

State Board of Health Policy Committee

Thursday, February 6, 2025

1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Minutes

Location

WebEx Video Conference Service

Join by phone: +1-312-535-8110 United States Toll (Chicago) or +1-415-655-0002 US Toll

Meeting number: 2867 515 1603 Meeting password: EMpFw5SQ2f3

Join link: <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m83b411b4aa187895318395b53a9c610c>

Minutes

1. Call to Order

- Members Present: Damon Arnold, Dawn Brown, Rashmi Chugh, John “Jack” Herrmann, Erica Salem, Esther Sciammarella, Susan Swider
- Members Not Present: Not Applicable
- IDPH Staff Present: Janice Phillips, Allison Nickrent, Jessica Bounds, Alma Collins, Emily Spangler, Greg Willis
- Guests: Blanca Dominguez, Karen Phelan

2. Public Comment

- Not Applicable

3. New Business

- a. The loss of DEIA on the Federal level – where do we go from here? (Damon Arnold)
 - Damon Arnold presented about federal agencies removing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) initiatives, which may impact the public-health workforce.
 - Removing DEIA initiatives may worsen existing shortages of doctors, nurses, public-health professionals and health educators. Damon Arnold noted that nearly half of employees in state and local public health agencies left their jobs between 2017 and 2021, and a study projects more than 100,000 additional departures by 2025.
 - Social determinants of health (as defined by the World Health Organization to be income, education, employment, childhood experiences, physical environment, social support, access to care, biology, gender, culture, and race) are important parts of public-health practice.
 - Damon Arnold mentioned legislation and policy are shaped by public-health professionals, and their expertise can guide lawmakers and industry leaders.
 - Recent policy proposals such as scaling back insurance-program funding, changing Medicaid work requirements, and restricting reproductive health services may impact health-care safety nets.
 - Damon Arnold noted that thirteen states ban abortion and many others restrict it, while pointing out further rollbacks may occur.
- b. The Potentially Devastating Impact of the Current Presidential Administration on Public Health Efforts (Damon Arnold)
 - Damon Arnold outlined how national policy changes may affect public health, as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services may reshape drug approvals, research funding, and global-health programs.
 - Damon Arnold described how misinformation and anti-vaccine rhetoric undermine vaccination efforts, citing an example of an immunization drive for measles impacted by anti-vaccine messaging.
 - Questions were raised possible changes to vaccine production and supply chains, vaccination requirements in schools and workplaces, and countermeasure development for future pandemics.
 - The presentation also touched on nutrition and chronic-disease policy. Damon Arnold noted that regulatory approaches to nutrition and treatment may change, given the prevalence of ultra-processed foods and preference towards GLP-1 drugs for obesity.
 - Damon Arnold notes that changes to environmental and hazardous-materials regulations could impact public-health preparedness across multiple federal agencies.
- c. Clear and consistent messaging

- The Policy Committee will request the approval from the State Board of Health to create an ad hoc Committee to enhance clear and consistent public health messaging to the public in Illinois.
- d. Legislative Updates
 - Not Applicable
- 4. Old Business
 - a. Not Applicable
- 5. 2025 Meetings
 - a. **STATE BOARD OF HEALTH 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM**
 - i. March 6
 - ii. June 5
 - iii. September 4
 - iv. December 11
 - b. **STATE BOARD OF HEALTH RULES COMMITTEE 1:00 – 3:00 PM**
 - i. February 13
 - ii. May 8
 - iii. August 14
 - iv. November 6
 - c. **STATE BOARD OF HEALTH POLICY COMMITTEE 1:00 - 3:00 PM**
 - i. May 15
 - ii. August 21
 - iii. November 13
- 6. Adjournment
 - a. Damon Arnold requested a motion to adjourn. Rashmi Chugh moved to adjourn the State Board of Health Policy Committee meeting. Erica Salem seconded.

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