

**DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
DATE: March 24, 2015**

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Hagen, RN, MS – President
Christina Jones, RN, MS – Vice President
Celeste Latham – Secretary
Shannon Barnaby, JD
Maria Caudillo
Ronald Feldmann, MD
LeAnn Gruber, DVM
Ruth Anne Tobias

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS ABSENT

Tim Duez, DDS
Roger Faivre
Mayuri Morker, MD

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Jane Lux, Public Health Administrator
Cindy Capek, Director, Health Education and Emergency Preparedness Division
Brenda Courtney, Director of Administrative Services
Cindy Graves, Director, Community Health and Prevention Division
Greg Maurice, Director, Health Protection Division

CALL TO ORDER

The DeKalb County Board of Health meeting of March 24, 2015, was called to order at 7:02 pm by Karen Hagen, President.

MINUTES

FULL BOARD

On a motion by Christina Jones, seconded by Ruth Anne Tobias, the Board of Health Minutes of the Meeting for January 27, 2015, were approved. Motion carried.

On a motion by Dr. Feldmann, seconded by Shannon Barnaby, the Executive Session Minutes of the Meeting for January 27, 2015, were approved. Motion carried.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD FROM THE FLOOR

None

DIVISION REPORTS

Public Health Administrator - Jane Lux

Mrs. Lux discussed her work on Health Department building projects to include the expansion and remodeling of the Board Room so that it can accommodate meetings, reconfiguration of the Environmental Health Suite and repair and refresh of the multi-purpose room walls and floor base coves. These projects are funded through the County Renewal and Replacement program.

Mrs. Lux prepared the Forty-Eighth Annual Report that was included in Board packets. There were many highlights and achievements to be proud of in 2014. Several items were omitted due to space limitations, including the County adoption of Zero Waste as a guiding principle, discussions with KishHealth System on collaboration with its Accountable Care Entity, and the recognition the department received for our “Baby Friendly Initiative” at the state Women, Infants and Children Conference.

Mrs. Lux reported on a DeKalb County resident that traveled to Sierra Leone. The Health Department was responsible for conducting “Active Monitoring” for 21 days after her return in January. Our Emergency Preparedness (EP) team had a series of meetings with partners that had potential for involvement. In addition, we updated and developed plans for prevention of the spread of a contagious disease. We were able to carry out our role as planned, and to exercise communications and plans in an actual potential public health event.

The implementation plan for the County Smoke and Tobacco-Free Worksite policy was approved by the Health and Human Services Committee on March 2, 2015. A volunteer employee committee with twenty-two members representing multiple departments participated in meetings led by the Health Department to discuss and make recommendations regarding the implementation plan. Implementation is on hold pending a request from AFSCME to bargain the effects of the policy.

Mrs. Lux reviewed revenue generated as a result of our 2014 Billing Pilot. There was a net gain of 13 percent in clinical fees, thus it was a significant impact. We concluded it was worthwhile to continue to bill all revenue sources.

Mrs. Lux provided information on her role with the Illinois Public Health Association’s Managed Care Workgroup and the effort to advocate for local health departments during the transition to Medicaid managed care. She explained that while the state failed to include clarity for the role of health departments, our public health model contributes positively to the goals, thus we will continue to advocate for collaboration with managed care entities.

Mrs. Lux shared the discussions with KishHealth System regarding opportunities to partner with the new Accountable Care Entity. There are key unanswered questions with the new state administration that prevent moving forward. One of our proposals is collaboration on the Vaccine for Children (VFC) program, as our public health model improves outcomes. The former DeKalb Clinic, now KishHealth System Physician Group, is considering providing Vaccine for Children services to their patients on Medicaid. Thus we will continue to advocate for collaboration.

Health Promotion and Emergency Preparedness - Cindy Capek

Ms. Capek noted that the Spring Tobacco Promotion Campaign will include advertising on several of the bus shelters in the community in an effort to target a new audience. Other media will include coasters, paid print and social media advertising, posters in buses and fliers for events. Ms. Capek also explained the role of the staff in the Live Healthy DeKalb County Worksite Wellness initiatives that were planned for April and May.

