

Health & Education Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 21, 2024
5:00 PM, 2nd Floor, Joseph G. Cannon Building

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Adoption/Amendments to the Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – August 23, 2023
4. Audience Comments
5. Discussion/Presentation- STD Clinic- Dr. Danso-Odei
6. Executive Sessions:
 - A **Pursuant to Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)** The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity.
 - B **Pursuant to Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (2)** Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.
7. Items of Information
8. Adjournment

Special Health and Education Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 23, 2023
5:00 PM, 2nd Floor, Joseph G Cannon Building

MINUTES

Agenda Item 1- Call to Order and Roll Call

Committee Chairman Tim McFadden called the Health & Education meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Upon the Roll Call, the following members were present: Tim McFadden, Britny Hoag, Kevin Green, Phearn Butler and Christine LaMar. Phil Jackson was absent. (5 present, 1 absent).

Also present were: Larry Baughn – Chairman, Robyn Heffern - Chief Deputy County Clerk, Cathy Jenkins – County Clerk, Jerry Hawker – County Board Member, Bill Donahue – Audience Member, Kasey Snyder – Director Animal Shelter, Jim Russell – Mental Health Director, Emilee Gassl – Animal Shelter, Keionna Williams – Animal Shelter, Grace Kielich, Nancy Boose – HR Director and Cassy Carter - Financial Resources Director.

Agenda Item 2- Adoption/ Amendment to the Agenda

Green motioned to approve agenda, second by LaMar. Motion passed by acclamation.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Minutes from August 3, 2023

Motion made by Green, second by LaMar approve minutes. Motion passed by acclamation

Agenda Item 4 – Audience Comments

Bill Donahue spoke on to remind all that the county chose to have a shelter. There are many expenses to this shelter thank people realize. He asked that everyone be courteous to each other during these discussions.

Agenda Item 5 – Budget Mental Health FY2023-2024

Green Motion, second by Hoag to discuss.

Russell explained the budget has a requested increase. This is due to the increase of mental health needs. Also, to help other agencies whom have lost their funding.

Upon the call of the roll the following members voted yes, to wit: McFadden, Hoag, Green, LaMar, and Butler. 5 yes, 1 absent. Motion passed.

LaMar made a motion to increase the salary of the Mental Health Department Head by the approved county board action of 3.125% plus an additional \$10,000.00. This would take his salary to \$75,975. Second by McFadden.

Upon the call of the roll the following members voted yes, to wit: McFadden, Hoag, LaMar, and Butler. Green voted no. 4 yes, 1 no, 1 absent. Motion passed.

Hoag made a motion to increase the salary of the Mental Health Chief Deputy to \$50,000. The was second by LaMar.

Upon the call of the roll the following members voted yes, to wit: McFadden, Hoag, Green, LaMar, and Butler. 5 yes, 1 absent. Motion passed

Agenda Item 6 – Budget Animal Control FY2023-2024

LaMar Motion, second by Butler, discussion ensued to adjust the budget to include five additional employees bringing the total amount of the budget to \$1,583,510.00. Snyder explained the budget this year shows a much larger transfer from the General Fund, to ensure there is enough in the budget to fund it for the full year. This is a very transparent budget and there are no planned expenses from ARPA. She explained the need for five additional staff members, so that the hours could be extended as well as offering weekend hours. The issue with a small staff is being closed longer than 12 hours a day, which is not good for animals that need medication every 12 hours, as well as the amount of time they are in their kennels.

Upon the call of the roll the following members voted yes, to wit: McFadden, Hoag, Green, LaMar and Butler. 5 yes, 1 absent. Motion passed.

Agenda Item 7 – Executive Session

None.

Agenda Item 8 - Items of Information

Chairman Baughn noted that we will be having all meetings, since it is budget time. So please make sure to watch your emails.

