



Will County
Health Department &
Community Health Center

**WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOH MEETING MINUTES
April 15, 2026**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Health held at the Will County Health Department, 501 Ella Avenue, Joliet, IL was called to order at 3:00 p.m., Chief Paul Hertzmann, President presiding.

ROLL CALL/ QUORUM WAS MET AT 3:00pm

MEMBERS' PRESENT

Chief Hertzmann, President
Dr. Billie Terrell, ACSW, Vice President
Edna Brass, MA, BS, Secretary
Chief Carey
Allison Gunnink, MBA, LPMT, MT-BC
Dr. Lipinski
Dr. Soderquist
Ms. Robbins, MSN, RN
Mica Freeman (arrived at 3:13pm)
José Vera
Ms. Mitchell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Morales

STAFF PRESENT

Elizabeth Bilotta, Executive Director, Administration
Denise Bergin, Assistant Executive Director, Administration
Mary Kilbride, Executive Assistant, Administration
Cindy Jackson, Director of Administrative Services
Stacy Baumgartner, Chief Executive Officer, Community Health Center
Diane Scruggs, Director of Behavioral Health
Cheryl Picard, Assistant Director of Family Health Services
Sean Conners, Director of Environmental Health
Justin Christensen, Geologist, Environmental Health
Armando Reyes, Director of Compliance, Administration
Randy Jurek, Director of ITT, Administration
Ted Strejcek, Information Technology Specialist II, Administration
Jillian Carlisle, Assistant Director of ITT, Administration
Sylvia Muniz, Director of Family Health Services
Kevin Juday, Communications Program Manager, Administration
Michelle Zambrano, Director of Operations, Behavioral Health
Stacey Knack, Director of Human Resources, Administration
Aishwarya Balakrishna, Health Equity Manager, Administration
Alpesh Patel, Program Coordinator, Family Health Services
Carol Ricken, Director of Operations, Community Health Center
Barbara Agor, Safety & Risk Reduction Officer, Administration
Dr. Kathleen Burke, BH Community Coordinator, Behavioral Health
Stefanie Monreal, Intake Manager, Behavioral Health
Magda Lara, Staff Nurse II, Family Health Services

Sam Ortega Hughes, Program Coordinator-Sub Use Int, Behavioral Health
Dr. Sangita Garg, Chief Dental Officer, Community Health Center
Kim Koran, Environmental Health Assistant, Environmental Health
Nancy Mulvihill, Child & Adolescent Coordinator, Behavioral Health
Kathleen Cios, Mental Health Counselor, Behavioral Health
Kathleen Harkins, Community Outreach & Marketing Coordinator, Community Health Center
Betsy Cozzie, Program Coordinator, Family Health Services
Connie Dewall, Program Manager, Behavioral Health
Kendra Coleman, Program Coordinator, Behavioral Health
Estela Lazo, Accounts Payable Specialist I, Administration

OTHERS PRESENT

Toni Renken, Assistant State’s Attorney
Alexis Goodale, Lewis University Student
Grace Robinson, Student Services, Lockport Township High School

A quorum was met at 3:00pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS: Chief Hertzmann welcomed all in attendance at the meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS

- Ms. Bilotta mentioned that National Public Health week was April 6th to 10th but IDPH was celebrating NPHW during the entire month of April.
- A small part of the State of the Agency will be shown later in the meeting.
- Ms. Weber and Ms. Smith are at the 2026 NACCHO EP&R Conference in Baltimore, MD. It is labelled “Protecting Our Communities”.
- Colon Awareness month is recognized in the month of April as well as Hazardous Materials Safety Month.
- Ms. Bilotta spoke of slipping for HB4579, a bill to increase the Local Health Protection Grant, which is funding that is provided by the State to implement our Core Public Health Program. An email with a link to the slip was sent out to all BOH members.

Mr. Connors presented a certificate to Kim Koran, Environmental Health Assistant who is retiring on May 1, 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

Moved to approve March 18, 2026, regular meeting minutes as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dr. Lipinski
SECONDER:	Ms. Gunnink
AYES:	Chief Hertzmann, Dr. Terrell, Chief Carey, Ms. Gunnink, Dr. Lipinski, Dr. Soderquist, Ms. Robbins, Mr. Vera
ABSTAIN:	Ms. Brass, Ms. Mitchell

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Ms. Bergin provided an update on the Agency’s financial statements as provided by the County ending March 31, 2026.

The Board of Health moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Department Financial Reports for the month of March 2026 as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dr. Terrell
SECONDER:	Chief Carey
AYES:	Chief Hertzmann, Dr. Terrell, Ms. Brass, Chief Carey, Ms. Gunnink, Dr. Lipinski, Dr. Soderquist, Ms. Robbins, Mr. Vera, Ms. Mitchell
ABSTAIN:	None

REPORTS AND STATS FROM DIVISIONS

Written reports and division stats were provided in the packet by Administration - Executive Director, the Community Health Center Chief Executive Officer, and the Division Directors.