Health Protection - Greg Maurice

Mr. Maurice reported on his efforts to work with Representative Pritchard to sponsor a bill to modify the State Code to allow each County to decide whether animals running at large in rural areas that are not residentially subdivided can be charged with an ordinance violation. Currently animals running at large in DeKalb County cannot be cited when they have caused an automobile accident or are chasing livestock.

Mr. Maurice submitted an article to the DeKalb County Farm Bureau regarding the state septic system code.

Mr. Maurice gathered recycling data for the Annual Solid Waste Report.

Community Health and Prevention - Cindy Graves

Ms. Graves said that the recent Division restructure is going very well and that staff were very receptive to these changes. The Childhood and Adult Immunizations program improved and integrated processes. In addition, staff has implemented a case management approach with clients to improve access, acceptability and remove barriers, all for improved outcomes.

Ms. Graves explained the lower participant numbers in the WIC program in February noting that this was a result of a change from the WIC coupons to a debit card system. She explained that this required a new family classification system and that she expects that it will take two to three months for the transition to be completed.

FINANCIAL DATA

Celeste Latham moved to approve the Financial Statements for January and February 2015, seconded by Dr. Feldmann. Motion carried.

Christina Jones moved to approve the Claims for February and March 2015, seconded by Ruth Anne Tobias. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Solid Waste Report

Mrs. Lux reviewed the Annual Solid Waste Report. She acknowledged Mr. Maurice for completing the report in the absence of a Solid Waste coordinator position that has been vacant since fall. The position was filled last week. Mrs. Lux noted that the Host Fee Agreement for the landfill expansion is in effect and as of 2015, the revenue was expanded in accordance with the Agreement.

Mrs. Lux explained that recycling rate information is voluntary, and that approximately 60 recyclers and waste haulers were surveyed. The overall recycling rate for 2014 was 49 percent, and if construction and demolition debris were removed, the recycling rate was 44 percent. Our rate continues to exceed the state goal of 25 percent by a significant margin. The landfill rate is more accurate, as it is based on measurement rather than estimates. The rate is based on the total pounds landfilled divided by the total County population, divided by 365 days, and it was 4.03 pounds per person per day.

Mrs. Lux highlighted the goals for 2015 and explained that the recently hired Solid Waste Specialist will be focusing on increased education and promotion, implementing the recommendations of the Zero Waste Task Force, as well as completing the five-year update to Solid Waste Plan for the County and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

2. 2014 Audited Financial Statement

Mrs. Lux provided an overview of the 2014 Audited Financial Statement. The Health Department exceeded projections for Revenue by one percent (\$33,108) due primarily to fees and unexpected grant revenue. Expenditures were one percent (\$48,953) less than projected due to cost containment. The overall result was \$17,759 Revenue over Expenditures. We exceeded our financial goals, avoided an anticipated deficit, and did very well considering our challenges.

Mrs. Lux stated that while we did very well in 2014, she cautioned that this will be hard to sustain for the long term. There is a great deal of uncertainty regarding the impacts of healthcare reform. In addition, she anticipates across-the-board state Budget cuts; we will not be able to realize the same annual increase from fees; continuous grant revenue is trending down while expenses increase; and, new state and federal grant opportunities are not anticipated.

Mrs. Lux provided a comparison of the 2013 and 2014 Financial Statements. Revenue increased two percent in 2014, primarily due to fees. At the same time, property tax revenue decreased six percent. Expenditures increased four percent in 2014, primarily due to personnel costs, especially a ten percent increase in health insurance.

3. Long-Term Funding Options

Mrs. Lux presented data to support consideration of long-term funding options to sustain the Health Department. She reported on what other Health Departments are doing in response to Revenue contraction. Health Departments in Illinois are implementing many of the same strategies we have undertaken the last several years to increase revenue and contain costs. According to the national Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO), Local Health Departments have shed nearly 44,000 jobs since 2008. Their conclusion states the economic downturn has remained with local health departments long after other sectors have seen improvement. Additionally, health departments will only be able to better serve their communities by expanding programs, not merely avoiding further cuts.