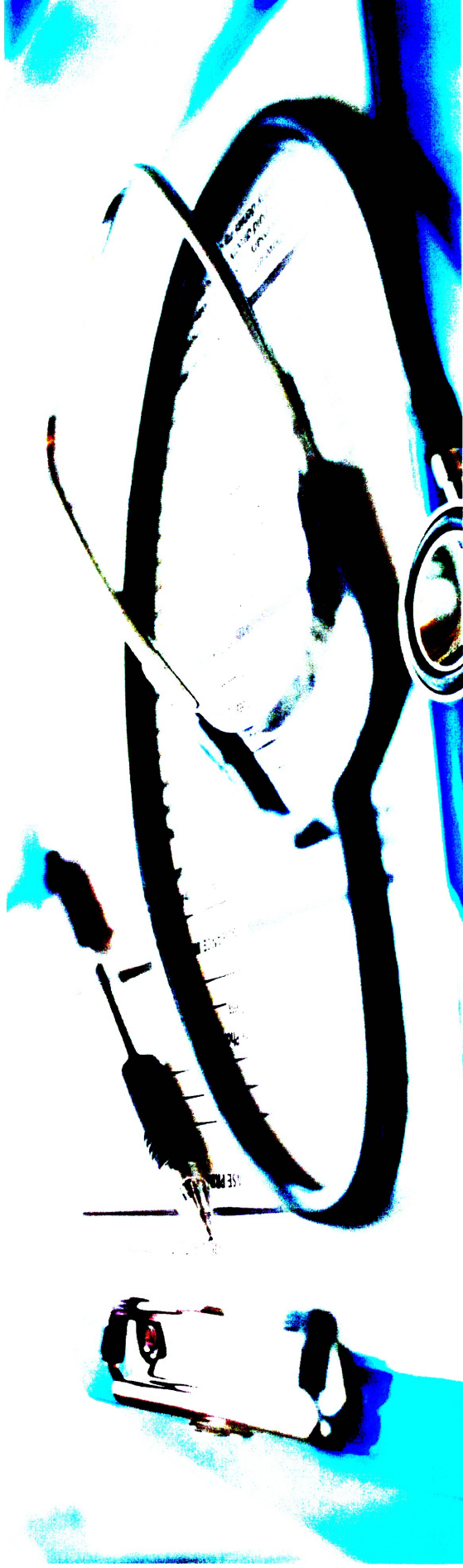
Agenda Item 9 - Adjournment

McFadden adjourned the meeting at 6:41PM.

Minutes by: Cassy Carter, Financial Resources Director

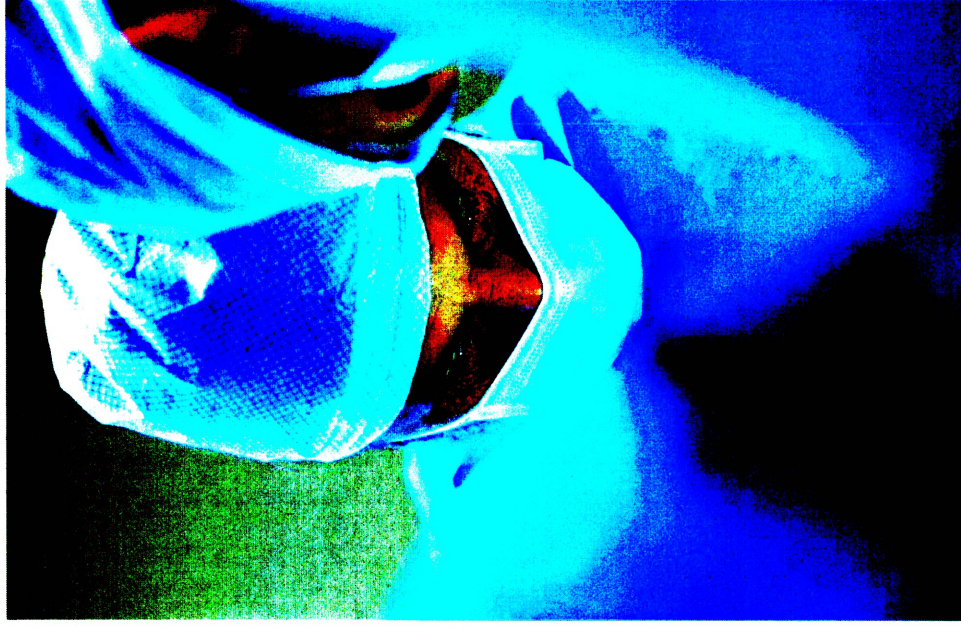
EXPANDING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES THROUGH STI PROGRAMMING

Julie Webb, RN, MSN-PHN
Edited by Dr. Prince Danso Odei, MD, DrPH, MPH, CHES



AGENDA

- Staffing
- Nursing Roles
- Electronic Health Records
- Building Usage
- Third Party Billing



INTRODUCTION

Vermilion County has historically been plagued by high rates of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's) as evidenced by data included in the county's IPLAN reports. Low health literacy, generational poverty, and reductions of STI screening, treatment, and partner services offered by the local health department have contributed to increased STI rates.



