



AGENDA
Board of Health
Buechner Room
Arlington Heights Village Hall, 33 S. Arlington Heights Rd., AH 60005
January 27, 2025
6:30 PM

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. September 23, 2024 Minutes
- IV. REPORTS
 - A. Health & Human Services Director Update
 - B. Nursing Services Update
 - C. Social Services Update
- V. OLD BUSINESS
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Discussion for 2026-2027 Strategic Priorities
- VII. OTHER BUSINESS
 - A. Announcements / Correspondence
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Anyone wishing to speak on a subject not on the Agenda may speak at this time. Please limit your comments to three minutes.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, such as an American Sign Language interpreter or written materials in accessible formats, should contact Erin Mercado, at 33 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005, emercado@vah.com or 847/368-5793.



Minutes
Village of Arlington Heights
Board of Health
Buechner Room
33 S. Arlington Heights Rd., AH 60005
September 23, 2024
6:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Meservey called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Present

Jerome Meservey, M.D.
Chairperson
Karen VanLandeghem, MPH
Kristen Brown, M.D.
Joseph Novak, Psy.D.
Ashley Bae, LCSW

Also Present

James McCalister, Commission Liaison
Lindsay Dohse, Nursing Supervisor
Darren Brown, Social Services Coordinator
Kimberly Witt, Administrative Assistant

Not Present

William Moran, M.D.
Shalu Gugnani, M.D.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. NOVAK, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2024 MEETING, SECONDED BY MS. VANLANDEGHEM AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

IV. REPORTS

A. Health & Human Services Director Update

Mr. McCalister reported that he receives a weekly update from the Northwest Mosquito Abatement District regarding mosquito activity in the Northwest district. Upon reviewing the latest report, he noted a higher mosquito load this year from

June to late August. The report indicated six probable or confirmed human cases in the district, with two occurring in Arlington Heights.

The data included a chart summarizing information about various communities, the number of pools tested during the week, the number of positive pools for the week, the total number of pools tested for West Nile Virus, and the total number of positive pools overall. Most communities had positive pool results, and Arlington Heights ranked in the top half for positive pools tested.

He explained that larviciding is conducted in every community early in the season. When testing reveals positive pools, aerial spraying by trucks is initiated as a follow-up measure.

Mr. McCalister announced the final latex paint collection event of the season would take place on October 15 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM at Public Works. This popular event allows residents to drive thru Public Works to drop off latex paint and aerosol spray cans.

He also mentioned having a summer intern for the first time since the pandemic. The intern conducted inspections of multi-family complexes to ensure they were still adhering to recycling practices. Mr. McCalister noted that she performed exceptionally well in her role.

Mr. McCalister stated that they are exploring a pilot program with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) for household hazardous waste collection. He explained that the municipality recently opted into this project in response to frequent inquiries from residents about disposing of household hazardous waste, such as oil-based paints, automotive fluids, household cleaning materials, and lawn care chemicals.

The pilot program is still in the planning stages, with details being finalized. Clean Harbors will manage the program, operating on a rotating schedule among the participating communities. Residents will contact Clean Harbors with an inventory of their items and receive detailed instructions along with a heavy clear plastic bag before their scheduled collection. The cost for residents will be \$75 per pickup. The program will be limited to 130 pickups per month, averaging 30 pickups per week.

Mr. McCalister noted that another environmentally friendly initiative under consideration is year-round composting. Currently, Groot offers a composting option during the summer and fall seasons. The company has indicated they would be willing to extend the program year-round if there is sufficient interest to make it viable. Mr. McCalister expects to have more information on the feasibility of this program by the end of the year.

The Village Board raised concerns about gas-powered leaf blowers due to noise issues. The matter was referred to the Environmental Commission, which completed its report last week. Mr. McCalister reviewed the report, outlining its pros and cons.

Mr. McCalister noted that Terese Biskner participated in an FDA virtual training conference focused on food code updates that will require enforcement.

The Senior Center held its Live Well Age Well Expo on June 20th, attracting over 200 attendees. The event featured 50 paid vendors and 17 nonprofits, making it

a resounding success. Due to its popularity, the Senior Center plans to host this event annually.

