

Kankakee County Health Department
Regular Meeting
January 15, 2026

Members Present: Mr. Antonio Carrico, Mr. Jim Johanek, Edward Kent Frye, Mrs. Kathryn Hamblen, Dr. Olatunji Akintilo, Dr. Ashu Bansal, Mr. Rodney Gustafson

Members Absent: Dr. Jeffery Long, Mrs. Neelie Panozzo

Staff Present: Mr. John Bevis, Ms. Nicole Finnegan

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Carrico at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A motion to move up the Environmental Health Fee Increase proposal and approve the agenda was made by Dr. Bansal, seconded by Dr. Akintilo, the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Johanek to accept the November 25, 2025, Board of Health minutes, seconded by Mr. Gustafson, the motion passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Mr. Bevis reported that we had one Public Health RN resignation, and have hired a new Environmental Health Inspector, Boyd Fowler, who starts next week. We also made an offer for a new Phlebotomist that we are excited about. We are currently hiring an MCH Coordinator, Health Promotion Specialist, and a Bilingual Client Service Representative.

DIVISION REPORTS

Client Services

Mr. Bevis reported on behalf of Mrs. Amy LaFine that KCHD continues to be an active partner in the Illinois Department of Health Bureau of Maternal and Child Health Programs redesign through our "Better Birth Outcomes-Comprehensive service/program in Kankakee County. We are currently engaged in a series of surveys, interviews and listening sessions for us, as providers and clients, as recipients of service; to gather information from across the state on how the BMCH redesign is going. IDHS is interested in learning about the successes and challenges that end users of the program and services are experiencing. Feedback will be used to inform creation of tools and resources to support this work in the coming year. The overall goal is to move toward more flexible, family-centered, impactful services. HealthWorks Illinois for all DCFS wards in foster care and foster caregiver families, is continuing transition to a fully implemented managed care model with Centene Youth Care. KCHD, as the lead agency for medical case management, works with all providers and DCFS to ensure every child in foster care has their whole health needs met. Throughout November 2025 to date, January 15, 2026, KCHD HWIL team has met with 7 Pediatric provider offices and the local DCFS office staff to educate and assist with program compliance and strengthen our collaborative efforts for the wards and foster families of Kankakee County.

Environmental Health

A Fee Increase Proposal was included in the packet which includes fees proposed that better reflect the amount of training, expertise, and customer service offered by the Environmental Health staff and includes the food sanitation ordinance, private sewage treatment ordinance, and well drilling, pump installation, and water supply fee increases. A motion was made by Dr. Bansal to approve the proposed fee increase, seconded by Dr. Akintilo and a roll call the motion passed.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Bevis included his report in the packet which listed the following:

The 2026 Respiratory Illness Season is well underway. Locally we are seeing increases in covid, flu, RSV and other respiratory illnesses caused by germs, viruses, bacteria and other pathogenic microbes. These infect the respiratory system, the lungs, throat, and airways: through touching, coughs, sneezes and secretions from impacted surfaces. As a result, recently IDPH announced that Illinois is now considered HIGH for Flu activity and MEDIUM or MODERATE for Covid activity. Vaccinations remain the most effective tool to prevent severe illness. We encourage you if you are ill and or have a fever to stay home, if you cannot self-isolate then wear a mask around others, cover coughs and sneezes and wash hands frequently. It is the season of giving but don't give the gift of illness! Illinois Department of Public Health has a Seasonal Respiratory Illness Dashboard available for view and is updated weekly. We continue to educate through social media and radio and newspaper interviews. On December 2, 2025, Governor Pritzker signed HB 767. This empowers IDPH to offer transparent science-based vaccine guidelines through the Immunization Advisory Committee (IAC) and expands vaccine access. It creates Vaccine Guidelines, Codifies the structure of the IAC, and requires Insurance Companies to cover recommended vaccines and administration of those same practices. The longest government shutdown ended November 12, 2025. · Most of the Federal government is currently operating on a continuing resolution through January 30, 2026. If not renewed, another shutdown may loom. However, three appropriation bills were voted on and passed that extended veteran benefits, SNAP, WIC and FDA until September of 2026. This should help some of our programs to run smoothly in the event of another work stoppage. With winter in full bloom, winter can bring lots of fun outdoor activities but be sure to be safe_ against such things as hypothermia, frostbite, exertions from snow shoveling, driving too fast for the conditions and slip and falls from ice and snow. It is a good time to just slow down and relax. We are monitoring an outbreak of Infant Botulism linked to ByHeart Powdered Formula. Parents and Guardians are urged to not to use this product until further notice. There have been two cases so far linked to Illinois. Our 2026 Food License Renewal process is currently underway. Many have renewed, many have yet to renew and the first late fees are not until after January 15, then the 30th for the second date. Our social media continues to promote public health and collaborative events within the community such as local warming centers including the Health Department during normal business hours; safety tips during cold and frigid weather conditions, car seat safety during winter when wearing coats, genetic screening through our genetics grant deliverables, as well as information on many other health related topics and issues and MUCH more. Our Radio Program Who Knew, began its 3rd year and continues to showcase our great programs and staff includes program of our collaborations and many special guests to showcase the community's involvement in the health of the public throughout the year. Listen to us on Saturday mornings from 10:30 am to 11 am on WKAN. Miss the show? We have the episodes on our website. Catch up from previously aired broadcasts.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Financial Status

