

Kankakee County Health Department
Regular Meeting
May 21, 2026

Members Present: Mr. Antonio Carrico, Mr. Jim Johanek, Mr. Rodney Gustafson, Dr. Olatunji Akintilo

Mrs. Neelie Panozzo, Dr. Jeffery Long

Members Absent: Dr. Edward Kent Frye, Mrs. Kathryn Hamblen

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

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Carrico at 5:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Long to accept the April 16, 2026, Board of Health minutes, seconded by Mr. Johanek the motion passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Mr. Bevis reported that we received one resignation from Haylie Ullman, one of our WIC Nutritionists and we have posted this, as well as our other two open positions, an RN Case Manager, and an MCH Coordinator.

DIVISION REPORTS

Environmental Health

Mr. Bevis reported on behalf of Mr. Wojnowski that on May 13th we hosted a Larvicide training for local communities that operate a vector program. This is a requirement from the EPA that all operators be trained on what types of larvicide they distribute and we are happy to be able to provide this education. Mr. Bevis also thanked the Environmental Health team, including Alan and Angela, for volunteering to work after hours at the MARC to help families affected by the March 10, 2026, storm that hit our community.

Client Services

Mr. Bevis reported on behalf of Mrs. Amy LaFine that on the Grant side, the Better Birth Outcomes- Comprehensive (BBO-C) FY26 3rd Q Periodic Performance Review (PPR) was submitted to DHS and approved. KCHD is on track for all key metrics of the program. Also, BBO-C FY27 was applied for and granted to KCHD with a 650 Dyad(family) Caseload assignment.

We also want to congratulate Elizabeth Stipp, RN, on completing all educational requirements and successfully passed the exam to acquire Certified Lactation Specialist status. This level of consultation is a WIC program requirement for KCHD. Thank you, Elizabeth!

On the Communicable Disease side, we have given 4 COVID, 12 Pneumonia, 4 Shingles, and 7 Flu shots this month to date.

At the KCHD Well-Women's Clinic on Saturday 5/16 we had total of 20 women registered. The clinic provided complete physical assessment, lab screen, PAP smear, STD and HPV checks. One young woman was found positive for Type II Diabetes and successfully connected to her Primary M.D. for follow up so we are thankful we can provide these services to the community.

Some recent outreach activities that we have attended include the YMCA Healthy Kids Fair on 4/18, and the RMC Baby and Beyond Fair on 5/2.

Administrator's Report

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

On May 1, 2026, the Health Promotion team hosted the second Paint Party as part of the Carolyn Adams Grant for Breast Cancer Awareness and Education at the health department. It was attended by over 20 people.

On May 11 we attended the March 10, 2026, Hotwash hosted by the Kankakee EMA and Sheriff's Department. Over 74 people from multiple responding agencies attended the event to focus on lessons learned.

The department continues to monitor the recent Hantavirus outbreak and its impact on the U.S., and Illinois. Currently the message is that there is low concern regarding this form, Andes, to our community.

A recent IDPH News Release stated that Illinois maintains high childhood vaccination rates, which outpaces many other states. Locally, Kankakee has a 95% vaccination rate that is at or above the states goal of coverage for school age children to help prevent infectious disease spread. Through education, awareness and the health departments programs we are seeing the rates climb higher the past few years following the shutdowns of covid.

WIC, the Women's Infant and Children's program, is the nation's most successful and cost-effective health nutrition program. Its mission is to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at a nutrition risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care. In Illinois over 174,000 receive WIC, while in Kankakee County over 1,820 individuals receive the benefits. The average WIC package is \$94 per month. We are happy to have provided this program since our inception in 1987 having served almost 40 years of families.

We continue to work on and submit grants having recently submitted our Disease Intervention Specialist or DIS Grant through our Communicable Disease Program. We are working on submitting several other grants currently including Carolyn Adams renewal, a new grant opportunity Pediatric Vaccination for 2027, Comprehensive Local Health Protection Grant for 2027, and Public Health Emergency Preparedness.

The Health Department also recently became part of a collaboration of agencies locally seeking to bring NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness to our county. The mission of NAMI is to provide advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness build better lives. We look forward to seeing this evolve in the future as it's a much-needed resource for our residents.

