

MINUTES
Sangamon County Board of Health
August 15, 2023; 5:45 P.M.

Present:

Brian Miller, M.D., President
Deborah Grant, Vice-President
Raj Dhamrait, D.D.S.
Theresa Smith, Secretary
Gail O'Neill, Director of Public Health
Carol Graham, Executive Assistant to the Director

Excused:

Senator Doris Turner
George Preckwinkle, Treasurer
Korrine Vlahos, M.D.

Guest:

None

President Dr. Miller called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2023 Board of Health meeting was made by Deborah Grant, seconded by Raj Dhamrait, passed unanimously.

Director's Report - Gail O'Neill, B.S.:

a. Retirement Announcement:

Gail announced her retirement, effective September 29, 2023. The interviewing and hiring process will be done by 2 members of the Board of Health, 2 members of the County Board, along with a few others. Dr. Miller and the Board thanked Gail for her service to Sangamon County Department of Public Health and the community, and wished her well on her retirement.

b. Follow-up discussion regarding restaurant licenses:

Gail reported that one of the county attorneys recommended that if there is a recurrent issue with a restaurant, they would be happy to assist with a hearing to get their license revoked. At this time, the restaurant in question, McDonald's on 9th and North Grand, is doing ok. Environmental Health staff will continue to perform inspections to check on their progress. Dr. Miller asked is there a defined time in between bad inspections/closures that the Board has to wait in order to have the ability to permanently revoke a food license. Gail responded, there is no defined time, it depends on the health risk to the community, but that can be decided by the Board of Health.

c. COVID-19 Update

Gail announced that cases are up, but people are not getting as sick. There is a new booster in the making to hopefully combat the newest strain. The vaccine for the new booster will not be free as it was in the past, but we will be able to bill insurance, Medicare and Medicaid. It will not be a combined vaccine with flu.

d. Vaccines:

Gail stated SCDPH will start giving flu vaccinations on September 25th, both in the clinic, at outbound communities and private sites. The RSV vaccine that is for infants and the senior population has not been approved for reimbursement at this time, and there are possible reactions. We will wait before more is known before ordering it.

e. Animal Control & Adoption Center Update:

Plumbing is installed for the new water heater and the industrial sized new washer and dryer, new cameras are in, the trenches are getting new clips, and updates have been made to both inside and outside the building. Free microchip clinics are being planned. Currently there are 4 veterinarians assisting at the center.

f. Medical Mobile Unit – RFP:

Gail reported there will be a RFP out at the end of the month for Ford Transit van that was purchased previously, to be turned into a medical mobile unit.

Public Comment:

None

New Business:

Gail reported that there are 2 positive pools of water that tested positive for West Nile, no birds or people have tested positive as of yet in Sangamon County.

Next meeting was slated to be October 19, 2023, but it may have to be changed due to there possibly not being a quorum.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the Board of Health meeting at 6:40 p.m. was made Theresa Smith, seconded Deborah Grant, and passed unanimously.

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