Mr. Carrico advised the Board that they should have received the November 2025 draft and December 2025 draft financials in their packet and if anyone had questions please ask now. Currently these are only informational and no vote is needed.

For November 2025, this is just a DRAFT of the reports for the end of the year. As a reminder, we can put any revenue received in December and January BACK into November for services provided during that fiscal year (December 2024- November 2025). The revenue received in December for any grant services performed in November and prior has been put back into November. Therefore, you will see that the grant revenue is higher than usual for the month at \$357,476.23. That brings us to 89.16% for the year. We also received another small property tax distribution plus interest of \$9941.03 in December, which is actually for the 2025 tax year, so that was put back into November, and now puts us at 102.72% for the year. For Fees, we ended up slightly over the amount we budgeted, coming in at 102.22% for the year, or \$55,514.04 over the amount budgeted. Our interest for the month is higher than usual due to the Money Market interest for October not posting until 11/2/2025. The total interest for the month was just under \$20,000, and we ended the year just under \$180,000 in interest. Total revenue received thus far for the year is \$3,850,980.42, or 92.62%. Our outstanding Accounts Receivable through November 30, 2025 is \$164,068.13 (see attachment). Through 1/14/26, we have received \$48,708.94 of that amount, so there is \$115,359.19 still outstanding. On the expense side for November, we ended the year at 89.85% for Personnel & Fringe. Total operating expenses for the year are now at 80.99%, bringing the overall total expenses to 85.94% for the year. Currently we are showing \$3,573,198.09 in expenses, and we are now showing a surplus of \$277,782.33 for the year thus far. Again, these numbers are not final and will change after the revenue received in January 2026 for services performed prior to November 30, 2025, are put back into November. The auditors have already started requesting documents and information as well, so the FY2025 audit is already underway as well. For our cash on hand: Total Cash on Hand is \$5,174,106.92 as of 11/30/25.

For December 2025, this is just a DRAFT of the report for the beginning of the new year. All of the grant and property tax revenue received in December was moved back into November, so there is less revenue showing in December. For Fees, we started receiving payments for the new 2026 food licenses (47.63% of the annual budget in one month), so overall fees are higher than usual for a month and came in at 25.78% for the year, or \$145,304.44. The total interest for the month was \$13,566. The miscellaneous income for an outstanding lien payment on an old business location. Total revenue received thus far for the year is \$159,395.66, or 3.77%. The Accounts Receivable is not available for December 2025 yet due to billing not being due until 1/30/2026. On the expense side for December, we are at 6.34% for Personnel & Fringe. Total operating expenses for the year are now at 7.62%, bringing the overall total expenses to 6.85% for the year, still below the 8.33% budgeted amount each month. Currently we are showing \$289,439.86 in expenses, and we are now showing a deficit of \$130,044.20 for the new year. Cash on Hand is not yet available for December 2025 due to the bank reconciliation not yet being completely finished. Dr. Long made a motion to approve the September 2025 Financials seconded by Mrs. Hamblen and a roll call vote the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Carrico explained that he wanted to bring some new information to the Board as it affects the Health Department in relation to the 2026 Public Health Legislative Update. There are a few things to mention that could help us, the first is help with required paperwork and documentation to capture accurate overdose death statistics, more stringent prenatal testing, and contraception availability regarding state universities.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Bevis explained that we have diligently been working to update our Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual, which was a goal since COVID that was obviously interrupted at that time as we dealt with the pandemic. We are excited to announce that we have made some progress and hope to present it to the Personnel Committee in the next few months once we have the final draft ready. That will then be presented to the Board of Health for approval and then the Union in advance before presenting it to the full staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Johanek made a motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Mr. Gustafson and passed unanimously.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by,

Mrs. Neelie Panozzo, Secretary

Minutes Reviewed by, Mr. John Bevis, MPH, Public Health Administrator

Minutes prepared by Ms. Nicole Finnegan, HR Administrative Coordinator