, September 24, and November 19. She noted the November Board of Health meeting will take place on the third Tuesday of that month due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

On a motion by Mr. Mattson, seconded by Ms. Daly, the 2024 Meeting Times & Dates were approved. Motion carried.

3. 2024 Board of Health Trainings

Mrs. Gonzalez shared the proposed 2024 Board of Health training topics are Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Need (IPLAN), Vital Records Program, Well and Septic Programs, STI testing and services, Healthcare Enrollment Assistance Program (HEAP), and Family Case Management Program.

4. Recognition of Retiring Board of Health Members

Mrs. Gonzalez announced both Dr. Erik Englehart and Patricia Faivre are retiring from the Board of Health at the end of 2023. She thanked both members for their service on the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CORRESPONDENCE AND NEWS

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Olson, seconded by Ms. Daly, the Board of Health adjourned at 6:46pm. Motion carried.

Anita Zurbrugg, Secretary
DeKalb County Board of Health