

Kankakee County Health Department  
Regular Meeting  
March 19, 2026

Members Present: Dr. Ashu Bansal, Mr. Jim Johaneck, Mr. Rod Gustafson, Mrs. Neelie Panozzo, Mrs. Kathryn Hamblen

Members Absent: Mr. Antonio Carrico, Dr. Edward Kent Frye, Dr. Jeffery Long, Dr. Olatunji Akintilo

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

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

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Gustafson, seconded by Dr. Bansal, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*None*

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Gustafson to accept the February 19, 2026, Board of Health minutes, seconded by Mrs. Panozzo, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **EMPLOYEE INFORMATION**

Mr. Bevis reported that we are very excited to announce that we are down to one open position, the Maternal Child Health Coordinator. He also announced that we would be including staff anniversaries, so far this year we have Keith at 39 years, Deb K at 12 years, Angela at 11 years, Alan and Jen at 9 years, Amy at 7 years, and Lindsey at 3 years. We are excited for our staff to hit these important milestones, and we look forward to celebrating many more years with them.

#### **DIVISION REPORTS**

##### *Environmental Health*

Mr. Bevis reported on behalf of Mr. Wojnowski that we have received three proposals for our new Environmental Health platform as we were told by our current company, Tyler Technologies that they would be sunsetting the program we currently use as it would no longer be supported. After reviewing the quotes and some discussion from the Board, Dr. Bansal made a motion to approve Gov Tech as the selected option, seconded by Mrs. Panozzo and a roll call vote, the motion passed. Mr. Bevis thanked the Environmental Health team for all the time and work spent on researching programs that other Health Departments currently use, scheduling time to learn what the companies have to offer, and providing valuable feedback to present to the Board.

Mr. Bevis also explained the various roles Environmental Health has had to do regarding the tornado aftermath. There were many areas that experienced power outages, therefore this created a need to inspect food at these locations and make sure that they are up and running. We were also present at the MARC that

was set up to help families that suffered extensive damage, where we were able to provide well test kits so that families can test their water for bacteria at no cost to them as they try and navigate through this rough time.

### *Client Services*

Mr. Bevis reported on behalf of Mrs. Amy LaFine that they are currently very busy working on reviews and new grant updates. Amy was able to meet with Patrick Kerwood, the new CEO of Prime St. Mary's to explain our services and discuss opportunities in which we can collaborate. We are very excited to get an MOU setup so that we can work together on future projects going forward.

### *Administrator's Report*

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

After 37 years of the Kankakee Health Department being the host and lead on the Teen Conference for Kankakee Youth, we will be transitioning to a new organization beginning in 2026. Moving forward, the Kankakee Area YMCA will serve as the primary host and coordinating body for the Teen Conference. The KCHD will continue to serve as a collaborative partner on the planning and implementation of the conference. We are excited for this new chapter in reaching our youth with education and life skills. On February 24<sup>th</sup> I met with Patrick Kerwood, new CEO for St. Mary Hospital at the KCHD to discuss our previous and current relationship, current programs for each facility and what we can do moving forward to help improve the health of the community in which we both have matching visions.

We have been following several bills down in Springfield and have been updating our BOH members, sending information to our local politicians expressing our support or not with them with the reasons. Recent bills deal with cannabis infused products sold to under 21-year-olds, support for lock storage containers for cannabis products, support for newborn home visits, and increased funding for local health departments in Illinois.

Recent comings and goings for me have been: on February 19<sup>th</sup> I presented to IAPHA LHD Administrators re my experiences at Kankakee regarding my career, I completed a Mental Health First Aid Training locally obtaining a certification for such event, Attended the County Chamber for the State of the County and presented via video regarding the past year for the KCHD, our Carolyn Adams grant hosted an educational paint event on February 21<sup>st</sup> and provided education regarding breast cancer awareness. On March 14, we hosted the third NAACP health series talk regarding Mental Health in the lobby of the KCHD where over a dozen individuals received great information and education for how to recognize, seek out services and care available for any situation related to mental health. Following the storms earlier in the week the timing was incredibly important to our community. We attended the BBCHS Resource Fair on February 18<sup>th</sup> and provided information regarding our services and positions for seniors. On February 28<sup>th</sup> we spoke to our Who Knew Radio friends about the food fees, the reasons for the increase, needs for the funds for the increase and more about environmental health services for the Kankakee Health Department. Our levels of respiratory illnesses seem to be decreasing as the weather warms; however, the risk is still there, and we continue to preach sanitary practices to reduce the risk.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1030 am to 11am on WKAN. Miss the show? We have the episodes on our website. Catch up from

previously aired broadcasts.

