**MCDONOUGH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, April 9th, 2025**

The McDonough County Board of Health meeting was held in the board office on Wednesday, April 9th, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Andrea Ratermann, President.

**Members Present:** Roger Ward, Terra Litchfield, Andrea Ratermann, Dr. Kari Kelso, Dr. Richard Minter, Becky Mahr, and Holly Norton

**Members Absent:** Dr. Doll, and Dr. Segura

**Staff Present:** Jennifer Plate, Stefanie Johnson and Chris Adams

**Visitors Present:**

**Public Comment:**

No comment was made.

**Claims:**

Approval of February 1-28th, 2025 claims were made by Ward and second by Dr. Minter, motion was carried with 7 ayes, 0 nays and 2 absent. Approval of March 1st- 31st, 2025 claims were made by Litchfield and seconded by Mahr, motion was carried with 7 ayes, 0 nays and 2 absent.

**Reports**:

BOH

President Ratermann informed the board that there was a nice reception for Robin Neve’s retirement party. Treasure Mahr, suggested to the board that the CD rates be approved after the April 14th date. The board suggested that Mahr accept the best rate for the CD when it came time to renew.

County Board

Litchfield reported that Elms was going to be installing solar panels to help reduce their electric bill by 10% and that the board should consider the options to lower electric costs.

Community Health - Jennifer Plate, CH Director

WIC met their goal in January and February for participation at 93%. Outreach for Alicia in WIC in lead. WIC staff will be attending the state conference in four weeks. WIC is one of the few grants that will stay the same in funding or increase. Received a letter regarding the respiratory grant was issued by IDPH, stating that funding was done; that was $140,000 for two years. Right now, they are in court over the funding, and we do not know what the outcome will be on that. We will continue to do that until June and we have already spent all of the expenses to it. A breastfeeding opportunity came up with a community collaboration for infant preparedness and disaster planning. The grant will not cover benefits and salary, but the WIC grant will cover employee cost. Focus on the first meeting may focus on daycare providers and setting up a referral, education and promotion and incentives for the breastfeeding class. Working with a company to pay the bills for purchases of anything. Catch Your Breath smoke and vape free class was held in the Macomb seventh graders and reached 115 students. Working on cessation referral policy with the schools to provide an alternative from suspension. Kicked off April with Get Your Self Tested event at WIU; 23 students tested, and Nicole was there to provide education and supplies. Nicole recently went to Bushnell school to speak on sexual health. The dental grant let us give out dental education and kits to 156 students at Edison School and 215 kits at Bushnell Elementary. IDPH has finally approved the forward application training for May 28th and hopefully role out in June; that will go to our dental health priorities in the IPLAN. We have a new employee, Morgan Hoyle, who has been doing plenty of training. We completed our Illinois Quality Immunization Improvement Program (IQIP), the two vaccine we focused on were HPV and MenB. The HPV second doses were poor; one came up 16% and one only came up 1%. The rest of the vaccine decreased terribly in percentage intake. We looked at one-year olds for the 4-2-2-1 on the main series of vaccine completed and we went from 69% and our goal was to go up to 79% and we went to 50%. We are going in and calling people in to follow up on their shots. April 25th we will be at Hy-Vee to take blood pressures for the senior fair. Last week I attended a regional billing meeting and will continue to look at our EMR and billing services. Looking to look at billing for STI to generate income along with fluoride filling. There is also billing available now in Illinois for lactation services. We must be careful not to double dip because we can only charge for people not receiving WIC services. While at the meeting, I asked if funds were available for a new Electronic Medical Record (EMR) and provide educational updates for all the local health departments as funds were available. I am working on grant writing this month and end of report.

Environmental Health-Stefanie Johnson, EH Director

We have a couple of new food facilities that have opened. Dat Wing Spot just opened where the old Wildfire was located. Chipotle is coming soon, a popcorn shop on the square and Rocky’s opening. Have not received plans for Beef-A-Roo and Archies. There was an initial contact made but nothing heard back. Springtime brings our inspections up a bit with concessions opening and the festivals. Foodborne illness wise, we had a case in a skilled living facility that had an illness. At the same time back in February we had an employee with the same kind of illness but no correlation or issues in food service. Water program we are back up to 9 active non-community. Water week is May 4th through the 10th and will be giving out free well water test kits to anybody that is interested. Had a complaint recently about the Vilas in Bushnell regarding hot water. Went to the facility with the IDPH plumbing inspector and it was not that they did not have water, they are working on getting a water heater replaced and waiting on parts. The water at the sink was 120°F and it should be 110°F. We had a call about a well at the park in Good Hope and we could not find any records of it. Sewage program we have a couple of permits to use the sewage program. IDPH has discontinued the bird collection because of H5-N1. Tick drag last month reported no ticks collected. Next tick drag will take place this month at Argyle. Niki will be attending a PHEP Summit in Texas at the end of the month. A Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) open house was held on the 22nd; one person showed up, but that person has vowed to get others involved. I will need to renew my lead risk assessor’s license. The EH and CH Division worked together at the Bushnell STEM night to educate residents on handwashing, rabies, lead and talked to 50 people. Chavez also attended WIU to talk about the services offered at the health department and his experience during his internship.

Administration-Chris Adams

Got our new lights and have nine left to be installed. The satellite dish has been disconnected and slated to be demolished. I-Solve has been initiated and staff are getting used to the change. Working with the Health Equity Zone collaboration and having quarterly meetings with Eagle View out of Oquawka and looking on how to address the health disparities within our county to better address our Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs (IPLAN). April is Minority Health Month, so, working with the WIU committee with all the different planned events. Dr. Segura could not be in attendance as she is attending a panel discussion at the Multicultural Center for one of the events.

Old Business

New Business

April 17th we are holding a ribbon cutting for the official celebration of the 50 years as a health department. The first BOH meeting was held on April 17th, 1975, and you cannot have a health department without a board. All are invited to attend, it will start at 11AM with the ribbon cutting at 11:30AM and a proclamation will be given by the mayor.

Motion made by Litchfield and seconded by Norton to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14PM.

Next meeting will be held on May 14th, 2025, at the McDonough County Health Department at 6:30PM.