

MINUTES
Sangamon County Board of Health
February 18, 2026; 5:45 P.M.

Present: Brian Miller, M.D., President
Deborah Grant, Vice-President
Raj Dhamrait, D.D.S.
Korrine Vlahos, M.D.
Greg Stumpf, County Representative
Lemuel Shaffer, M.D.
John Ridley, Director of Public Health
Carol Graham, Executive Assistant to the Director

Excused: Senator Doris Turner
Theresa Smith, R.N.

Guest: none

1. President Dr. Miller called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.
2. A motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2025 Board of Health meeting was made by Dr. Vlahos, seconded by Deborah Grant, passed unanimously.
3. **Director's Report:**
 - a. **Animal Control** – John reported the contract with City of Springfield for Animal Control Services has not yet been signed by the City. Currently there are 75 dogs and 36 cats in the Animal Control shelter. We were called to a home on Lilac Lane for excessive barking and possibly dog fighting. On arrival we went in the backyard and found several dogs in various states of health. A search warrant for the property was obtained and we confiscated 15 dogs in total. Many of which had wounds similar to what you would find on dogs that participate in fighting. We also found a burn barrel with at least 3 dog carcasses. The home owner was arrested that night.
 - b. **Environmental Health** – John stated right now everything with Environmental Health is status quo. Currently have two positions open.
 - c. **Personal Health** – Number of flu and COVID shots given in our clinics are down, that was to be expected, as flu and COVID shots are available at multiple places now, including pharmacies. The PA in our clinic is now offering exams for The Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program. This makes the process smoother for women needing breast and cervical exams as we will be providing the exams therefore getting results quicker.
 - d. **Building Renovations** – John announced the building remodel is back on track and hope to see actual work start October 2026. Most of the design is done. Clinics will stay open during remodel. It will be a 16 million dollar project, with approximately 7 million dollars of that is going to be paid with grant monies. Looking at more grants as well.

- e. **Community Garden** – John reported the Community Garden planning is currently underway, CWLP was out today to install the water meter. This enables water to be piped out to the garden. Hopefully will start seeing more action in that area as soon as the weather improves. It will have a pavilion and a green house in it as well as garden areas. There will also be a concrete walk to make it ADA compliant. Seeds have been purchased. The U of I extension office will be assisting in starting the plants, they have been a huge help with all aspects of the Community Garden.

4. Public Comments

None

5. New Business:

- a. Next scheduled meeting is April 15, 2026

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. was made by Deborah Grant, seconded by Dr. Vlahos, passed unanimously.

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