Lastly, with the tornado recently the KCHD staff were involved in the EOC from its onset, assisting with and wherever we could to help promote, protect and monitor the health of our community as we responded heroically to the challenges of the damage and the storm damage. It is great to see how well all the agencies work together to help those in need when they need it. Our building sustained damage (as did many...) and we are assisting where we can with the process of repairs while still providing our day-to-day services with the staff (many of whom experienced damage themselves)

Mr. Bevis also explained that due to the storm, the Health Department building suffered extensive damage to multiple areas of the building including the roof, HVAC units, leaks from the roof to speakers and camera systems, many wet ceiling tiles, our sprinkler system, the letters, stucco, and paint damage to the front of the building, and the front LED sign. At this point we are currently in the process of getting quotes on the repairs/ and or replacement of everything necessary and are submitting those to Anita at the County for insurance purposes as we are combined with the County's policy. This type of damage would fall under an emergency situation, therefore, we should not have to go to bid for the repair. However, we are still in need of a lot of information to determine what the costs will be on multiple projects. Once we have more information on the extent of the damage and repairs in combination with the Insurance company we will share with the Board.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### *Financial Status*

Mr. Johaneck advised the Board that they should have received the February 2026 Financials and if anyone had questions, please ask now.

For February 2026, we received just under \$310,000 in outstanding grant revenue, so that brings us to 14.10% for the year. For Fees, we received another \$46,585 in Food Licenses & late fees, bringing the total to just over \$225,000, or 90% for the year. Clinic Fees were just over \$20k for the month, bringing that line to 21.11% for the year. Total fees are at 51.57% for the year, or about \$290,625 of the \$563,600 budgeted. The total interest for the month was \$12,626.03. We also received the annual rent payment from 911 this month, so that will show completed now for the year. Total revenue received thus far for the year is \$740,146.47, or 17.52%. Total outstanding Accounts Receivable as of the end of February 2026 is \$271,666.28 (see attached). The items that are shaded are for services performed and billed for in FY2025 that have not yet been received. However, as of 3/18/26, the only one still outstanding from the previous fiscal year is for the November 2025 HIV Prevention payment, which will most likely come this month.

On the expense side for February, we are at 18.69% for Personnel & Fringe. We have now hired all but one remaining open position (MCH Coordinator). Total operating expenses for the year are at 15.74%, bringing the overall total expenses to 17.51% for the year, still below the 25% budgeted. Currently we are showing \$739,640.52 in expenses, and we are now showing a surplus of \$505.95 for the current year. Cash on Hand is currently at \$5,443,918.03 at the end of February 2026. \$2,329,759.85 of that is in the IPTIP invested funds, and \$2,208,217.23 is in the money market. The remainder is in the checking account minus the outstanding checks due to vendors. Mrs. Hamblen made a motion to approve the February 2026 Financials, seconded by Dr. Bansal and a roll call vote, the motion passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

*None*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Bevis explained that as a result of the Environmental Health fees increase being presented to the full County Board, it was brought up by the Chairman that it would be good idea in the future to have more notice when the fees are increasing or setup some type of regular fee schedule. Mr. Bevis explained that this was brought up last month and it's an ongoing process as we receive data and information from surrounding counties so we can keep it as an open discussion for future planning purposes to determine the best process.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Bevis reminded the Board members that have terms expiring in June and wish to continue serving on the Board of Health to please fill out the application and get that turned into either us or Eric Cavender if they haven't already done so for processing.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*None*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Panozzo made a motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Mrs. Hamblen 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