

# **LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT MINUTES**

9/28/2023

A meeting of the LaSalle County Board of Health was held on September 28, 2023. The meeting was called to order by President, Ms. Carretto at 9:00am. A roll call was taken: Ms. Carretto – Yes, Ms. Gallagher – Yes, Mr. Boaz – Yes, Dr. Benavides – Yes, Mr. Gonzalo – Yes, Dr. Manigold- Yes, Ms. Wilke – Yes.

## **AGENDA**

Motion by Ms. Gallagher seconded by Dr. Benavides to approve the agenda as written.  
Motion passed unanimously.

## **MINUTES**

Motion by Dr. Manigold seconded by Mr. Gonzalo to accept August 2023 minutes as written.  
Motion passed unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS**

President's Report – President Ms. Carretto

There was no President's Report.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Gonzalo

After a discussion of the August 2023 bills, a motion was made by Mr. Gonzalo seconded by Ms. Wilke to approve the payment of bills. A roll call was taken: Ms. Carretto – Yes, Ms. Gallagher – Yes, Mr. Boaz – Yes, Dr. Benavides – Yes, Mr. Gonzalo – Yes, Dr. Manigold- Yes, Ms. Wilke – Yes.

## **REPORTS OF THE DEPARTMENTS**

Administration – Chris Pozzi

Ms. Pozzi extended a welcome to Yehonatan Figurora, rejoining our staff as a Public Health Nurse in Communicable disease and Immunizations, Holly Smith also rejoining our staff as a

Public health Nurse in the WIC program. Trista Summers joining our staff as a program Specialist in the Family Case Management Program. Frank Messina joining our staff as an Environmental Health practitioner in the Environmental Health Division. The department has one (1) remaining vacancy and two (2) new vacancies that opened this month.

Ms. Pozzi advised the Board that West Nile virus continues to be active in our local communities. Two additional communities reported positive mosquitoes for a total of ten (10) communities. Staff continue to offer Free Larvicide for Property Owners to apply on their property.

The Management team members were able to participate in a workplace incident and injury reporting training session with County HR.

Eight (8) members of our Team were able to attend the Illinois Public Health Association Annual Conference held at Starved Rock.

Environmental Health Staff hosted their 29th Annual Food Service Seminar to 86 food service workers and Environmental Health Practitioners from other Counties.

On September 14th, the county hosted its annual employee luncheon for all staff.

Ms. Pozzi advised the board that September 19-21, she attended the Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators Fall Conference in East Peoria.

As a reminder all WIC clients are currently being seen at our Ottawa site.

Ms. Pozzi advised the board that the Health Department began hosting their annual Flu vaccination clinics on September 26<sup>th</sup>, additional clinics are scheduled on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Pozzi advised the Board that a power surge on the weekend of September 16<sup>th</sup>, damaged one of our portable vaccine freezers. We have filed a claim and are working with County insurance carrier to get a replacement.

## COVID

Ms. Pozzi let the Board know that the new Covid monovalent vaccine has been approved and will soon be available at the health department. It's the first season that COVID vaccines will no longer be covered by the government. Medicaid and Medicare are expected to cover the cost of the vaccine. After hearing reports that some insurance companies are not covering the costs of the vaccine, we are encouraging individuals to verify their insurance coverage. If the vaccination is NOT covered or individuals have limited coverage, they will still have access to

the vaccines for free, through a CDC initiative called the Bridge Access Program. Uninsured children will also be able to access vaccinations through the Vaccines for Children program, which offers them at no cost to eligible kids through a national network of participating health care providers. The IDPH and ISBE sent out school guidance documents for the Covid season. Beginning this week, households will be able to order four (4) free Covid test kits at [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.COVIDTests.gov).

In the area of Media and Social Media

- Posted information on Labor Day Food safety
- Recognized August 31<sup>st</sup> as international Overdose Awareness Month
- Information and tips around September being National Preparedness Month
- Information regarding September being Food Safety Month
- Recognized September as Suicide Prevention Month.
- Tick and mosquito safety information
- Information on LCHD's Public influenza clinics
- Information on extended expiration dates on Covid test kits
- Weekly updates on Covid cases in the County.

Health Education/Media Report – Leslie Dougherty and Jenny Barrie

Ms. Dougherty's and Ms. Barrie's August 2023 reports on the Health Education highlights are attached to these minutes.

Personal Health Division – Connie Brooks

Ms. Brooks August 2023 report on the Personal Health Division highlights is attached to these minutes.

Environmental Health Division – Jennifer Osborn

Ms. Osborn's August 2023 report on the Environmental Health Division highlights is attached to these minutes.

Ms. Keith presented an overview of the department's Food Program.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Mr. Gonzalo seconded by Dr. Benavides to go into executive session, unfinished business, for litigation updates.

Motion by Ms. Wilke seconded by Dr. Benavides to come out of executive session.  
No action was taken.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Ms. Wilke seconded by Dr. Benavides to go into executive session, new business, to review executive session minutes.

Motion by Dr. Manigold seconded by Mr. Gonzalo to come out of executive session.

Motion by Dr. Benavides seconded by Ms. Wilke to release executive session minutes from February 23, 2023 through August 24, 2023, and make them available to the public, while keeping the minutes from the March 2001, November 2002 Special Meeting and December 2002 minutes sealed.

Motion by Mr. Gonzalo seconded by Dr. Manigold to appoint Ms. Gallagher, Ms. Carretto and Dr. Manigold as the Board of Health 2023 nominating committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Gonzalo seconded by Dr. Benavides to approve the replacement of office cubicles. A roll call was taken: Ms. Carretto – Yes, Ms. Gallagher – Yes, Mr. Boaz – Yes, Dr. Benavides – Yes, Mr. Gonzalo – Yes, Dr. Manigold- Yes, Ms. Wilke – Yes.

Motion by Mr. Gonzalo seconded by Dr. Benavides to approve SIPA Grant Retention Policy. A roll call was taken: Ms. Carretto – Yes, Ms. Gallagher – Yes, Mr. Boaz – Yes, Dr. Benavides – Yes, Mr. Gonzalo – Yes, Dr. Manigold- Yes, Ms. Wilke – Yes.

Motion by Mr. Gonzalo seconded by Dr. Benavides to amend the FY24 Budget. A roll call was taken: Ms. Carretto – Yes, Ms. Gallagher – Yes, Mr. Boaz – Yes, Dr. Benavides – Yes, Mr. Gonzalo – Yes, Dr. Manigold- Yes, Ms. Wilke – Yes.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Dr. Benavides seconded by Dr. Manigold to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

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Bruce Boaz  
Secretary  
LaSalle County Board of Health