Currently, they are organizing their first Casino Night, set to take place on October 10th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. The event will include mocktails and signature appetizers from various restaurants. Guests can enjoy a variety of gaming tables, including blackjack, poker, craps, and bingo.

Mr. McCalister announced that, as of October 1st, Catholic Charities will no longer manage the congregate meal program, Meals on Wheels program, Adult Protective Services, or the Aging and Disabilities Resource Network. Meals on Wheels Northeastern Illinois will assume responsibility for the congregate and Meals on Wheels programs, while the North Shore Senior Center will oversee Adult Protective Services, and the Kenneth Young Center will manage the Aging and Disabilities Resource Network. With Catholic Charities no longer requiring two offices at the Senior Center, one office will be offered to the North Shore Senior Center and the other to the Kenneth Young Center.

Mr. McCalister reported that the Strategic Planning Process with NIU Governmental Studies is underway. As part of this process, they participated in a full-day meeting with stakeholders to refine and prioritize the strategic goals for the Senior Center over the next eight years. He presented an overview of the finalized goals.

He noted that the 2025 Health Department budget meeting is approaching and confirmed that there will be no significant changes to the budget. Additionally, he provided an overview of the Health Department's strategic goals for 2025.

Mr. McCalister referenced an article he shared with the Board about a suburban hospital discontinuing its pediatric services. He noted that this appears to be a growing trend among neighboring hospitals and a Board member emphasized that it is not just an issue in rural areas.

B. Nursing Services Update

Ms. Dohse reported that the New Moms Support Group has been rebranded as the First Time Parents' Meetup and relocated from the Senior Center to the Arlington Heights Memorial Library. This transition has resulted in increased attendance, with an average of 8 to 10 parents and babies participating. She noted that some months include a specific topic, while other times the group provides an organic space for parents to support one another. The meetup will take a break in December and January, with sessions resuming in February.

It was mentioned that a CPR class for new parents has been introduced at the library. Efforts are being made to improve the marketing of the class, although the library has already advertised it. The class will be held quarterly.

It was noted that there has been interest in CPR classes for grandparents, as they often care for their grandchildren. In response, the nurses will be hosting a CPR class at the Senior Center to accommodate this request.

Ms. Dohse shared that every other month, she hosts a lunch-and-learn session for Village employees. Last week, she educated employees about cardiovascular

disease, including risk factors and lifestyle changes related to heart attacks, strokes, and high blood pressure. The next session will focus on diabetes.

Ms. Dohse also reported that she is in her final semester of the Masters of Public Health program. For her internship, she has attended several Cook County Department of Public Health meetings and classes, inspected restaurants with a health inspector, and worked with the Social Services division.

She presented at Cedar Village on the topics of vaccines and dementia and also brought a therapy dog to visit the residents there.

Ms. Dohse and Ms. Colagrossi completed their Fit & Strong course at the Senior Center, which was well attended. They hope to offer this course again in the spring of 2025.

A carload of medical supplies was donated to Project CURE in Woodridge. Project CURE provides life-saving medical equipment, supplies, and services to people in poverty, disaster zones, and areas affected by violence.

There have been numerous crises visits by Social Services for seniors aging in place in poor conditions.

Upcoming events include the ordering of COVID-19 and high-dose flu shots for homebound residents. The Brats and Shots employee event and the family flu clinic will take place on October 10. Ms. Dohse will also host a Municipal Nurses meeting on October 22 and a wellness event featuring a blood pressure check and hemoglobin A1c test with Mary Beth Candy on October 19 at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library. Additionally, she is working on food bank outreach to connect with individuals who may not be aware of the services offered by the Village, distributing literature and brochures to inform them about available resources.

C. Social Services Update

Mr. Brown reported that they had a busy summer, handling various types of crises. Erin Mercado and Ms. Dohse collaborated on cases involving homebound seniors with diminishing capacity.

There has been an increase in demand for financial assistance, with multiple calls received each day from residents struggling with the rising cost of living. Many apartment complexes have raised rental rates, and property tax hikes have led to higher bills for residents. The biggest challenge is faced by seniors on fixed incomes.

Homelessness cases have also increased, particularly before the summer. These cases are especially challenging, as homeless services are also stretched thin, resulting in limited availability of programs.

