



Kane County

KC Public Health Committee

Meeting Minutes

Government Center
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A
Geneva, IL 60134

STRATHMANN, Sanchez, Arroyo, Juby, Penesis, Tarver, Young, ex-officios Roth (County Vice Chair) and Pierog (County Chair)

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

9:00 AM

County Board Room

1. Call To Order

Chairman Strathmann called today's meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT	Board Member Cherryl Strathmann Board Member Jarett Sanchez Board Member Leslie Juby Board Member David Young Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Bill Roth
REMOTE	Board Member Alex Arroyo Board Member Ted Penesis Board Member Bill Tarver
ABSENT	Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog

Also present: Co. Bd. members Allan*, Bates, Gripe, Linder, Molina*; KCAC Admin. Youngsteadt; KCHD Exec. Dir. Isaacson and staff Barrett and Onwuta; Spec. ASA Shepro; ASA Frank; ITD/BLD Exec. Dir. Fahnestock*; ITD staff Peters; and members of the press and public including Asst. Dir. for Communicable Disease Apryll Elliott, Asst. Dir. of Environmental Health Julie Wiegel, Environmental Health Supervisors Colleen Nyland, and Kristin Johnson.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

Chairman Strathmann announced the remote attendance requests for today's meeting. She asked the Committee if there were any objections to Committee Members Arroyo, Penesis, Tarver attending remotely. There were no objections.

4. Approval of Minutes: August 20, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez

5. Public Comment

Committee Member and Kane County resident David Young addressed trans-gender violence, domestic terrorism acts, and hate crimes happening in the United States. Young stated that these violent actions were all performed by members of the LGBTQ group. He stated that the Democratic Party embraces this group and the culture of evil. Young expressed his concerns on when the LGBTQ group will be denounced by Democratic leaders.

Kane County resident Tricia Miller addressed Committee Member David Young's public comment on trans-gender gun violence from a previous meeting. She believes his comments to be demeaning, hateful, and false.

Kane County resident Vicki Davidson-Belle referenced a written letter from a friend. The letter stated that 57.1 percent of gun violence is committed by white males, with 97.7 percent being male. This is the highest percentage of any race and sex to commit any act of gun violence in the United States. Less than 1 percent of gun violence acts are committed by anyone who identify as trans-gender. She shared her positive and non-threatening experiences with trans-gender people. Davidson-Belle perceives Committee Member David Young's insinuation that trans-gender people are violent is false. She believes that his cult-like views add to violence and trigger all people and children of all sexual orientations less safe. She suggested Young learn the difference between a fact and a cult-like opinion. As a mother and citizen, she is concerned for Young's mental stability to serve on the Kane County Board.

Kane County resident Denise Theobald addressed Committee Member David Young's comments on trans-gender gun violence. She reminded him of the elected position rules and policies including political activity during compensated time, and spreading partisan attacks and misleading information is prohibited. Theobald expressed her disapproval of Young's act of hijacking committee meetings to spew his hate. She stated that the claims that trans-gender people are responsible for committing violent crimes and murders are false.

Committee Member and Kane County resident Bill Tarver spoke on the increasing suicide rates and gun violence acts. He stated that in 2023, over 49K Americans died by suicide, at a rate of approximately 14.7 deaths per one-hundred thousand people. Despite a dip around the pandemic years, the overall suicide rate has climbed to 36 percent since the year 2000. Suicide remains the leading cause of death, especially for individuals ages 10 to 34. In 2023, more than 55 percent of suicides involved firearms. Nearly 27K were deaths by gun suicide, accounting for 58 percent of all gun-related deaths that year. Tarver stated that for too long mental health has been treated as secondary, rather than an essential part of our wellbeing. The lack of funding and access to care leaves too many people without hope, resources, and lifelines they need. Lastly, Tarver stated that all must demand greater investment in mental health services in schools, workplace environments, and in neighborhoods.

Board Member and Kane County resident Mavis Bates stated that the act of unjustly blaming trans-gender people by Republicans, including one of the members on the

Kane County Board, must stop. She stated that lying about trans-gender people committing mass-shootings serves two purposes for the conservative agenda. She noted that data shows that mass shooters are overwhelmingly straight men. According to the violence project, 97 percent of mass shootings are committed by men. The gun violence reports state that out of more than 5K mass shootings, the number of trans-gender or LGBTQ plus suspects is less than one tenth of one percent. The people of Kane County demand justice and respect for all.

Kane County resident Paula Merrington addressed Committee Member David Young's public comment on trans-gender gun violence from a previous meeting. She believes his comments to be demeaning, hateful, and false. She stated that according to the Williams Institute, trans-gender people are over four times more likely to be the victims of violent crimes, and 73 percent of those are victims of gun violence. Merrington looks forward to Committee Member David Young's apology for his outrageous statements.

