

**MINUTES**  
**Sangamon County Board of Health**  
**August 21, 2024; 5:45 P.M.**

**Present:** Brian Miller, M.D., President  
Deborah Grant, Vice-President  
Raj Dhamrait, D.D.S.  
Korrine Vlahos, M.D.  
Theresa Smith, R.N.  
John Ridley, Director of Public Health  
Carol Graham, Executive Assistant to the Director

**Excused:** Senator Doris Turner  
Greg Stumpf, County Representative

**Guest:** None

1. President Dr. Miller called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.
2. A motion to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2024 Board of Health meeting was made by Deborah Grant, seconded by Theresa Smith, passed unanimously.

**3. Director's Report:**

**a. Animal Control**

John reported the third of three consultants went to Animal Control to view its operations last week. John had contacted three veterinarians from the Midwest to do a walk-thru of Animal Control, including talking to staff, so he can get constructive feedback on what is being done right and what needs to be worked on. John will write up a report and turn it in to Chairman Van Meter and Brian McFadden, and will also make it available to Board of Health and others, if requested. Census from today is 100 cats and 95 dogs. Looking at ways to manage intake of animals, such as assisting with animal food, if someone is temporarily having a hard time affording food for their animals and having fee reduced immunization and microchip clinics. Would like to have staff and volunteers go out into the communities to do animal adoptions. The volunteer program did an event over the weekend and 29 people showed up to express interest in volunteering in walking and engaging with the animals. On October 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a drive-up clinic for reduced fees for immunizations and microchips that will be held at the main SCDPH building.

**b. Environmental Health**

John announced the Illinois State Fair just wrapped up. There were 167 vendors there serving food. Of those, 128 were high risk, 25 were low risk and 14 artisan vendors. High risk vendors get inspected twice and low risk vendors get inspected once. Seventy-two follow-up visits were performed after some issues were found upon initial inspection. Three vendors were shut down completely

due to noncompliance. All vendors are required to attend a training class, performed by our staff, before receiving their certificate to be able to operate.

**c. Personal Health**

John mentioned SCDPH held a back to school clinic. At that clinic, 160 kids were immunized. A nurse was hired for the Menard County Office. John would like to get more services in the Menard County clinic. The Medical Mobile Unit is up and going now. A few vaccine clinics are scheduled at high schools in the next two weeks.

John stated he has been working with Dr. Prakash from SIU on the Violence Prevention Program and realized there are already several organizations that have also formed violence prevention programs, so decided to re-evaluate what is already out there and try to form a united front on this issue. John talked to State's Attorney John Milhiser, who had hired Kelly Gilmore as a Special Projects Coordinator to look at the gun violence and violence prevention in Sangamon County. John is now on that committee, along with local police and others stake holders in the community.

**4. Public Comments**

**None**

**5. New Business:**

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2024

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. was made by Dr. Vlahos, seconded by Deborah Grant, passed unanimously.

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