

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center
3010 Grand Avenue
Waukegan, Illinois
Conference Room #3112*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

6:00 PM

3010 Grand Ave., Waukegan, IL

Lake County Board of Health

1. Call to Order

President Sashko called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Members

Present 8 - President Sashko, Vice President Johnson Jones Ed.D., Secretary DeVaux, Member-at-Large Hagstrom D.D.S., Member-at-Large Maine, Member Cerk, Member McDowell M.D. and Member Mittl Pollina Psy.D.

Absent 4 - Member Belmonte D.O., Member Larson Ph.D., Member Parekh and Member Soulakis Ph.D.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

This matter was presented.

4. Public Comment to the Board

None

5. Awards and Recognition

None

6. Presentations**6.1**

2025 Strategic Plan Update - Hargett

Attachments: [StrategicPlanUpdate_2025](#)

Member Cerk raised a question regarding the recruitment section, specifically inquiring if there had been any pressure to modify DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) policies, given that a substantial portion of the organization's funding is derived from federal grants. Buddy responded that there has not been any push to alter these policies, emphasizing the agency's commitment to the value of diversity and inclusion. Sam Johnson, Interim Executive Director, added that the organization had received an email from HRSA instructing us to cease and desist any diversity efforts. However, a subsequent email was received instructing the agency to disregard the previous communication. Sam concluded by assuring that, despite the rapid changes, the organization continues to operate as usual.

This matter was presented

7. President's Report

1. President Sashko began his report by announcing that the new Executive Director, Christopher Hoff, will officially start on March 10.

2. President Sashko reminded Board members of their obligation to file a Statement of Economic Interest. He requested that any member who has not received a filing notice email from the County Clerk notify Khiabet Mata, as the emails have already been distributed.

3. Larry Mackey, Director of Environmental Health, informed President Sashko that the fee schedule increase and vaccination updates will be presented at the next meeting.

4. Members Cerk, Belmonte, McDowell, Larson, and Hagstrom are due for reappointment. Khiabet Mata will send notifications via mail and email by the end of April to facilitate this process.

5. Kristi Long, the longstanding President and CEO, will retire effective May 1, 2025. The United Way of Lake County's Board of Directors appointed Quinton Snodgrass as the next President and Chief Executive Officer.

6. President Sashko has shared details about a recommended symposium hosted by NALBOH. Members interested in attending should contact Khiabet Mata to complete their registration.

8. Consent Agenda

President Sashko called for a motion adopt the consent agenda and approve items 8.1-8.4. Motion by Member DeVaux, second by Member Pollina. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Aye: 8 - President Sashko, Vice President Johnson Jones Ed.D., Secretary DeVaux, Member-at-Large Hagstrom D.D.S., Member-at-Large Maine, Member Cerk, Member McDowell M.D. and Member Mittl Pollina Psy.D.

Absent: 4 - Member Belmonte D.O., Member Larson Ph.D., Member Parekh and Member Soulakis Ph.D.

8.1

January 7, 2025, Special Call Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [1.7.25 Meeting Minutes - DRAFT](#)

This matter was approved

8.2

January 22, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [1.22.25 Meeting Minutes - DRAFT](#)

This matter was approved

8.3

Illinois Department of Public Health, Harm Reduction Community Linkages, \$43,579 - Grant Increase Approval - Kritz

Attachments: [Emergency Appropriation Harm Reduction Original Format](#)

This matter was approved

8.4

Cooperative Operational Agreement - Johnson

Attachments: [BOH GC COA 2.11.25](#)

This matter was approved

9. Regular Agenda

9.1

2024 Annual Report - Hargett

Attachments: [2024 Annual Report DRAFT 20250213](#)

Member Maine inquired whether the annual report would be made available in a printed format. Sam Johnson responded that it would only be posted on the website, aligning with the trend observed in other health departments. Member Maine then suggested the possibility of extending the report's length, noting that the current layout can feel overwhelming to follow. Additionally, Member Maine emphasized the importance of considering the report's audience, pointing out that some content appears to be more internally focused, with language that might not be easily understood by individuals outside the organization.

President Sashko remarked that reverting to the previous, larger format used a few years ago might offer a more comprehensive approach compared to the current simplified format. Buddy acknowledged the feedback, stating that the comments and suggestions were valuable and assuring the group that they would be shared with his team to improve the format and content of the next annual report.

President Sashko called for a motion to approve the 2024 Annual Report, as presented. Motion by Member Maine, second by Member McDowell. Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Aye: 8 - President Sashko, Vice President Johnson Jones Ed.D., Secretary DeVaux, Member-at-Large Hagstrom D.D.S., Member-at-Large Maine, Member Cerk, Member McDowell M.D. and Member Mittl Pollina Psy.D.

Absent: 4 - Member Belmonte D.O., Member Larson Ph.D., Member Parekh and Member Soulakis Ph.D.

