

MINUTES
Sangamon County Board of Health
March 2, 2023; 5:45 P.M.

Present:

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

Excused:

George Preckwinkle, Treasurer
Bart Troy, M.D

Guest: Debra Tiskos, R.N., Director of Maternal & Child Health Services

President Dr. Miller called the meeting to order at 5:52 p.m.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2022 Board of Health meeting was made by Deborah Grant, seconded by Theresa Smith, passed unanimously.

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

a. WIC Program presentation by Debra Tiskos, R.N., Director of Maternal & Child Health Services:

Debra gave an overview of the WIC program at SCDPH. Due to Dept of Agriculture's directive, she explained WIC still has to offer clients the option of doing a visit in person or over the phone. She said staff prefers to see clients in person so they can catch any health or mental issues that would be hard or impossible to catch over the phone. Debbie also gave a handout, see attached, showing how much and the types of food pregnant women get on WIC. She let the Board Members know that SCDPH is serving some of the WIC clients from Christian County at SCDPH, due to Christian County not having enough staff to provide WIC services to their community.

b. COVID – End of COVID Emergency Declaration:

Gail reported the end of the COVID Emergency Declaration will be May 11, 2023. This will mean the end to free COVID testing, free COVID treatment and free COVID vaccinations programs. Payments for telehealth and telemedicine will stay until December 31, 2024, if not longer. Even though the vaccinations will not be free from the government anymore, insurances will pay for them. As always, if someone is unable to pay for them SCDPH will waive the fee if necessary, such as they do with flu immunizations.

c. In-Service Trainings Planned:

Gail announced several trainings are being planned for staff. One is Active Shooter Training which will be held this month and another is Customer Service Training which is being held in May. Currently seeking other trainings as well.

d. Building Remodel:

Gail provided information on the planned remodel coming in the next year.

- There will be a permanent drive-thru on the side of the building.
- Property was purchased by the county to add more room.
- There will be a large conference room at the front of the building instead of the current one.
- There will be a building built at the front of our current building that will house Lincoln of Land Workforce Alliance.
- SIU has asked for some addition and revisions.

e. Animal Control Update:

Gail said things are going really well at the Animal Control and Adoption Center. There are currently 34 volunteers there. In February they transferred out/adopted out 124 dogs and 91 cats. Today there are 60 adoptable dogs, total of 85 dogs, and 16 adoptable cats, with 28 total cats. There was a recent hoarding situation which brought in 30 cats and 18 dogs, and a parakeet. SCACAC can't turn any animal away. They also do not euthanize for space. Animals that do get euthanized are ones that are not adoptable due to illness or behavior and also wildlife due to illness and behavior. Gail mentioned she would like to move Saturday hours to be open until 3:30, she will advise the Board when and if that happens. Also, would like to have a type of "sale" on dogs if the kennels get too full. She will need to get approval from the Board if that does happen.

f. Licensed Environmental Health Practitioners:

Gail let the Board know that there is an initiative for inspectors in Environmental Health to get their LEHP license by giving them more pay per hour. It is a very hard test and expensive test to take. The initiative is a 5% increase in salary once they have passed the test. SCDPH will pay for their test and materials needed to take the test. In the past 6 months 4 inspectors have taken the test and passed. Also, Gail mentioned that Gold Awards went out to establishments this week. The benefit of receiving a Gold Award is the first year they get 5% off of their permit fee, the second consecutive year they get 10% off of their permit fee, and the 3rd consecutive year they get 20% off of their permit fee. There were a total of 316 establishments that received a Gold Award this year. Gold Awards are given to establishments for receiving great scores on their inspections.

g. Staffing Update:

Gail reported right now there are 14 open positions at SCDPH, which is better than what we have had in the past.

Public Comment:

None

New Business:

1. Dr. Miller asked what can be done about people that go to public pools that wear their street shoes on the side of the pool and get dirt and other debris in it. Gail responded she was not sure and she would talk to the Environmental Health department and let the Board know what she finds out.
2. Next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2023

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the Board of Health meeting at 6:43 p.m. was made by Theresa Smith, seconded by Dr. Dhamrait , passed unanimously.

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

Sangamon County Department of Public Health WIC (Women, Infants and Children)

Did you know how much food you can get if you are pregnant while on WIC? This is the amount of food a pregnant woman receives each month while on WIC. If you think you qualify please call 217-535-3102 and speak to one of our qualified staff members. We are welcoming families back into the building and are anxious to see you! We are located at 2833 South Grand Ave East Springfield, Illinois 62703.

Food package for a pregnant woman for 1 month

1 dozen eggs (large eggs \$4.52)

36 oz. Breakfast cereal (18 oz. box Multi grain Cheerios \$4.78/ 18 oz. Box Corn Flakes \$4.48)

1 Jar 16-18 oz. of peanut butter creamy, chunky or crunchy (\$2.76)

1 lb. dried beans or 4 cans of any type bean (dried beans \$1.46/ 4 cans beans \$3.12)

16 oz. whole wheat bread or 100% whole wheat pasta 16 oz. (16 oz. of bread \$2.58/ \$1.99 for pasta)

\$44.00 fresh fruits and vegetables

5 gallons milk 1% skim or fat-free (\$12.40 for 5 gallons of milk)

3- 12oz frozen or 48 oz. container juice (\$3.44 for 48 oz. of juice)



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