STI'S ARE ON THE RISE – EVERYWHERE

HOW OUR STATE RANKS COMPARED TO THE REST OF OUR COUNTRY

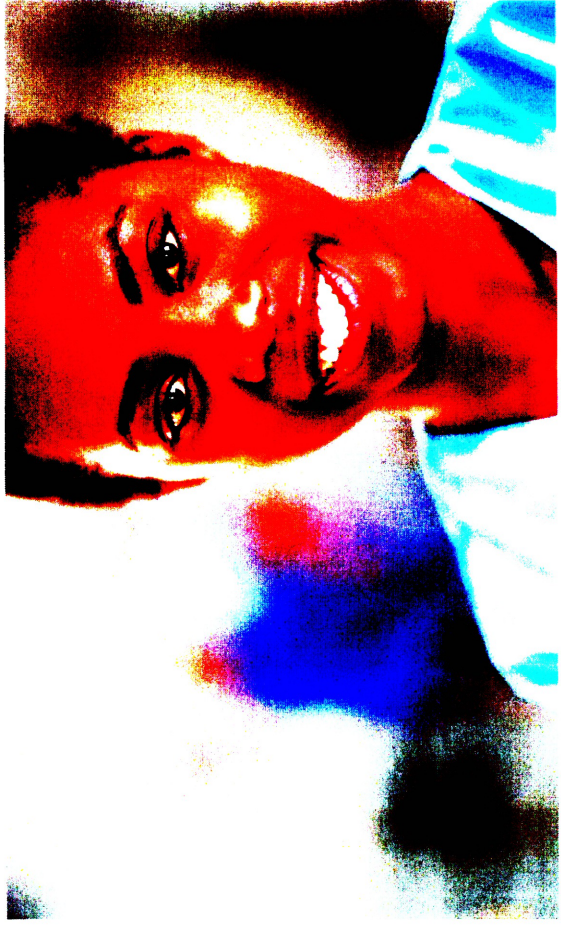
	Chlamydia	Gonorrhea	Primary & Secondary Syphilis	Congenital Syphilis
Illinois	Ranked #9 in Nation with 71,564 cases	Ranked #16 in Nation with 26,442 cases	Ranked #35 with 1,457 cases	Ranked #24 with 85 cases
United States	1.6 million cases (decreased by 6.2% since 2018)	648,056 cases (increased by 11% since 2018)	207,255 cases (80% increase since 2018)	3755 cases (183% increase since 2018)

HOW DO WE COMPARE TO HEALTHY PEOPLE 2030 GOAL FOR SYPHILIS?

- Healthy People 2030's goal is to decrease primary and secondary syphilis in women ages 15-44 to 4.6 per 100,000 people.
- As of November 2023, the rate of syphilis in Vermilion County women ages 15-44 was 16.2 per 100,000 people comparable to Cook County with a rate of 16.5 per 100,000 people.

THE WAY TO GET STARTED IS TO QUIT
TALKING AND BEGIN DOING.

Walt Disney



WE CAN DO THIS!

VERMILION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO INCREASING STI'S

Develop a comprehensive STI program

- Implement a nurse-led express STI clinic that provides the patient with options of triage-based STI screenings without the need for a full clinical examination for asymptomatic patients or a full testing visit for high risk or symptomatic patients.
- Provide expedited partner therapies to patients with known exposures
- Focus on STI prevention by providing education and resources such as free condoms
- Increase billable services to offset costs and increase program sustainability

Increase capacity

- Hire two additional RN's in the communicable disease department for STI screenings and treatments, lab draws, and case management.
- Hire a Nurse Practitioner to expand services for symptomatic patients.
 - Allows for potential to add pregnancy testing and family planning services
 - This position may be contractual until need is established.