9.2

National Association of County and City Health Officials, 2025 Infection Prevention and Control Learning Collaborative Project, Mentor Grant, \$100,000 - Grant Approval - Kritz

Attachments: [Emergency Appropriation IPCLC Original Format](#)

President Sashko called for a motion to approve the National Association of County and City Health Officials for the 2025 Infection

Prevention and Control Learning Collaborative Project, Mentor grant funding, and emergency appropriate \$100,000 for FY25. Motion by Member Pollina, second by Vice-President Johnson Jones. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Aye: 8 - President Sashko, Vice President Johnson Jones Ed.D., Secretary DeVaux, Member-at-Large Hagstrom D.D.S., Member-at-Large Maine, Member Cerk, Member McDowell M.D. and Member Mittl Pollina Psy.D.

Absent: 4 - Member Belmonte D.O., Member Larson Ph.D., Member Parekh and Member Soulakis Ph.D.

9.3

Sliding Fee Schedule of Discounts February 2025 - Cooper

Attachments: [Sliding Fee Schedules BOH](#)

President Sashko called for a motion to adopt the updated federal poverty guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services for the sliding fee scales in Physical Health (FQHC) and Behavioral Health business units to ensure compliance with regulations, effective April 1, 2025, and July 1, 2025, as recommended. Motion by Member Hagstrom, second by Member DeVaux. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Aye: 8 - President Sashko, Vice President Johnson Jones Ed.D., Secretary DeVaux, Member-at-Large Hagstrom D.D.S., Member-at-Large Maine, Member Cerk, Member McDowell M.D. and Member Mittl Pollina Psy.D.

Absent: 4 - Member Belmonte D.O., Member Larson Ph.D., Member Parekh and Member Soulakis Ph.D.

9.4

Proposed Revisions to Health Department Employee Policies - Hagstrom

Attachments: [Employee and Dependent\(s\) Health Care Redline](#)
[Employee and Dependent\(s\) Health Care](#)
[Identification-Security Access Cards and Door Keys Redline](#)
[Identification-Security Access Cards and Door Keys](#)
[Electronic Communications Redline](#)
[Electronic Communications](#)

Personnel Committee Chair Hagstrom informed the Board that the committee met just prior to this regular meeting and reviewed the proposed revisions to the three employee policies noted in the agenda packet. Member Hagstrom noted that the Electronic Communications policy will be brought to the Board for approval at their meeting on March 26, 2025, as there were an extensive amount of changes needed not included.

President Sashko called for a motion to approve the revisions to the employee policies as presented with the exception of the Electronic Communications policy. Motion by Member McDowell, second by Member DeVaux. Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Aye: 8 - President Sashko, Vice President Johnson Jones Ed.D., Secretary DeVaux, Member-at-Large Hagstrom D.D.S., Member-at-Large Maine, Member Cerk, Member McDowell M.D. and Member Mittl Pollina Psy.D.

Absent: 4 - Member Belmonte D.O., Member Larson Ph.D., Member Parekh and Member Soulakis Ph.D.

10. Discussion Items

10.1

Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures - Cooper

Attachments: [BOH Report Preliminary Nov 2024](#)

11. Attachments for Board Review

12. Lake County Community Health Center Governing Council Update

Kim Burke, Director of Healthcare Operations, reported that the Governing Council convened for their regularly scheduled meeting on February 11, 2025. Kim Burke also noted that a notice was received from HRSA, indicating that the on-site visit has been paused and is pending rescheduling.

13. Lake County Tuberculosis Board Update

Lisa Kritz, Director of Prevention Health, reported that the Tuberculosis Board met on January 23, 2025 to review their budget. There are no active cases of tuberculosis. However, there are two pending cases. Currently, there is one vacancy for a flex provider position.

14. Added to Agenda Items**15. Old Business**

None

16. New Business

None

17. Executive Session

President Sashko called for a motion to enter into Executive Session. Motion by Member Cerk, second by Member McDowell, to enter into Executive Session at 6:41 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Aye: 8 - President Sashko, Vice President Johnson Jones Ed.D., Secretary DeVaux, Member-at-Large Hagstrom D.D.S., Member-at-Large Maine, Member Cerk, Member McDowell M.D. and Member Mittl Pollina Psy.D.

Absent: 4 - Member Belmonte D.O., Member Larson Ph.D., Member Parekh and Member Soulakis Ph.D.

17.1

Personnel Matters - Sashko

Discussion was held in Executive Session.

18.

President Sashko called for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Motion by Member McDowell, second by Member Cerk, to come out of Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Aye: 8 - President Sashko, Vice President Johnson Jones Ed.D., Secretary DeVaux, Member-at-Large Hagstrom D.D.S., Member-at-Large Maine, Member Cerk, Member McDowell M.D. and Member Mittl Pollina Psy.D.

Absent: 4 - Member Belmonte D.O., Member Larson Ph.D., Member Parekh and Member Soulakis Ph.D.

President Sashko called for a motion to give direction to create a severance package for the Executive Director. Motion by Member McDowell, second by Vice-President Johnson Jones. Voice vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Aye: 8 - President Sashko, Vice President Johnson Jones Ed.D., Secretary DeVaux, Member-at-Large Hagstrom D.D.S., Member-at-Large Maine, Member Cerk, Member McDowell M.D. and Member Mittl Pollina Psy.D.

Absent: 4 - Member Belmonte D.O., Member Larson Ph.D., Member Parekh and Member Soulakis Ph.D.

18. Adjournment

President Sashko adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.