

**MINUTES**  
**Sangamon County Board of Health**  
**August 18, 2022; 5:45 P.M.**

**Present:**

Brian Miller, M.D., President  
Deborah Grant, Vice-President  
George Preckwinkle, Treasurer  
Raj Dhamrait, D.D.S.  
Korine Vlahos, M.D.  
Gail O’Neill, Director of Public Health  
Carol Graham, Executive Assistant to the Director

**Excused:**

Senator Doris Turner  
Bart Troy, M.D  
Theresa Smith

**Guest:**

Tawna Wright, Epilepsy Advocacy Network

**Call to Order:**

President Dr. Miller called the meeting to order at 5:57 p.m.

Roll call:

Dr. Miller – Present	Senator Turner - Absent
Deborah Grant – Present	Dr. Troy - Absent
George Preckwinkle – Present	Dr. Dhamrait - Present
Theresa Smith – Absent	Dr. Vlahos - Present

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2022 Board of Health meeting was made by George Preckwinkle, seconded by Deborah Grant, with a roll call of:

Dr. Miller – Yes	Dr. Vlahos – Yes
George Preckwinkle: Yes	Deborah Grant – Yes
Dr. Dhamrait – Yes	

**Director’s Report - Gail O’Neill, B.S., Director**

1. COVID-19 Update – Gail O’Neill

Gail reported that the message IDPH is requesting health departments to share is the Emergency Phase of the pandemic is over and now it is up to personal responsibility as far as testing, vaccinating and isolating when positive. There is a new vaccine that will be released soon. Preparing in case there to be a big influx in people wanting the vaccine.

2. Monkey Pox Update

Gail stated there has been one confirmed case of Monkey Pox in Sangamon County. SCDPH has 60 doses of the vaccine in the clinic, if needed. Currently working with the Phoenix Center and PREP clients to offer vaccine to them.

3. Polio Vaccination Update

Gail announced there is a resurgence of Polio in many countries. The virus was detected in waste water in New York. Dr. Miller emphasized that parents need to make sure keep their children up-to-date on their immunizations and make sure

everyone that is traveling is also up-to-date on immunizations, especially Polio vaccine.

4. *Back to School Events*

Gail reported SCDPH, in conjunction with SIU and District 186, participated in 2 back to school events to get kids school physicals and immunizations. 264 children were served at those events.

5. *Flu Clinics*

Gail said 70 flu clinics have already been scheduled for the fall. There is a contract between SCDPH and State of Illinois to administer flu vaccine to their employees, the sites will also be scheduled soon.

6. *Formula Shortage Update*

Dr. Vlahos reported the shortage continues, but not as severe as it was. The Abbott factory was up and running at last meeting, but they got hit with a storm so there continues to be delays. She has recommended to her clients to not hoard formula, this enables everyone to get a chance to purchase some for their infants, and if necessary, she recommends another brand that is comparable to the Abbott brand.

7. *Animal Control Update*

Gail stated the department is working on getting out data from the Animal Control & Adoption Center that people are needing/wanting in order to be transparent. Things are improving under the direction of Jeanne Keenan, Interim Director of SCACAC. For the months of May, June and July, 865 animals were brought in, 140 were adopted out, 241 were transferred to rescues or shelters, 52 were euthanized and 67 wildlife were euthanized. Adoptions are up and kennels are full at this time. Looking into getting more transfer partners and needing more vet hours as well. A new volunteer program was established that will be administered by Sangamon County Animal Control and Adoption Center, instead of a private organization. In the process now of training all staff, getting new and more cameras installed, and having the dogs fed twice a day instead of once a day.

8. *IL State Fair Update*

Per our contract with IL Dept of Agriculture and IL Dept of Public Health, our inspection staff performed an educational class and inspections on approximately 150 vendors this year at the fair. At this time only 2 vendors have left due to not being able to operate as needed.

9. *Restaurants*

Gail asked if the Board would like to be notified if a restaurant is closed due to health violations. They all agreed they would like to be notified by email when this happens.

10. *Staffing Update*

Gail mentioned there is still a staff shortage, as there is everywhere. Have been able to hire LPNs instead of RNs in some areas where it is allowed, and this has helped.

**Public Comment :**

Tawna Wright introduced herself as a representative of the Epilepsy Advocacy Center to make the board aware of the programs they provide and to give her information in case anyone needs her program for services.

**New Business:**

1. Next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2022.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn the Board of Health meeting at 6:50 p.m. was made by Deborah Grant, seconded by Dr. Vlahos:

Dr. Brian Miller – Yes	George Preckwinkle – off of the call
Deborah Grant – Yes	Dr. Vlahos – Yes
Dr. Raj Dhamrait – Yes	

Respectfully submitted by: Carol Graham; Executive Assistant to the Director