



525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • www.dph.illinois.gov

**State Board of Health Policy
Committee Thursday, November 13,
2025
1:00 PM-3:00 PM
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Recording:

[State Board of Health Policy Committee Meeting- 20251113 1852-1 - Webex](#)

Minutes

1. Call to Order

- Members Present: Damon Arnold, Dawn Brown, Rashmi Chugh, Esther Sciammarella, Susan Swider
- Members Not Present: John “Jack” Herrmann
- IDPH Staff Present: Janice Phillips, Allison Nickrent, Matthew Smith, Emily Spangler, Gregory Willis
- Guest: Nicholas Dale, Ruby Larson, Danielle Perry, Karen Phelan, Jeff Workman

2. Public Comment

- Nicholas Dale raised concerns about the Illinois Department of Public Health process of investigating patient abuse complaints and referenced provisions of state law governing patient protection from abuse and mandatory reporting requirements.

3. New Business

- a. SNAP Updates and Assistance (Danielle Perry, Ruby Larson)
 - i. Ruby from the Governor’s Office provided an overview of recent federal and state changes that affect the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid. Recent federal legislation from HR 1 / “One Big Beautiful Bill” (OBBA) have created changes to SNAP and Medicaid eligibility, work requirements, and state financing. Changes that may affect Illinois households as implementation continues must be monitored for.
 - ii. Danielle from the Chicago Food Depository noted that nearly one in eight Illinois residents experience food insecurity, with particularly high need in Cook County and Chicago. Food banks play a critical role, but SNAP provides far more meals than charitable food programs, which means that policy changes to SNAP are especially important.
 - Illinois may end up facing hundreds of millions of dollars in annual obligations especially if payment error rates are still elevated. Failure to meet match requirements might result in reduced federal SNAP funding that threatens both beneficiaries and the state budget.
 - Adults aged 18-59 that do not have qualified exemptions like disability or caregiving responsibilities will face expanded work requirements. The law will narrow or eliminate several previous exemptions like for some certain older adults and veterans. Failing to meet hourly thresholds in a given month can result in being ineligible to receive benefits for a three-year period.

b. Federal Updates Presentation (Matthew Smith)

- i. Matthew gave an overview of the recent federal government shutdown and following budget agreement. The shutdown was the longest in recent history, lasting 43 days, with key points of contention involving the Affordable Care Act and the broader appropriations package. Congress ended up passing a bill that restored funding across all twelve standard appropriation bills, provided retroactive funding for SNAP, and ensured furloughed federal employees would receive back pay.
 - Matthew highlighted that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services continued its day-to-day administrative tasks during the shutdown, but many new Notices of Funding Opportunity and award processes were paused. Before the shutdown agreement, HHS announced that they were going to enforce planned reductions that would have affected Title X program staff and other public health functions. The final bill prohibited these layoffs from taking place.
 - The Food and Drug Administration is also funded through the agriculture appropriations bills and the final agreement include some impact how the FDA operates and how certain products are regulated.
- ii. Federal legislation has also created new regulations on hemp-derived products with intoxicating levels of THC with new language that constrains how manufacturers can use hemp as a loophole to sell products outside of cannabis regulatory frameworks. States, such as Illinois, are making sure to align regulatory approaches with this new federal language.

c. Updates from Chair (Damon Arnold)

- i. Damon shared data that shows how adults aged 18-59 represent the largest share of SNAP recipients and how children and older adults also make up substantial portions of the caseload. This highlights the intergenerational impact of SNAP policy.
- ii. He also explained that global conflicts and trade disruptions, supply chain shocks, and climate change make food shortages and price instability worse.
- iii. Lastly, he explained how health care costs, insurance premiums, and food security intersect when rising premiums and out-of-pocket costs force households to choose between paying for health care and paying for food.

4. Old Business

- a. Not Applicable

5. 2025 Meetings

- a. **STATE BOARD OF HEALTH 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM**
 - iv. December 11

6. Adjournment

- a. Damon Arnold requested a motion to adjourn. Rashmi Chugh moved to adjourn the State Board of Health Policy Committee meeting. Dawn Brown seconded.