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**State Board of Health
September 7, 2023
11:00AM-1:30PM
Minutes**

Locations

Webex:

<https://illinois.webex.com/recordingsservice/sites/illinois/recording/be9d2e382fc5103cbff56e1943105e38/playback>

Illinois Department of Public Health Chicago

69 West Washington Street, 35th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Illinois Department of Public Health Springfield

524 South Second Street, 6th Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Illinois Department of Public Health Champaign

2125 S. First Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Minutes

1. Call to Order

- a. Present: Damon Arnold, Rashmi Chugh, David Chung, Pilar Guerrero, John Herrmann, Yvette Johnson-Walker, Abel Kho, Juleigh Nowinski Konchak, Angela Oberreiter, Joseph O'Connor, Karen Phelan, Julie Pryde, Erica Salem, Esther Sciammarella, Susan Swider
- b. Absent: Nathan Hoffman
- c. IDPH staff present: Arti Barnes, Chad Brose, Jennifer Epstein, Sara Ettinger, John Kniery, Jim Leach, Lauri Sanders, Emily Spangler, Ashley Thoele, Tracy Trigillo, Laura Vaught, Sameer Vohra, Heather Whetsell
- d. Guests: Dr. Raymond Bertino, Natalia Godlewski, Tim Stumm

2. Public Comment

Dr. Raymond Bertino spoke behalf of the work the Regional Perinatal Addiction Committee; their focus is on mitigating substance during pregnancy, along with preventing substance exposure to young children. He also advocated for public education on cannabis by warning labels on cannabis products.

3. New Business

a. Director's Update—Sameer Vohra

Director Vohra shared some IDPH updates. He discussed legislative district visits that have taken place across the state this summer, asking the Board to consider how IDPH can move forward with climate change, health equity, acknowledging intersectionality in health conditions, and more.

b. IDPH Leadership Introductions — Sameer Vohra and IDPH Leadership Team

The IDPH leadership team introduced themselves. This meeting was the first SBOH meeting Assistant Director Janice Phillips' attended in her new role and she explained her role and goals to the Board.

c. Board Member Introductions to IDPH Leadership—Karen Phelan

SBOH members introduced themselves.

d. Climate Change Discussion— Jack Herrmann

During last month's meeting, Jack Herrmann sent out a survey on climate change to fellow members to make recommendations to the Director. There was discussion this month on the survey and feedback given to Jack Herrmann. Staff and Board Members shared their thoughts on air quality, how states across the nation can work collaboratively on various climate change issues, the idea of state funding to support IDPH climate friendly initiatives and continuing the asthma funding program, extreme temperature changes on vulnerable populations, how climate change exacerbates inequities, and more.

e. COVID Update – Arti Barnes

Dr. Arti Barnes gave a presentation on COVID-19 updates. She covered the current COVID-19 and respiratory trends. This included admission rates, hospital capacity strain, overview of wastewater by region, national and Illinois variants tracked by the CDC, information about the annual COVID-19 shot, and forecasting the future. She also covered the 2023 winter season for COVID-19 and respiratory illness trends. This included the commercialization of public health and a health care response, along with new tools to respond to the illnesses. Finally, she covered IDPH's fall and winter season prevention and surge plan. She went over new measurement tools regarding respiratory illness surveillance, IDPH's equity focus, IDPH's new communications plan, and an overall summary of the presentation.

Questions and comments regarding the presentation:

Damon Arnold brought up the issue of migrants who live in police departments may have COVID-19 and/or are at risk for COVID-19. This has many consequences and mentioned the idea of the Board being involved in finding solutions for all.

Esther Sciammarella said she is concerned about the lack of resources for migrants.

Rashmi Chugh shared the importance of vaccine campaigns (referencing one she saw about the flu) and need for a very influential vaccine campaign for COVID-19 for this fall/winter specifically. She inquired about the timeline of the vaccine rollout to local health departments and if vaccines can be provided to birthing hospitals so they can be engaged to administer into newborns prior to discharge. Arti Barnes shared that the timeline is early October from December for vaccines to become available to all existing providers. One challenge is very few birthing hospitals are the providers. So, the birthing hospital issue is being reviewed. In sum, it will be covered by VFC and Medicaid.

f. SHA/SHIP Update – Jennifer Epstein

Deputy Director of Policy, Planning & Statistics Jennifer Epstein gave an update on the State Health Assessment (SHA) and State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). She covered the SHA/SHIP Leadership Team and Partnership Team, what a SHA and SHIP is, the importance of a SHA and SHIP, updates to the SHA/SHIP State Law, updated priorities, the focus SHA/SHIP has on infrastructure, the Healthy Illinois 2021 Plan Updated Publications, the SHA process, SHA reports, the focus on equity in SHA/SHIP plans, and Healthy Illinois 2028.

Questions regarding the presentation:

Damon Arnold touched on the healthcare field work shortage and if it can be addressed within the SHA/SHIP. Jenny Epstein said it is a part of the “racism as a public health crisis” priority, amongst other priorities in the SHA/SHIP.

Assistant Director Janice Phillips requested the presentation be made into a more digestible format. She also asked when the final report is complete if it could be disseminated to the Board.

Rashmi Chugh asked if the Health in All operates parallel to SHA/SHIP. Jenny Epstein says they have been somewhat been operating in a parallel manner, but not entirely due to timing.

Erica Salem mentioned the new map model that is more focused on equity and Jenny Epstein is aware of the new map model. She asked if IDPH has considered taking community health department with community input and using the input to help model the state plan. Jenny Epstein said funding cannot guide priorities, but it does help with the implementation process. She said IDPH is going to implement as much as they can and meet objectives. She referenced a study from UIC that looked at IPLANS, saying UIC studied IPLANS with policy systems and environmental

change as their priorities, and many local health departments do not have that in their priorities. IDPH wants to focus on policy systems and environmental change.

Juleigh Nowinski Konchak asked about the five-year plan and how often the annual implementation report comes out. Jenny Epstein said an annual report must be submitted to the SBOH every January but is unsure if the first year must be report. She discussed different reports, with one being a report and another being a living document.

Esther Sciammarella asked for community health workers to be involved in the SHA/SHIP plans.

4. Old Business

- a. Review of 6/8/23 State Board of Health Minutes—Karen Phelan, State Board of Health Chair Approved, with changes made to the minutes.
- b. Review of 8/17/23 Rules Committee Minutes—Karen Phelan, Rules Committee Chair Regarding Admin Code 77.63.1, Damon Arnold requested a revision to the code (regarding cortisol) and during a SBOH meeting, the revision was approved. The Department recommended the revision to not be made. Damon Arnold approved the request for the revision to not be made. Damon Arnold approved; Susan Swider seconded the change.
- c. Review of 8/24/23 Policy Committee Minutes—Damon Arnold, Policy Committee Chair Approved, with changes made to the minutes.

5. 2023 Meetings

- a. **STATE BOARD OF HEALTH 11:00 - 1:30 PM**
 - i. December 7
- b. **STATE BOARD OF HEALTH RULES COMMITTEE 1:00 – 3:00 PM**
 - i. November 9
- c. **STATE BOARD OF HEALTH POLICY COMMITTEE 1:00 - 3:00 PM**
 - i. November 16

6. Adjournment

Susan Swider motioned to adjourn; Damon Arnold seconded.