6. Finance/Budget

A. Monthly Report

The monthly reports are on file. No additional report was made.

7. Animal Control

A. Monthly Report

Kane County Animal Control (KCAC) Admin. Younsteadt stated that all monthly reports are on file. He announced that there are only two clinics left for the year. One of the clinics will be tonight from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The last vaccine clinic is on Saturday, October 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Last year, over 650 vaccines were administered. Lastly, Younsteadt provided an aerial view of the Geneva facility showing where the new dog water fountain will be located. The water pipes have been installed, and concrete has been poured. The water fountain will feature a plaque honoring Sylvia Snyder's generosity, ensuring her legacy continues to benefit the community, and its four-legged residents. More updates will be provided at next month's meeting. Further discussion ensued.

8. Executive Director

A. Highlight on West Nile Virus Prevention

Asst. Dir. for Communicable Disease, Apryll Elliott, explained that the West Nile Virus (WNV) is a vector borne disease that affects the neurological system. In 1991, the first human case was identified in the United States was in New York. Elliot noted that WNV is a reportable disease, and must be reported as soon as possible or within three days. For human cases by month of onset, on average from 2015 to 2024, most onsets occur predominantly in the months of August and September. Elliot stated that the WNV is primarily transmitted from the bite of an infected mosquito. WNV can also be transmitted through transfusion of blood, a transplanted organ, from mother to infant, or breastfeeding. There have been no identifications of transmissions of the virus occurring from person to person. Symptoms of WNV are mild, with only up to 20 percent of individuals will develop flu-like symptoms. Other virus symptoms include a slight fever, headache, body aches, rash, or lymph node swelling. The duration of these symptoms may last a few days to several weeks. Less than 1 percent of individuals infected with WNV will develop severe illness, and ten percent of people developing severe illness affecting the central nervous system ultimately will die. To prevent WNV, use insect repellent, wear long, loose-fitting shirts and pants, and use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors.

Environmental Health Supervisor Kristin Johnson highlighted the components of the Mosquito Control Program. The components include identification of potential breeding sites, eliminating breeding site when possible, surveillance tapping and testing, complaint investigations, public education, larval control, and adult control. Johnson explained that collecting data allows decisions to be made with accurate real time information, and post-treatment assessment of mosquito levels are required to insure effectiveness of adulticiding. The two types of mosquitoes are floodwater and house mosquitoes. Johnson shared a picture of a Gravid Trap, which is a device that collects mosquitoes that are seeking a location to lay eggs. A special organic mix is added to the trap once a week to replenish the trap's attractiveness. Other mosquito surveillance and testing include larva dipping equipment and Rapid Analyte Measurement Platform testing (RAMP). The RAMP tests for a virus in the mosquito sample by using a disposable cartridge and fluorescence reader. Traditionally, there is testing of WNV done on dead birds. However, Johnson noted that due to the high Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) disease, there will be no bird testing in 2025. Elliot addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion ensued.

B. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month - Kane County Data

KCHD Exec. Dir. Isaacson provided data on Suicide Prevention Awareness in Kane County. He stated that although the rates have been stable from 2015 to 2023, the suicide mortality rate increased over 30 percent from 2023 to 2024. The suicide demographics show that in 2024, the average age of death was 48 years old. This is an increase from 43 years old in 2015. Isaacson noted that from 2015 to 2024, nearly 80 percent of all decedents were male. Over the past ten years, the most common method of suicide from years 2015 to 2024 in Kane County was hanging or other forms of asphyxiation. This makes up 43 percent of all suicide deaths. The second most common method of suicide deaths are gunshot wounds with a total of 155 cases. Isaacson reminded the Committee of the 988 Crisis Hot Line available to anyone facing mental health struggles, emotional distress, alcohol or drug use concerns, or just need someone to talk to, counselors are available to provide the emotional support, and resources they need.

C. KCHD Elgin Facility Updates

KCHD Exec. Dir. Isaacson stated that additional renovations of the Elgin Facility continue to go smoothly. New air conditioning units will be installed next week. Additional renovations on the conference room and other offices will begin early October. A resolution on approving final renovations for the facility will be presented at next month's meeting. (Committee Member Arroyo left at 10:15 a.m.)

- D. Ratifying and Approving Agreements with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Homeless Prevention Grants for Program Year 2025

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez
SECONDER:	Leslie Juby
AYE:	Cherryl Strathmann, Jarett Sanchez, Leslie Juby, Ted Penesis, Bill Tarver, and David Young
ABSENT:	Corinne M. Pierog
AWAY:	Alex Arroyo

9. **Old Business**

None.

10. **Reports Placed On File**

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez

11. **Executive Session (if needed)**

None.

12. **New Business**

Committee Member Young requested a presentation on heart disease, and to focus more on diseases that affect large quantities of people in the U.S.

13. **Adjournment**

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez
SECONDER:	David Young

This meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary