



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## **Lee County Board of Health Report November 12, 2024**

The Lee County Board of Health met at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at the Lee County Health Department.

Board members present were Sue Shippert, Dr. Shailee Patel, Piper Grazulis, Dr. William Long, Dr. Christine Doyle, Katie White, Janice McCoy and Emily Rose. No members were absent. Also present at the meeting were health department employees Cathy Ferguson, Angel Lillpop, Lisa Wiggins, & Jenny Conderman.

**Guests Present:** None

President Dr. William Long called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

The minutes for the September 10, 2024 meeting were approved.

**Public/Visitor Comments:**  
None

### **Monthly Financial Reports:**

The September & October Financial Reports and October & November Claims Registers were reviewed and approved.

### **Administrator's Report:**

Cathy reported:

- She will be serving as a mentor for the statewide virtual "New to Public Health Residency Program". She will mentor participants from Lee, Knox, Peoria, Tazwell & Woodford Counties.
- She was recently inducted into the Illinois State University's College of Applied Science & Technology's (CAST) Hall of Fame. 8 alumni are selected for induction each year.

### **Division Reports**

#### ***Community & Personal Health***

Jenny provided a summary of an extensive and complex TB case that is winding down. IDPH stated that the Lee County team has done a great job with it and they are featuring it at an upcoming regional meeting.

She also shared that Elizabeth, our Infectious Disease Coordinator, recently found a chlamydia case in the state system and upon following up with the patient, discovered that the medicine was not being taken correctly. Upon further inquiry, she determined the instructions on the medicine bottle were not accurate according to treatment guidelines. She was able to close the gap between the instructions provided by the facility that diagnosed & treated and the patient.

#### ***Fiscal & Front Office***

Angel informed the board that we have filled a front office vacancy with the new person starting early December. There were a good number of candidates and this go round of the interview process went much more smoothly than the last time we had a support staff vacancy. The records disposal project was a very long time coming but is now complete. The maintenance department was extremely helpful during this process. The county audit is approaching. There is a portal she uploads requested documents to. The process is so much more efficient than it used to be.

#### ***Maternal & Child Health***

Lisa reported that August and October were very big months for immunizations with school starting and the exclusion date being in October. Staff were very accommodating to parents even though they'd had all summer to make appointments, in an effort to get the students back in school as quickly as possible.

Several of the state systems that Maternal & Child Health staff use are undergoing changes- most now requiring 2 part authentication.

Lisa and our lead nurse Melissa recently did a home visit with the regional lead inspector as a result of an elevated blood lead level in a child at the residence. It was very interesting seeing the lead inspector's process and education with the child's mother. It was a great learning experience for Melissa, as it was her first home visit.

#### ***Environmental Health:***

Cathy provided an update on the Magnuson Hotel. The judge granted a temporary injunction to the Dixon Rural Fire Department until a hearing on a potential permanent injunction can take place. LCHD recently brought in a certified mold tester. The results from this testing may be part of the hearing.

#### ***New Business:***

The board approved a \$14,000 appropriation from our cash account to close out County FY24.

The board approved the FY25 budget as presented, with the understanding that if the wage increases the county finalizes are more than what was budgeted, the department will adjust accordingly. Behavioral health allocations of \$45,000 to Sinnissippi Centers and \$25,000 to Kreider Services were approved as part of the budget.

Board officers for 2025 were voted in as follows: Dr. Shailee Patel, President; Janice McCoy, Vice-President and Katie White will remain Secretary.

**The regular meeting date in November of 2025 falls on a holiday so the board selected the alternative date of Monday, November 10 for its meeting.**

**Cathy had shared correspondence from county board member Angie Shippert with board of health members prior to the meeting for their review. Ms. Shippert is interested in local jurisdictions, including Lee County, to eliminate fluoride from water supplies. She cited a recent case in which a federal judge ruled the U.S. EPA must take action regarding fluoride in drinking water (but the ruling did not ban or limit the addition of fluoride to public drinking water supplies). Dr. Patel provided the board an extensive overview of her objections to fluoride removal. Additionally, the board discussed and felt it lacked authority to do this, as in Illinois, fluoridation in water is regulated by IDPH and IEPA. The board will provide a written response to Ms. Shippert in the next week.**

**Old Business:**

**None.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**

**The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Health is January 14, 2025.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Cathy Ferguson, M.P.H.  
Administrator**