Increase community education and resources

- Increase educational opportunities throughout the community through outreach and programming focusing on sexual health
- Collaborate with community-based organizations to extend the reach of STI services to the farthest parts of our communities
- Provide public and private schools with comprehensive STI education and resources
- Aggressively promote testing and treatment on social media forums



STAFFING

Maximizing usage of staff

EXPANSION OF TEAM DUTIES

- Restructure job duties so that each team member is working at the top of their scope of practice or expanded role.
- Every team member is to be cross-trained as a scribe with skills in phlebotomy and STI screening procedures.
- Following an Express STI Services Model developed by the National Association of County & City Health Officials will aid in maximizing staff and provide more opportunities to bill for services.



TEAMWORK WINS! 2023 CHRISTMAS
TREE DECORATING CONTEST

EXPANSION OF NURSING ROLE

- Nurses will work at the top of their scope of practice.
- Expanded duties in addition to current Communicable Disease/Immunization Nurse duties include the following:
 - Follow standing orders for screening and treatment therapies for STI's.
 - Provide patient education on prevention and spread of STI's
 - Make referrals to community partners based on Risk Assessment Screening
 - Maintain knowledge of STI's by staying up to date with current testing/treatments
 - Remain proficient in skills, assist team members in maintaining proficiencies to follow OSHA guidelines.
 - Delegate tasks to other team members
 - Organize and conduct community outreach activities
 - Maintain raw data for accountability, analysis, and program evaluations.
 - Collaborate with Community Health Educator for community training needs and opportunities for outreach
 - Provide guidance for other team members



BENEFITS OF TRANSITIONING TO ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

- Improves efficiency of case surveillance by eliminating the need for the “middle man” telephone calls
- Decreases operational costs and frees up workspaces by eliminating the need of paper charts
- Eliminates the need for paper signature forms for intakes and follow-ups
- Interfaces between state labs, reporting systems, billing eligibility systems, and ICARE
- Improves patient experience by shortening intake time and patients may view lab results via a patient portal
- Time-efficient tool for Quality Improvement projects
- Secure documentation through limited access

BUILDING USAGE

Patient Areas

- Waiting areas immediately outside of Communicable Disease/Immunizations reception window.
 - If increased privacy needed, waiting area at back of building may be used
- Patient care rooms – Four patient care rooms located in the back hallway will allow for privacy and easy access to bathroom, waiting areas, and exits.
- Patient care rooms will include patient education and counseling materials, prevention themed messaging, condoms.
- For safety, each patient care room will be equipped with a panic button and telephone.

Bathroom

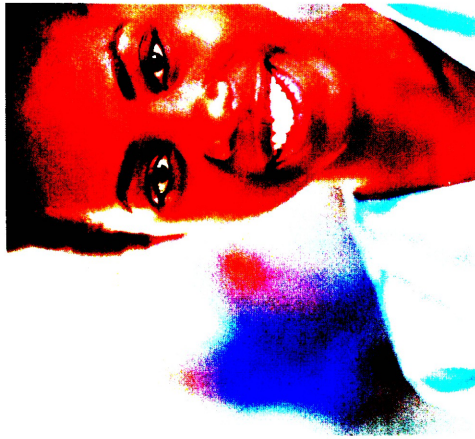
- Single-use bathroom located in the Communicable Disease/Immunization department's hallway will be converted to a patient-use bathroom with access door for urine cup collection.
 - Having only one bathroom available may affect patient experience by increasing wait times. Any additional bathrooms available for use would be ideal.

Lab

- Back portion of lab with back hallway access will house screening and shipping supplies. Screening supplies and shipping supplies will be provided by IDPH.
- Two refrigerators will be designated for STI screening specimens.

THIRD PARTY BILLING

- Illinois Public Health Association's third party billing project provides a grant to local health departments that pays for upfront costs of software including training and travel.
- Assists with contact and credentialing
- Assists with setting up billing with managed care organizations, provides technical assistance, provides revenue cycle management by tracking denials, and has an eligibility tool that interfaces with electronic health records.
- Provides a means to bill for nurse visits.
- Allows for the use of a bar code scanner for vaccine inventory management.



SUMMARY

Vermilion County Health Department is in a prime position to provide STI services. With internal reorganization and trainings, capacity building, and adequate support from IPHA, IDPH, and other community partners, VCHD can address the ever-increasing numbers of STI's in our communities.



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU

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