



**Illinois Department of Public Health
Lyme Disease Task Force (LDTF)
Meeting Notes
June 9th, 2022 from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

(Meeting Location: Hosted online Via WebEx : Call-in Option was provided)

Lyme Disease Task Force Members in Attendance

Name	Task Force Position	Attended
Dr. Arti Barnes	IDPH Chief Medical Officer, Chairwoman	X
Vacant	IL Department of Financial and Professional Regulation	
Dr. Sana Shireen Ahmed	Infectious Disease Physician; Administrator	X
Dr. Gail Reid	Infectious Disease Physician; Educator	
Dr. Roberta Van Zant	Family Medicine Physician	X
Dr. Sandy Martell	Advanced Practice RN; Administrator	X
Ms. Carla Ewing	Local Health Department Administrator	X
Dr. Nohra Mateus Pinilla	Veterinarian; Educator	X
Ms. Tonya Foster	Member of the Public	
Ms. Holly C. Tuten, Ph.D.	Member of the Public	X
Ms. Jennifer Russell	Member of the Public	X
Mrs. Linda Kehart	Member of the Public	X
Representative Daniel Swanson	Legislative Appointee	X
Representative Dave Severin	Legislative Appointee	X
Ms. Maureen Maloney	Legislative Appointee	
Senator Dale Fowler	Legislative Appointee	
Senator Neil Anderson	Legislative Appointee	
Senator Laura Murphy	Legislative Appointee	X

Illinois Department of Public Health Staff in Attendance

Name	Title
Dr. Amaal Tokars	Director of IDPH
Gerrin CheekButler	Deputy Director of Health Protection
Samantha Kerr	Manager, Environmental Health Vector Control Program
April Holmes	Specialist, Environmental Health Vector Control Program
Debbie Freeman	Manager, Communicable Disease Vectorborne Surveillance Program
Jonathan Popovitch	Specialist, Communicable Disease Vectorborne Surveillance Program

Others in Attendance

Name	Title
David Porter	Illinois State Medical Society

Agenda Item	Discussion	Actions
1. Call to Order	Jonathan took roll call, quorum met. Dr. Arti Barnes, IDPH Chief Medical Officer and LDTF Chairwoman called meeting called to order 10:06 am.	
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes Adoption Vote	After a quick hello from Dr. Barnes, a question to the board was asked if there are any changes needed for the meeting minutes from 3/10/22. Hearing nothing, motion to approve the meeting minutes first by Linda Kehart. Seconded by Laura Murphy. All in favor was asked by Dr. Barnes, all ayes none opposed, minutes approved.	3/10/2022 meeting minutes posted to IDPH LDTF portal page.
3. Member outreach updates	<p>Linda Kehart – Wanted to highlight IL Lyme Association, thank them for postings during Lyme Awareness Month.</p> <p>Jen Russell – Stated that since the last meeting and through the month of May, she has done too much to discuss. She had questions on what IDPH efforts are regarding collaborative efforts in messaging at the local health department level. Linda Kehart and Laura Murphy also echoed the question.</p> <p>Dr. Barnes explained the participation efforts of those active surveillance from local health departments. Our news letter went out for seasonal kickoff that includes Lyme Awareness.</p> <p>Rep. Swanson reads from the statute outlining the training that IDPH ‘shall train local health departments to respond to inquiries from the public.’</p> <p>Dr. Barnes thanked the Rep. for his feedback.</p> <p>Rep. Swanson goes further to ask how many LHD’s have been trained to complete a tick drag.</p> <p>Samantha Kerr, EH Vector control manager highlighted that prior to COVID, their program was working with local health department to train on active surveillance. The pandemic interrupted the in-person presentations at this time, but will continue in the future.</p>	

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	<p data-bbox="418 237 1040 300">Laura Murphy – identifies a possible disconnect. DuPage HD is reporting one case of Lyme / one tick.</p> <p data-bbox="418 342 1081 478">Linda Kehart- IL Lyme association, survey at U of I, and the efforts of IDPH are not communicating. Linda offers to pay for lunch to get people together. She wants a concerted plan.</p> <p data-bbox="418 520 1062 720">Nohra Mateus Pinilla – INHS U of I, she is going to link some of their training that is completed with the local health departments. IDPH has been very involved in these efforts, and INHS works closely with IDPH. Overall, the trainings have room for improvement for the future.</p> <p data-bbox="418 762 1084 1182">Dr. Tuten – asked if the materials linked were the same as the ones she had worked on. Also provided links in the chat for training materials including comprehensive guide to field safety. The biggest barriers identified were unable to produce tick drags, and inability to get staff complete due to potential risk. U of I has their own safety webpage. The final thing is that LHD’s done have the manpower or time to complete tick drags. Other vector collections do not require as much dedicated time. Suggests possibly guiding interns as members to be onboarded to complete this type of summer job works.</p> <p data-bbox="418 1224 1084 1612">Dr. Martell, Winnebago Health Department – Summer is the most intense season for EH initiatives, between festivals, food checks, etc. Involving interns is a no go at their HD due to liability risk – the colleges and universities won’t sign off on liability for the student participation. At their HD, they use expired hazmat suits to allow full protection from potential tick bites. Another challenge – tick identification is one thing, but also the testing of these ticks is crucial. That would help promote the higher degree of clinical suspicion and awareness.</p> <p data-bbox="418 1654 1076 1864">Rep Dan Swanson – continue on with the public act’s identification of IDPH’s role. We continue to not move the football, and now the football has left the field. He does not see what IDPH is doing. Asks Jonathan to pull up the public page because he is unable to find the Lyme disease page. Asked for map be highlighted still.</p>	