Mrs. Lux reviewed an analysis of Revenue and Expenditures from 2008 to 2015. The projected Grant and Property Tax Revenues are lower in 2015 than 2008 Revenues for both categories. Even with anticipated fee Revenue increasing eighteen percent 2008 to 2015, the total Revenue is 0.5 percent less in 2015 than 2008. Personnel Expenditures (accounting for approximately 80 percent of total Expenditures) demonstrate the 46 percent reduction in workforce from 2010 to 2015. Although, we have had a large reduction in workforce and personnel costs since 2008, there is a four percent increase in this category in 2014 and anticipated in 2015.

Mrs. Lux concluded that we have worked very hard to compensate for loss in grant and property tax Revenue with fees and new grants. However, these strategies cannot sustain the department for the long-term if Revenue continues trending downward. We will not be able to realize the amount of increase in fees each year and we cannot count on new grants in the current environment. Despite getting very lean with staffing, personnel expenditures increase.

Mrs. Lux reviewed a model for long-term financial projections from 2014 to 2025 that compares financial projections without a referendum to projections with passage of a referendum in 2016. She explained that the 1997 Bond Issue on the Health Facility Building will be retired (expired) at the end of 2016. With such expiration, an opportunity becomes available for that tax levy to be continued, subject to referendum, so that the tax levy would neither decrease with the expiration nor increase with the passage of a referendum, but continue in a fashion similar to the current building debt service levy. The tax dollars gained from this levy represent less than one-half of one percent (or .32 percent) of the total County taxes collected.

Without a referendum, the last year of a positive ending unreserved fund balance is 2017; with a referendum it is 2024.

Mrs. Lux stated that the purpose of a Referendum would be to sustain the Health Department (current core public health functions and services) as long as we can. As explained, this referendum would not increase the tax levy. While the future is uncertain, this is a ten-year plan that buys time for the State of Illinois to turn around and for the funding picture at both the federal and state level to improve.

Shannon Barnaby moved, seconded by Ruth Anne Tobias to approve Resolution 2015-L, to make a recommendation to the County Board to place the question of a Public Health Levy on the ballot for 2016 so the voters of DeKalb County can make a decision on long-term funding of the DeKalb County Health Department. On Roll Call Vote: Yes: Karen Hagen, Christina Jones, Shannon Barnaby, Maria Caudillo, Dr. Feldmann, LeAnn Gruber, Celeste Latham, and Ruth Anne Tobias. Voting No: None.

Ruth Anne Tobias moved, seconded by Maria Caudillo to support a community volunteer committee to coordinate and implement a public information campaign, with information provided by the DeKalb County and Health Department Administrators, in support of a Public Health Levy on the ballot for 2016. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:55 pm, Christina Jones moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Bi-annual Review of Executive Session Minutes under Subsection Number (21) of Section 2 (c) of the Open Meetings Act, seconded by Dr. Feldmann. Motion carried.

On roll call vote, those voting yes were Karen Hagen, Christina Jones, Shannon Barnaby, Maria Caudillo, Dr. Feldmann, LeAnn Gruber, Celeste Latham, and Ruth Anne Tobias.

At 8:59 pm, Dr. Feldmann moved to return to open session, seconded by Ruth Anne Tobias. Motion carried.

Ruth Anne Tobias moved, seconded by Shannon Barnaby, to release the Executive Session Minutes of the meeting held September 23, 2014. Motion carried.

LeAnn Gruber moved, seconded by Christina Jones to accept Resolution 032415 to destroy the verbatim tape recording of the Executive Session meetings held on March 26, May 7, May 30, July 25, July 30, and September 24, 2013. Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE AND NEWS

As noted.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ruth Anne Tobias, seconded by Dr. Shannon Barnaby, the Board of Health adjourned at 9:10 pm. Motion carried.

Celeste Latham, Secretary
DeKalb County Board of Health