

State Board of Health
Thursday, September 4, 2025
11:00 AM-1:30 PM
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Recording

[State Board of Health September 4, 2025 Meeting-20250904 - Webex](#)

Minutes

1. Call to Order
 - a. Members Present: Rodney Alford, Damon Arnold, Dawn Brown, Rashmi Chugh, David Chung, David Cross, John “Jack” Herrmann, Rodney Holzmacher, Abel Kho, Juleigh Nowinski Konchak, Angela Oberreiter, Karen Phelan, Claire Simon, Susan Swider, Yvette Johnson-Walker
 - b. Members Not Present: Not Applicable
 - c. IDPH Staff Present: Janice Phillips, Allison Nickrent, Andrew Buchanan, Emily Spangler, Jennifer Seo, Jessica Bounds, Matt Smith, Tracey Trigillo
 - d. Guest: Not Applicable
2. Public Comment
 - a. Not Applicable
3. New Business
 - a. Assistant Director’s Remarks and Q&A (Assistant Director Janice Phillips)
 - Dr. Phillips mentioned how politicization at the federal level has created some uncertainty about future immunization guidance. IDPH will base its guidance on science and data, reconvene the state’s Immunization Advisory Committee, and issue Illinois-specific recommendations by the end of September.
 - IDPH will coordinate messaging with the Governor’s Office and provide clear guidance to healthcare providers and the public once federal recommendations are finalized.
4. Old Business
 - a. Review of 6/5/25 State Board of Health Minutes (Karen Phelan, Board Chair)
 - Damon Arnold moved to approve 6/5/25 SBOH meeting minutes, Susan Swider seconded.
 - b. Review of 8/14/25 State Board of Health Rules Committee Minutes (Karen Phelan, Committee Chair)
 - Susan Swider moved to approve 8/14/25 SBOH Rules Committee meeting minutes, Damon Arnold seconded.
 - c. Review of 8/21/25 State Board of Health Policy Committee Minutes (Damon Arnold, Policy Committee Chair)
 - Susan Swider moved to approve 8/21/25 SBOH Policy Committee meeting minutes, John “Jack” Herrmann seconded.
 - d. Review of 2/6/25 State Board of Health Policy Committee Minutes Revisions
 - Susan Swider moved to approve revisions to the 2/6/25 SBOH Policy Committee meeting minutes, John “Jack” Herrmann seconded.
5. Updates/Review

- a. Administrative Rulemaking Review and Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) Processes (Allison Nickrent)
 - Allison described how administrative rules translate statutes into detailed eligibility requirements and procedures.
 - Process occurs when program staff first draft rules in collaboration with the rules team before seeking review from the State Board of Health. After the Board's review, proposed rules enter a First Notice period in which the text is posted on the Illinois Register for at least 45 days, and IDPH has to respond to all public comments. A Second Notice follows, during which the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules will review policy and technical issues. JCAR will issue a "no objection," request an extension, suspend a rule, or prohibit its filing.
- b. State and Federal Policy Updates (Matthew Smith)
 - Matthew reported that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services dismissed the newly-appointed CDC Director, which created leadership uncertainty and may cause deep cuts for the FY 2026 discretionary budget. Budget agreements were being negotiated on, such as funding for the CDC and programs like the preventative health block grant and global vaccine programs. If a government shutdown were to occur, public health funding may be reduced further due to recessions and budget caps.
- c. Illinois Department of Public Health Immunization Efforts (Jennifer Seo)
 - Jennifer explained that the FDA authorized updated 2025 – 2026 COVID-19 Vaccines, but the new vaccine is limited to people aged ≥ 65 years and those aged 6 months–64 years with at least one underlying condition (unlike previous authorizations). IDPH is working with insurers, Medicaid, and state partners to maintain coverage for vaccines even if ACIP recommendations and other federal guidance changes.
 - Impacts to the Vaccines for Children program and pharmacists' authority to vaccinate will be monitored. Illinois law currently allows pharmacists to vaccinate individuals seven years and older for COVID-19 and influenza, and the federal PREP Act allows pharmacists to vaccinate children three years and older.
- d. State Board of Health Bylaws Review (Karen Phelan)
 - The Board reviewed proposed revisions recommended by IDPH's legal counsel, some of which included using gender-neutral language, referring consistently to the "Board," adding a table of contents, and clarifying definitions such as what constitutes a majority. The standing Rules Committee was confirmed to consist of all members of the Board. Reappointment procedures would not be specified in the Bylaws because the Governor's Office handles appointments differently.
 - The Board agreed to move forward and present amended Bylaws for a vote at the next meeting.
- e. Chairman's Comments (Karen Phelan)
 - State Board of Health Training, due September 30, 2025.
 - Reduced Vaccine Preventable Disease Exploratory Committee – requested status update.

6. 2025 Meetings

- a. **STATE BOARD OF HEALTH 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM**
 - i. December 11
- b. **STATE BOARD OF HEALTH RULES COMMITTEE 1:00 – 3:00 PM**
 - i. November 6
- c. **STATE BOARD OF HEALTH POLICY COMMITTEE 1:00 – 3:00 PM**
 - i. November 13

7. Adjournment

- a. Karen Phelan requested a motion to adjourn. Susan Swider moved to adjourn the State Board of Health meeting, John “Jack” Herrmann seconded.

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