Ms. Baumgartner – Chief Executive Officer, Community Health Center and Dr. Garg, Chief Dental Officer, Community Health Center (Presented Report for the month of April)

- The Governing Council Chairperson and Ms. Baumgartner attended an IPHCA Advocacy Day in Springfield to support community health center funding and programs.
- Ms. Baumgartner spoke about the Joint Commission corrective action plans that they are currently working on.
- Ms. Baumgartner spoke about working on a reevaluation with GBS (Information Technology Program) that hosts their NextGen Health Records system. She spoke of how they reassessed their priorities, which are to enhance our quality improvement efforts and Family Planning Program to streamline billing and reporting.
- April is Colon Cancer Awareness month.
- Ms. Baumgartner spoke of the Joint Commission survey and staff's inability to explain the Patient Centered Medical Home Model of Care. Dr. Byrd has been educating staff to ensure they are fully versed in PCMH.
- Ms. Baumgartner spoke briefly about supporting House Bill 2371, the Patient Access to Pharmacy Protection Act. A letter had been sent to State Legislators.
- Dr. Garg told a success story of a patient that had come into the Dental Clinic.
- Ms. Baumgartner spoke of CHC piloting an early bird special on school physicals to ensure access for all and to avoid the fall rush.

Ms. Muniz – Director of Family Health Services and Ms. Picard, Assistant Director of Family Health Services, and Kendra Coleman, Program Coordinator (Presented Report for the month of April)

- Ms. Muniz spoke of All Our Kids (AOK) will be holding the 18th annual Early Childhood Mental Health conference at Lewis University on Friday, May 29th from 9:00am-3:00pm.
- School vaccine clinics have been scheduled for this summer.
- Ms. Coleman spoke about HIV/STI/PREP and the Adaptive Leadership Academy which focused on addressing a specific adaptive challenge.
- Ms. Coleman spoke about attending a HIV Prevention Leadership summit in Detroit which focused on strengthening leadership skills and more intentional about our HIV-related work.
- Ms. Coleman also mentioned that our HIV Prevention and Prep Grant funds were able to support six staff to attend the 2.5-day Biomedical HIV Prevention Conference in Chicago. It was a very rewarding experience.

Mr. Conners – Director of Environmental Health and Justin Christensen, Geologist (Presented Report for the month of April)

- Mr. Conners spoke about the increase in the number (1,133) of lab fecal samples in March. The average for the lab is 500-600 per month.
- Mr. Conners stated last month was Tick Bite Prevention week. IDPH presented samples of posts/graphics that could be put on Health Department social media regarding ticks.
- Mr. Conners spoke of the increase of ticks countywide. Many people have been going to the hospital to be seen for tick bites.
- Last month the Health Department received a Health Alert from IDPH regarding the Powassan virus, a rare tickborne disease.
- The spotlight for Environmental Health was Mr. Christensen, Geologist for Environmental Health department. He oversees our private sewage, water and non-community programs. A description of his day-to-day job was discussed and shown on the screen.
 - * *Chief Hertzmann questioned why there was an increase in lab samples? Mr. Conners stated that EH currently has two EH Lab Samplers, who are able to maximize sample collection.*

- * *Ms. Mitchell questioned why they are going to the Emergency Room for ticks? Mr. Conners stated a person has identified that it is tick related or they are feeling symptoms after a tick bite.*

Ms. Scruggs – Director of Behavioral Health, and Dr. Burke, BH Community Coordinator (Presented Report for the month of April)

- Ms. Scruggs stated that the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accreditation has been extended to April 2027.
- Ms. Scruggs spoke briefly about the Intake Department and their role at the Health Department.
- Ms. Scruggs mentioned that the Substance Treatment Program has scheduled its first group of patients for April 17, 2026. They have been in contact with some of the schools to discuss implementing substance use services.
- Ms. Scruggs spoke about the Adult Program being selected to have five staff members attend training on solution focus retreatment.
- The Division was recently contacted to provide therapists for a Crete-Monee school due to the losses that have recently taken place at their school and the surrounding community.
- Dr. Burke was invited to join the Wheatland Township Behavioral Health Committee chaired by Dr. Matt Glowiak. The committee was established to address the evolving mental health and wellness needs of the community.
- The Recovery Community Center of Joliet hosted a powerful event dedicated to celebrating and uplifting women in the community. Ms. Dewall, Program Manager for the Health Department, was a speaker at the event.
- Mobile Crisis response and School Based Staff assisted in Grief Counseling at Crete-Monee Elementary School due to the loss of two students in a house fire.
- In March 2026, there have been 1,244 boxes of Naloxone distributed, we will soon have 32 red boxes throughout the county. Our Naloxone Teams have been in 58 locations, and 268 boxes of Fentanyl/Xylazine/Nitazene Test Strips have been distributed.

