

**COLES COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR'S MEETING**

A regular meeting for the Public Health Board of Directors of the Coles County Health Department (CCHD) was held on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in the conference room at the Coles County Health Department, 753 Windsor Road, Charleston, Illinois. The meeting was called to order at 5:32pm by Mr. Haifley.

**Present:**

Board members present: Mr. Mike Zuhone, Dr. Bernie Ranchero, Mr. Jeremy Doughty, Mr. Matt Bower, Dr. Dan Haifley, Dr. Stan Huffman

Staff present: Lisa Sorensen, Paul Howarth, Gloria Spear

**Minutes Approved:**

At 5:33pm, a motion was made by Mr. Doughty and seconded by Dr. Ranchero to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2025 regular board meeting. Motion carried by unanimous decision.

**Financial Reports: April – July 2025**

Mr. Howarth presented to the board the most recent 4 months of the CFY25 financial statements and spoke on the following items:

The majority of fees received from nursing and environmental health services are received in the final 4 months of the fiscal year, so CCHS still expects to reach and exceed the targeted revenue budgeted for CFY25. Interest revenue from CD's and the money market account has exceeded the projected budget. Money market interest rates are up to 4.25% and this is equal to the current rate of return from C.D.s. All grant reimbursements for SFY25 from Department of Human Services and Illinois Department of Public Health have been received. The TB contractual reimbursement and the County contribution are set amounts and are expected to be fully reimbursed to CCHD.

**President's Remarks**

Mr. Haifley addressed recent events that are being covered by the national media and in particular the shooting of Charlie Kirk. He wanted to encourage conversation, for people to talk and that he hoped it would be without laughing or mocking and to be mindful of each other's situations. Reflecting on his own negative experience as a figurehead of a national organization in which he had been criticized for being cordial and polite when standing up for his beliefs, he spoke about the need for us as community speakers to build people up.

### **Nursing Report by Lisa Sorensen:**

The Nursing Report was reviewed by the board and Mrs. Sorensen led the discussion.

DHS has a new grant called Better Birth Outcomes, which replaced the Family Case Management / High Risk Infant Follow-up grant. The grant activities are mostly the same, with the name changed to remove some of the bias and stigma associated with the previous name. Some small changes include the grant payments now being based on family units and not individuals. The grant is now for newborns up to 6 months and no longer up to 1 year of age. Grant staff are referred to as Navigators instead of Case Managers.

Communicable disease data did not include a Salmonella outbreak, which involved at least 3 individuals testing positive for the bacterial infection. CCHD worked with the restaurant associated with the outbreak to determine the cause. All positive cases turned out to be asymptomatic. A conversation began among board members regarding carriers of Salmonella who have no symptoms, protocols for restaurant hygiene, then Mr. Haifley complimented the CCHD staff who worked on the outbreak for doing a good job.

The HealthWorks Program continues to have steady numbers with a caseload of 33, 35, and 35 from the most recent 3 months. The Immunizations Program recently hosted a back to school vaccine clinic. Mrs. Sorensen shared a vaccine success story in which a client was able to save \$183 by getting the vaccinations they needed at the Health Department, rather than getting those same vaccinations at a local pharmacy. Flu vaccines have been received and flu vaccination activities have started at CCHD. Mrs. Sorensen then went on to explain how the lab testing program operated under Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center (SBLHC).

The Lead Program currently has 15 clients with elevated blood lead levels but only 2 new cases have been recorded. The threshold for high lead levels in the blood has been lowered to 3.5 micrograms per deciliter, so more clients are likely to have blood lead levels above the new threshold. Trainings were completed for the HIV testing program, but the State had already issued grant funds for this year, so there will be a delay for those services.

The WIC Program has seen the case caseload increase up to 85%. The increase corresponds with decreases in SNAP food benefits. Dr. Ranchero enquired about the increase in no shows in recent months. Mrs. Sorensen stated that it could be seasonal fluctuations but there was no definite reason.

### **Environmental Health Report by Gloria Spear:**

The board members present reviewed the Environmental Health Report and Mrs. Spear led the discussion

There have been changes to water well testing by the State. Tests are now done on new wells and also in cases when a foodborne illness outbreak occurs. Residents can send test samples to private labs and the cost is incurred by the resident. The advantage to private lab testing is more choices on what the water is tested for.

During the Mattoon Water Departments issues with algae bloom contamination, problems occurred when seeking correct guidance from Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and limited assistance was offered. The FDA regulations for testing water only require testing for Coliform. However, Mattoon do not want the algae bloom contamination effecting water quality. Another difficulty faced by the Mattoon Water Department is having the area Lake Mattoon crossing into two neighboring counties (Shelby & Cumberland), making regulating the water quality in the lake very challenging.

The State was only able to provide 10 test kits during the Salmonella outbreak in Coles County, when more than 40 tests were necessary. Mr. Haifley asked how quickly this can spread. Mrs. Spear explained that it can take up to 72 hours for symptoms to occur and healthy people might not show symptoms. The cases in the County were spread out and there was a relatively low number of cases.

A grocery store that recently opened in Charleston, selling international products, was inspected and eventually opened after certain items were removed from the store. USDA also inspected the store and there were issues with some products not have labeling in English, causing issues understand what the products were.

#### **Old Business:**

- A. The final 2025 board meeting date was reviewed by the board members: November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### **New Business:**

- A. Mrs. Spear explained how the fees for plan reviews were determined for food establishments. Currently no fee is charged for smaller food vendors with areas less than 100 square feet. These plan reviews still require time and effort to be spent by CCHD employees. Upon discussion among board members to determine the appropriate fee it was determined that the plan review for small food vendors would be set at \$100.

At 6:59pm a motion was made by Mr. Bower and seconded by Mr. Zuhone to set a fee of \$100 for plan reviews of facilities with 100 square foot space or less. Motion carried by unanimous decision.

- B. The CCHD Budget for CFY26 was presented to the board. Mr. Zuhone questioned whether the revenue from interest would still be realistic if interest rates fell. Following a discussion among the board members the board agreed to make a motion, approving the CFY26 budget.

At 7:02pm, a motion was made by Mr. Doughty and seconded by Dr. Ranchero to approve the CFY25 CCHD budget. Motion carried by unanimous decision.

- C. The SIPA Fund Budget CFY26 was presented to the board and Mr. Howarth explained the need for board approval of a new budget for the funds each grant year. The board members present had no questions and agreed to make a motion approving the SIPA Fund budget CFY26.

At 7:03pm, a motion was made by Dr. Ranchero and seconded by Dr. Huffman to approve the CFY26 CCHD budget. Motion carried by unanimous decision.

- D. The Resolution to Accept Grants for SFY26 was presented to the board by Mr. Howarth


At 7:04pm, a motion to approve the SFY26 Resolution to Accept Grants was made by Mr. Doughty and seconded by Mr. Bower. Motion carried by unanimous decision.

- E. Mr. Howarth presented the TB contractual expenses agreement for CFY26 and spoke about the increase in the annual contract to align with the percentage increase in CCHD employee salaries.


At 7:04pm a motion was made by Mr. Zuhone and seconded by Mr. Doughty to accept the TB Care & Treatment contractual expenses agreement for CFY26. Motion carried by unanimous decision.

**No further business:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Huffman and seconded by Dr. Ranchero. Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm



Dan Haifley, President



Matt Bower, Secretary/Treasurer