The division has exceeded its monthly allotment for June, July and August for emergency assistance. They partner with several other organizations in order to meet the needs for the resident. One of the goals for next year is to figure out how to keep the program sustainable due to increased demand to run the program.

Mr. Brown mentioned that Ms. Mercado is trained in grief counseling, and they are hoping to launch an initiative with the school in the upcoming school year. Ms. Mercado also collaborates with Ms. Colagrossi at the Senior Center, where they will be starting their first grief group. They aim for the group to be an 8-12 week closed session, co-facilitated by a social worker from the police department. Currently, they are waiting to gauge interest, after which they will finalize the group setup and schedule the first session for this fall.

He is collaborating with the library to hold open office hours for Social Services. Twice a month on Tuesday mornings, he will be at the library, offering sessions to clients and providing staff with information on mental health issues. The first session was very successful, and the library has consistently supported these programs. This initiative offers an opportunity to reach more people in the community.

Mr. Brown has also hosted a mental health session with the employees of the Village. It was an overview on how to be self-aware of stress and how it impacts their interactions with other people.

Additional events over the summer included monthly volunteering for the Summer Suppers program in partnership with the Police Department at the Lutheran Church. In August, the Health Department hosted and provided the supper. He also mentioned their participation in the Alexian Brothers Municipal Forum event, the Live Well Age Well Expo at the Senior Center, National Night Out, and several school fairs.

Mr. Brown shared that they are preparing for the holiday assistance program, which provides Thanksgiving meals and a holiday gift initiative for families. The program is promoted across the Village's social media platforms. It supports families who have needed assistance throughout the year, as well as referrals from partner agencies. Additionally, a social media post will be published to recruit sponsors for the program. Last year, more than 70 families participated.

In addition, Mr. Brown announced that the Arlington Cares organization is dissolving. To address this, he is developing a plan to accept direct public donations and adopt the Arlington Cares model, with operations managed through the Health Department. This initiative will be promoted via social media, the Village e-newsletter, the newspaper, and potentially included with the water bill mailing and at the early voting registration site. The donations will support both emergency assistance and the holiday assistance program.

It was asked whether Mr. Brown accompanies the police department on calls, to which he responded that the department has a full-time Social Services Advocate and a Crisis Counselor who accompany the police. He also mentioned that the Social Services division and the police department will begin sharing a database, as they both work with many of the same clients.

Mr. Brown shared that the PAD shelters will open on October 1. The PAD shelter is an additional component of the Journeys program, which operates under a cooperative agreement with local churches. Two churches participate, opening from 7 PM until morning, with the location changing each night. Regarding the Journeys interim-housing program, it is currently open four nights a week, depending on volunteer availability. However, they hope to expand soon by hiring new staff to cover overnight shifts and recruiting volunteers for the evening shift to operate every night. They are still working toward this goal.

This program is not designed as an immediate crisis shelter. Instead, it targets clients facing significant barriers to stabilizing in the community, such as mental health and physical health challenges. Clients can apply for the program through their case manager, who they meet after successfully completing an intake. Once fully staffed and operational, the program aims to operate 24/7 year-round. Currently, the hotel program is not accepting new clients. The shelter program is only available to individuals with an active intake on file and a completed background check. Intakes are conducted in the morning, starting at 7:30 AM and closing at 3:30 PM.

Mr. Novak, raised the question regarding the state's mandate on mental health screenings in schools, and several members responded that they have not heard any updates on the matter. Dr. Brown shared that she has not seen any patients resulting from positive screenings from schools and suggested that it will likely take some time for schools to fully implement the screenings.

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Meservey inquired whether the Senior Center programming booklet could be mailed to every senior in Arlington Heights to ensure they are aware of the available programs. Mr. McCalister responded that he would work with Tracey Colagrossi, Senior Center Manager, to look into this.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MS. VANLANDEGHEM, SECONDED BY DR. BROWN TO ADJOURN AT 8:00 P.M., ALL CONCURRED AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



VILLAGE OF
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
— INC. 1887 —

Board of Health
1/27/2025

Item: Discussion for 2026-2027 Strategic Priorities

Department: Health & Human Services

Item Description:

ATTACHMENTS:

None