The health department attended the Outdoor Event Weather Planning and Monitoring Seminar on April 3, 2026, at the Kankakee Community College. Discussions were held on outdoor planning, hazardous weather alerts, National Weather services and tools and interactive scenarios. As a result, we have also been able to sign up for SLACK, Searchable Log of All Conversation and Knowledge for extreme weather which is available for the emergency management community.

Our social media continues to promote public health and collaborative events within the community such as Mental Health Awareness Month, Older Americans Month, National Military Appreciation Month and Physical Fitness and Health Month, 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 1030 am to 11am on WKAN. Miss the show? We have the episodes on' our website. Catch up from previously aired broadcasts.

Our next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2026, at 2390 West Station, Kankakee at 5pm.

Mr. Bevis also read a letter we received from State Representative Jackie Haas recognizing the Kankakee County Health Department for their combined help with the March 10, 2026 storm and thanking everyone involved for the tremendous effort in disaster recovery that assisted so many affected families in our community.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Financial Status

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

For April 2026, we received \$109,373.72 in outstanding grant revenue, so that brings us to 25.42% for the year, where we should be at 41.67% for the year. For Fees, we received \$23,620.86 for the month. Total fees are at 59.23% for the year. The total interest for the month was \$12,788.47, bringing the interest to \$64,640.84 for the year, or about 48.97%. Total revenue received for the month was \$145,783.05; thus far for the year we are at \$1,127,706.98, or 26.69%, about 15% behind for the year.

On the expense side for April, we are at 32.22% for Personnel & Fringe. We have 2 open positions (MCH Coordinator and RN Case Manager). Total operating expenses for the year are at 32.77%, bringing the overall total expenses to 32.44% for the year, still below the 41.67% budgeted. Currently we are showing \$1,370,514.54 in expenses, and we are now showing a negative balance of about \$242,807.56 for the current year. We are currently owed over \$450k from the State for outstanding grant billing. (see list)

We have been keeping track of the expenses incurred from the damage from the storm on 3/10/26, and so far have paid out approximately \$10,000. That does not include the roof or any major repair expenses; this is just the immediate repairs to mitigate the damage done to the building and property. Cash on Hand is currently at \$5,211,945.49 at the end of April 2026. \$2,344,493.11 of that is in the IPTIP invested funds, and \$2,218,973.03 is in the money market. The remainder is in the checking account minus the outstanding checks due to vendors. Dr. Long made a motion to approve the April 2026 Financials, seconded by Mr. Johanek and a roll call vote, the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bevis updated the Board on the current status of repairs on the building. The County Board chairman had a meeting to discuss how the repair process was going to be handled. At that time, it was

discussed that there are other buildings covered by the County that are in need of repair and we were not deemed an emergency at this point. That being said, the County is going to need to put the repairs out to bid so they are currently in the process of working with the Insurance company to determine the cost and timeline for repairs and we will continue to keep the Board updated as we find out more information.

Mr. Bevis reminded the Board about the upcoming Gotion tour that was mentioned last month for all interested Board members. The tour is currently being scheduled with Mr. Wheeler, and we will try to make all efforts to accommodate everyone's schedule. You should receive an email with instructions once that is finalized.

Mr. Bevis congratulated Board of Health members who were up for renewal that they have been reappointed, this includes Mr. Carrico, Mr. Johanek, Mrs. Panozzo, and Mr. Rodney Gustafson.

Mr. Carrico reminded the Board about CHI, a program created by the Board to educate the residents of Kankakee on important health topics. Mr. Carrico announced that because there was a problem with getting people physically here, he is going to change gears to something that people can access anytime. This will be a podcast format that is prerecorded and there will be no cost to anyone to create or access and be similar to the radio show but more widespread. Mr. Carrico will start with Mr. Bevis for the first episode by explaining the role of the Administrator and the purpose and mission of the Health Department.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Gustafson made a motion to enter executive session to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)-

Personnel: The Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body or Legal Counsel for the Public Body and 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2)- Union Contracts

Mrs. Panozzo and Dr. Long made a motion to exit executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Dr. Akintilo made a motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Mr. Johanek 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