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**State Board of Health Policy
Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 2026
1:00 PM-3:00 PM
Meeting Minutes**

05/14/2026 Webex Committee Meeting

1. Call to Order
 - a. Members Present: Damon Arnold, Dawn Brown, John Herrmann, Brianne Hobbs, Abel Kho, Susan Swider, Margarita Teran-Garcia, Jeff Workman
 - b. Members Not Present: N/A
 - c. IDPH Staff Present: Assistant Director Janice Phillips, Shawn Anglum, Patricia Montalvo, Allison Nickrent, Matt Smith, Emily Spangler, Gregory Willis
 - d. Guest: Julie Morita, Karen Phelan
2. Public Comment
 - a. N/A
3. New Business
 - a. Opening Remarks - Dr. Arnold
 - i. Memorial Tribute to Esther E. Sciammarella.
 - ii. Assuming a new state surgeon role for veterans of foreign wars in June.
 - b. Legislative Updates - Allison Nickrent/Matt Smith
 - i. Allison Nickrent
 - General Assembly-still watching around 120 bills, will get lower after tomorrow's deadline.
 - Director presented budget to house Budget Committee and to the Senate Budget Committee. Focusing on budget, expecting for that to drop May 29/30.
 - 8/10 IDPH Legislative initiatives still alive.
 - ii. Matt Smith
 - Discussed funding process and reconciliation bills.
 - Not much Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) activity, staffing changes.
 - American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) vs. Kennedy-Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has been dissolved. Administration has appealed the decision. As we move towards fall respiratory season, Vaccines for Children (VFC) authorizations must come from ACIP so it is unclear what will happen if ACIP is not a body to authorize VFC for that.
 - United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)-outstanding

questions on whether there will be shifting memberships of the Committee.

- c. Open Discussion and raising of issues of interest from Committee members
 - i. Areas of Concern:
 - Damon Arnold - High blood pressure and kidney disease prevention.
 - John Herrmann - Bills having to do with data centers, polystyrene bans, plastic bag bans. Would like to get more in depth with these. Lack of resources in rural areas.
 - Dawn Brown - Public has level of mistrust in public health workforce. Look at what are the policies to improve upon this workforce. Sustain that, recruit people to become public health workers.
 - Margarita Teran-Garcia - How we upskill community health workers, nurses and primary care physicians. Blood pressure as an early silent killer in kids. We don't know how to measure their blood pressure.
 - Jeff Workman - Consideration for safety net providers and areas that are underserved. Not sustainable as it is.
 - Next Steps-start to designate each meeting to cover one or two topics brought up, categorize topics.
 - d. Follow-up on previous issues (white papers, presentations, etc.)
 - i. Margarita Teran-Garcia- Create subgroups to discuss how to supplement discussions and take action.
 - e. High blood pressure control - Dr. Arnold
 - i. Hypertension: General Overview-is a subtype of high blood pressure. Is the most common reason for primary care visits.
 - ii. IDPH Statistics-3rd of all deaths are due to high blood pressure. Southern Illinois is an area with high prevalence and low control.
 - iii. Medical explanation of blood vessel function, impact of blood pressure medication on body.
 - iv. Benefits of decreasing high blood pressure.
 - v. How to measure blood pressure accurately and correctly. Explained blood pressure classification.
 - vi. Showed Treatment ranges for blood pressure and hypertension.
 - vii. Causes of Hypertension.
 - viii. Goal: put together white paper/policy position paper. Wants to do this statewide. Teach people how to correctly take blood pressure.
4. Old Business
 - a. N/A
5. 2026 Meetings
 - a. **STATE BOARD OF HEALTH 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM**
 - i. June 4
 - ii. September 3
 - iii. December 10
 - b. **STATE BOARD OF HEALTH RULES COMMITTEE 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**
 - i. August 13
 - ii. November 5
 - c. **STATE BOARD OF HEALTH POLICY COMMITTEE 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**
 - i. August 20
 - ii. November 12

6. Adjournment
 - a. Damon Arnold adjourned meeting at 3:01 PM.

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