

Kankakee County Health Department  
Regular Meeting  
July 14, 2022

**Members Present:** Mr. Rodney Gustafson, Mr. Jim Johaneck, Dr. Edward Kent Frye, Mr. Antonio Carrico, Dr Jeffrey Long, Dr. Olatunji Akintilo, Dr. Syreeta Jones

**Members Absent:** Mrs. Neelie Panozzo, Ms. Kathryn Hamblen

**Staff Present:** Mr. John Bevis, Mrs. Amy LaFine, Mr. Keith Wojnowski. Ms. Nicole Finnegan

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gustafson at 5:01 P.M.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

A motion to approve the July 14, 2022, agenda was made by Mr. Carrico, seconded by Dr. Long, the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Johaneck to move forward to IX. New Business: A. Election of New Officers and proceed with the Election for New Officers, seconded by Dr. Long, the motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There were three nominations for President, Mr. Carrico, Dr. Jones, and Mr. Gustafson. After a ballot vote, Mr. Carrico won the election and was named Board of Health President. There were two nominations for Vice President, Dr. Jones, and Mr. Gustafson. After a ballot vote, Dr. Jones was named Vice President and Mr. Johaneck was named Secretary.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

*None*

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Dr. Long to accept the June 16, 2022, Board of Health minutes, seconded by Dr. Jones, the motion passed unanimously.

**EMPLOYEE INFORMATION**

Mr. Bevis reported that we are excited to announce that we were finally able to recognize some employee milestones over the last two years. We realized that we had a few employees who had anniversaries during COVID, and we wanted to make sure that we were able to include their recognition. In total, we had four employees reach their five-year anniversary, Jennifer Gaddis, Alan Hatia, Angela Colon, and Karen Shoemaker. We had one ten-year employee, Patricia Krugman, one fifteen-year employee, Steve Lamb, and three twenty-year employees, Pedro Gonzalez-Gaytan, Diane Cinnamon, and Erin Weakley. We had one thirty-year employee, Sharon Vanderhei, and our longest honorees have been with the Health Department for a whopping thirty-five years, congratulations to Keith Wojnowski and John Bevis. We were fortunate enough to be able to present them with certificates from the County thanking them for their service as well. Mr. Bevis announced that he is very pleased this

represents 1/3 of our staff and a combined 205 years of experience. We currently have 4 openings, 1 bilingual LPN, 1 LPN, an RN Case Manager, and a Genetics RN that we are actively interviewing for.

## **DIVISION REPORTS**

### *Client Services*

Mrs. LaFine announced that we have been very active in the community and shared that we were very proud to have attended some productive events. On June 26<sup>th</sup>, we assisted the Illinois Migrant Counsel at St. Patrick's church and administered COVID vaccinations. We also participated in the Head Start Open House. We are happy to be partnering up with local agencies and will continue immunization follow-ups going forward as our schedule allows. We also hosted an all age COVID vaccine event on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. We are scheduled to be at the Farmers Market on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and will be performing car seat safety checks and lots of other activities with Success by Six. We will also be at the County fair August 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> and Hippocrates back to school event on August 6<sup>th</sup>. We are expecting seven hundred coupon books, based on client population, that will have \$30 each in which WIC families can spend at the Farmers Market. Mrs. LaFine also announced that she was happy to report that we completed our outreach program, visiting 120 locations in June, providing information and resources of all our available services at KCHD.

Mrs. LaFine reported on the status of our WIC site survey. She explained that this is a very intense process in which there are one hundred twenty-seven evaluation standards. Mrs. LaFine was pleased to announce that we had no findings, and she congratulated her staff on their hard work.

### *Environmental Health*

Mr. Wojnowski gave an update on the West Nile Virus in Kankakee County. He explained how we have currently tested 37 pools of mosquitos, and one bird. We typically test Crows, Blue Jays, and Robins. There are currently 11 counties statewide positive for West Nile Virus, Kankakee is currently not one of them.

### *Administrators Report*

Mr. Bevis reported that as of 7/11/22 we have had 31,321 positive cases of COVID-19, 373 deaths, and are 51.5% fully vaccinated in Kankakee County. Levels are starting to come down this week after a spike from the fourth of July. We continue to host Tuesday and Thursday walk in clinics and residents can still order test kits online.

Mr. Bevis also reported that we have shared lots of great information on Facebook, we continue to stay active in our community and we will do our best to keep encouraging healthy habits as we work on keep the public engaged in all services that we offer at the Health Department.

Mr. Bevis gave an update on the ARISE grant that we recently applied for. In the beginning of June, IDPH announced a new grant, Activating Relationships in Illinois for Systemic Equity (ARISE) as a joint initiative that invites organizations to address the long-standing health inequities in their community. Mr. Bevis and Mrs. Julie Larsen, a Health Promotion Coordinator who wrote and helped

develop the idea, explained that we had less than a month to establish an effective plan for how we could use this to benefit our community. In doing so, adolescent mental health in relation to COVID and substance abuse in our community was recognized as a very important issue that demands more attention. With the extremely short timeframe we were given, we partnered with Iroquois Mental Health, who has a very successful model already in place that will allow us to work with school districts in St. Anne, Momence, Bradley, and Bourbonnais. Iroquois Mental Health currently has two offices in Kankakee County and currently services four counties in the state of Illinois. There was some discussion amongst board members regarding the process of partnering with other agencies and it was determined that Iroquois Mental Health is very active in our county. Mr. Bevis did make it clear that we will make sure that we are reaching out to all local agencies so that everyone has an opportunity to get involved as future opportunities become available.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### *Financial Status*

*None*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Bevis gave the Board an update on the status of our parking lot repair. He reached out to Chairman Wheeler, and it was determined to have an estimate done and see what we need repaired and then proceed with the repairs which may take place in Spring 2023 due to the timing. Mr. Bevis will have the estimate done and update the board once we have more information.

Mr. Bevis reported that as of now the States Attorney's office is working on reviewing the IGA Bond agreement at this time, once it is ready, we will present when available.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

After a question from the Board on creating a policy that would include remote attendance, Mr. Carrico explained that he will present a policy to the Board at next month's meeting that will include language for remote attendance and should address remote participation that all members can vote on and can then be added to the bylaws once approved.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, Dr. Long moved to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Mr. Johanek motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by,

Mr. Jim Johanek, Secretary

Minutes Reviewed by, Mr. John Bevis, MPH, Public Health Administrator

Minutes prepared by, Ms. Nicole Finnegan, HR Administrative Coordinator