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	<p>Department shall provide a report annually – asked the status of this.</p> <p>Dr. Barnes – has updates on the public page development. Again it is slow moving and has been. Asked updated content pages to be sent to Rep. Swanson.</p> <p>Rep. Swanson then asked COVID questions and the accuracy of the tests. Then Rep. Swanson asked about testing requirements to count cases. Doesn't want to hear about CDC guidelines, asks why we cannot make policy on how to count cases without the guidelines from CDC. Suggests manipulating the tick map to show potential risk of Lyme across the state.</p> <p>Dr. Barnes explained that it is not accurate to compare Lyme and COVID. For Lyme, the diagnosis currently uses both clinical and laboratory evidence to address and count acute infection. We will take those questions into consideration.</p> <p>Rep. Swanson – What type of evidence do you need? We have IL doctors that will treat for symptoms of Lyme and only count those that have positive labs with a 30% accurate test.</p> <p>Dr. Barnes – identified that there are others that have questions so we are going to move on.</p> <p>Rep. Swanson – That is fine because mine aren't being answered.</p> <p>Nohra Mateus Pinilla – one of the things that the task force has accomplished – examples of collaboration between veterinarians and ER providers to open a channel of communication. Introduced Pam to discuss about the reports from the surveys that have been conducted.</p> <p>Rep. Swanson – Where are those updates?</p> <p>Dawn Carson – provided the survey updates. The results have been analyzed and submitted for publication. Dawn highlighted IDPH and ISMS for collaborative efforts. A high level review – medical professionals are aware and knowledgeable about</p>	

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	<p>Lyme. Other pathogens not as much and requires improvement. Lots of opportunities for future education efforts. An integrated approach would best be used in the future. Post 5 years, effective training falls off. Once publication is finalized, the results will be shared with the task force.</p> <p>Dr. Sana Ahmed: Lake County Public Health focused on strong messaging for Lyme disease awareness month. Infographics, guidance provided for summer camps in their jurisdictions, forest preserves. Also participated in local radio talk show to bring awareness. Provider messaging for links to CME CDC offered. ‘Tick tip Tuesdays’ on social media. Lake County messaging, and news letter. Tick dragging videos were shared by LCHD EH as well. Development of local landing page where providers and the general public can search on the local health department webpage.</p> <p>Sen. Laura Murphy: Does not want to diminish was everyone is doing, but also cannot allow a false impression accomplishing what needs to be done. Every day there are more cases. This task force was formed because of the need for urgency. Initial comments of disconnect- there is zero presence, and the local health department is obviously not aware when for this year there has been one case. We’ve talked in this task force about educating providers- there is no presence of information with these providers in their offices, no radio ads. We just want to see results.</p> <p>Debbie Freeman, IDPH Vector human surveillance: The last two years were assigned to COVID. This is our first year back to our program. We had our health alert go out to all Illinois health care providers, and local health departments. We did a webinar for local health departments that was well attended. Our graphics of yearly reported cases from 2011 – 2021. Publication of provider information on our public page is going to be posts once it is out of publication review.</p> <p>Dr. Barnes asked to move forward with the next agenda topic.</p>	

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4. LDTF 2023 meeting dates	<p>Jonathan Popovitch: Four quarterly meetings presented for next year, 2023. Dates: January 19th, April 6th, July 20th, October 19th</p> <p>Dr. Barnes: At this time, I would like to open it up for public comment.</p> <p>Dan Swanson: Before we go away, I would like to ask if IDPH has applied for Federal grants?</p> <p>Dr. Barnes: Debbie, I would like you to take this question.</p> <p>Debbie Freeman: We receive funding through the ELC 5 year grant cycle from CDC. We reapply every year. This last year we requested a significant amount of money.</p> <p>Dan Swanson: Okay are there any other? The Federal Lyme Task Force I believe has gotten a significant improvement in additional funding specifically for Lyme research. I would hope we are looking for other sites for funding.</p> <p>Debbie Freeman: To date, we have not looked for additional funding. We are not looking.</p> <p>Dr. Barnes: There is not reason to not look for additional funding. We can look into other sources for additional funding.</p>	
5. Public comment	<p>Tony Galbo – member of the public. I’ve talked to many of you in the past. There isn’t enough time to discuss everything I would like to today. My daughter Gabby was 5 years old when she passed away from Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. It was a horrible horrific death. There were many medical mishaps that lead to her death. Asking better data transparency and more quality mapping is needed.</p> <p>Dr. Barnes: We know you have heard this a lot, but we are very sorry to hear what happened to your daughter.</p>	

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	<p>Dan Swanson: It is evident there is not enough time. Maybe we should consider more time for these meetings, instead of one hour expanding it to one and half hour or two hours. 4 hours in a 2080-hour work year enough to cover what we need to do for a task force.</p>	
6. Adjournment	<p>Dr. Arti Barnes thanked everyone in attendance. Meeting adjourned for running over time by 10 minutes.</p>	

These meeting notes were compiled in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120 et seq.