Mr. Juday – Communications Program Manager and Ms. Balakrishna, Health Equity Manager, and Mr. Jurek, Director of Information Technology and Telecommunications (Presented Report for the month of April)

- Mr. Juday spoke of the finalization of State of the Agency. An email including a link to the video was sent to BOH members.
- Mr. Juday spoke about beginning the process of remediating PDF files on the website to make sure the site is compliant with the new accessibility law that goes into effect on April 26th.
- Ms. Balakrishna spoke of surveying the BOH for feedback as part of one of the Strategic Planning goals. A link will be sent out to BOH members on April 17th. BOH members' feedback will be implemented into the Strategic Plan. All members were asked to complete the link by April 30th.
- Ms. Balakrishna spoke about meeting with the Dean of the College of Health and Human Services at Governors State University to discuss collaboration possibilities with the University and promoting our services on the east side of Will County.
- Ms. Balakrishna spoke about Health Equity and MAPP meeting with IDPH to discuss a joint community health forum opportunity spearheaded by the state. She asked for volunteers for this focus group which will take place on May 5th.
- Mr. Jurek recognized Ms. Estela Lazo, Accounts Payable Specialist, Administration. She has been a wonderful addition to the team, and this recognition is very well deserved.
- * *Mr. Vera spoke of a new bill for "Fair Hospital Financial Assistance" HB5390 bill. It is impacting local hospitals that provide charity care. Ms. Bilotta stated she would add it to the NIPHC watchlist.*

OLD BUSINESS:

Funding Update

Ms. Bergin provided a funding update.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolutions #26-18 - #26-19

RESOLUTION #26-18 APPROVAL OF BH NEXTGEN EXPANSION

Mr. Jurek spoke of expanding NextGen within the Behavioral Health department.

- * Dr. Lipinski questioned if we were happy with NextGen given how old it is? Ms. Bergin stated within a year or so, we will be upgrading to Nextgen 8.
- * Chief Hertzmann questioned when switching from NextGen 6 to NextGen 8, will there be an additional cost? Mr. Jurek was unsure. Possibly some support fees.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ms. Gunnink
SECONDER:	Ms. Mitchell
AYES:	Chief Hertzmann, Dr. Terrell, Ms. Brass, Chief Carey, Ms. Gunnink, Dr. Lipinski, Dr. Soderquist, Ms. Robbins, Ms. Freeman, Mr. Vera, Ms. Mitchell
ABSTAIN:	None

RESOLUTION #26-19 APPROVAL OF YEAR 2 OF THE AT&T AGREEMENT

Mr. Jurek stated this is for the second year of a three-year agreement with AT&T.

- * Ms. Mitchell questioned if we find AT&T slow? Mr. Jurek stated it has gotten better in the last few years, since we have the more enhanced version.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dr. Terrell
SECONDER:	Ms. Robinson
AYES:	Chief Hertzmann, Dr. Terrell, Ms. Brass, Chief Carey, Ms. Gunnink, Dr. Lipinski, Dr. Soderquist, Ms. Robbins, Ms. Freeman, Mr. Vera, Ms. Mitchell
ABSTAIN:	None

APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL STATUS REPORT FOR APRIL

Personnel Status Report was discussed by Ms. Bilotta.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ms. Mitchell
SECONDER:	Ms. Freeman
AYES:	Chief Hertzmann, Dr. Terrell, Ms. Brass, Chief Carey, Ms. Gunnink, Dr. Lipinski, Dr. Soderquist, Ms. Robbins, Ms. Freeman, Mr. Vera, Ms. Mitchell
ABSTAIN:	None

The Board approved all personnel changes for the Will County Health Department for the month of April.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Ms. Gunnink gave a shoutout to Ms. Balakrishna.

PUBLIC CONCERNS AND COMMENTS:

Ms. Grace Robinson from Lockport Township High School spoke about the gratitude the school district has for the Health Department. Her school is one of the schools benefiting from the school-based program. Ms. Robinson handed out a spreadsheet of numbers indicating the students who are inpatient and partial hospitalization program and she mentioned that they have seen a decrease in the number of students who are out of school for an extended period of time from last year to this year.

Approval of going into Executive Session to discuss employment, compensation of specific employees pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ms. Mitchell
SECONDER:	Dr. Terrell
AYES:	Chief Hertzmann, Dr. Terrell, Ms. Brass, Chief Carey, Ms. Gunnink, Dr. Lipinski, Dr. Soderquist, Ms. Robbins, Ms. Freeman, Mr. Vera, Ms. Mitchell
ABSTAIN:	None

ADJOURNMENT

A **motion** was made by Dr. Terrell and **seconded** by Ms. Gunnink to adjourn the Regular Session meeting at 5:12pm.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dr. Terrell
SECONDER:	Ms. Gunnink
AYES:	Chief Hertzmann, Dr. Terrell, Ms. Brass, Chief Carey, Ms. Gunnink, Dr. Lipinski, Dr. Soderquist, Ms. Robbins, Mr. Vera
ABSTAIN:	None

By: Edna Brass
Ms. Edna Brass, Secretary
Will County Board of Health

By: Mary Kilbride
Mary Kilbride, Executive Assistant
Will County Health Department