



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

Essential Service #9: *Evaluate and improve programs and interventions*

Reaccreditation

On November 25, 2019 the Kane County Health Department received word from Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) that it has successfully achieved national reaccreditation, extending its accreditation status for another five years. KCHD was the first county health department in Illinois to achieve accreditation.

“The Kane County Health Department is proud of achieving reaccreditation,” said KCHD executive director Barbara Jeffers. “Our team members strive to uphold the national standards for excellence in public health. The accreditation process helps to ensure that the programs and services we provide are as responsive as possible to the needs of our community.”



The national accreditation program, jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation’s nearly 3,000 governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. To receive reaccreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.

“The Kane County Health Department remains as a highly accredited health department with a strong commitment to their public health mission,” said PHAB President and CEO Kaye Bender, PhD, RN, FAAN. “The peer-review process provides valuable feedback to inform health departments of their strengths and areas for improvement, so that they can better protect and promote the health of the people they serve in their communities. Residents of a community served by a nationally accredited health department can be assured that their health department has demonstrated the capacity to protect and promote the health of that community.”

Ten essential services of Public Health

1. Monitor health status and understand health issues facing the community
2. Protect people from health problems and health hazards
3. Give people the information they need to make healthy choices
4. Engage the community to identify and solve health problems
5. Develop public health policies and plans
6. Enforce public health laws and regulations
7. Help people receive health services
8. Maintain a competent public health workforce
9. Evaluate and improve programs and interventions
10. Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health

Essential Service #9. Evaluate and improve programs and interventions

Animal Control Goes Solar

Kane County Animal Control (KCAC) is celebrating its status as the first county building to utilize solar energy. At a solar panel ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 26, Kane County Chairman Christopher J. Lauzen was joined by Barbara Jeffers, Executive Director of Kane County Health, Anita Lewis, Chair of the Kane County Public Health Board and Brett Youngsteadt, Administrator for Kane County Animal Control. Guests also included several county elected officials, community members and staff from other departments.

The panels provide the Animal Control building with nearly all of its energy needs. The first two months with the panels have shown a \$0 bill from the electricity company. Kane County Animal Control is on a 25 year lease from the solar company, WCP Solar of Naperville, with monthly costs far less than their average electricity bill. WCP Solar secured grants and credits to reduce the monthly lease cost. Cost savings will go back into the shelter’s budget and directly benefit the animals.

Converting county buildings to solar power has been a goal of the Kane County Board of Commissioners for many years. Kane County is committed to using clean energy and renewable resources. No greenhouse gas emissions are released into the atmosphere when solar panels are used to create electricity. The building has grid back up for nights and days with little to no sun light.

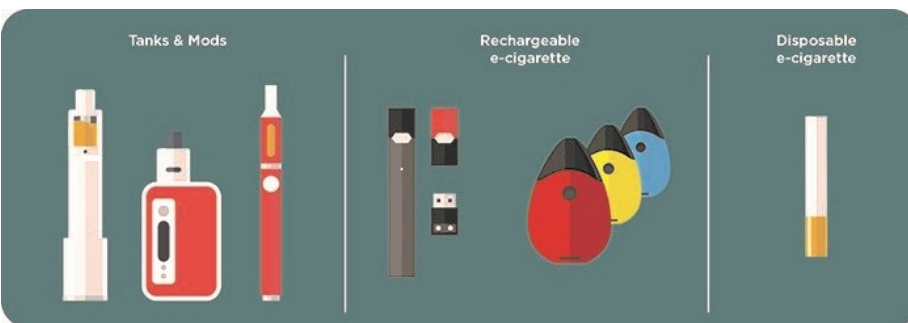


Back row: Kane County Board Member Christopher Kious, Board Member Jarret Sanchez, Executive Director, Building Management Ricky Sparks, Board Member Anita Lewis, Front Row: Board Member Susan Starrett, KCHD Executive Director Barb Jeffers, Kane County Chairman Chris Lauzen, Board Member Deborah Allan, KCAC Brett Youngsteadt.

Essential Service #3: Give people the information they need to make healthy choices

Vaping Web Page

The Kane County Health Department has just launched a web page on vaping. The vaping page at KaneHealth.com/Pages/Vaping.aspx contains information about E-cigarette, or Vaping, product use Associated Lung Injury (EVALI), a term coined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Information on the KCHD’s role in vaping education, the effects of vaping on youth, and help with vaping and smoking cessation. Businesses looking to go vape-free can get advice from the KCHD by contacting Holly Klatt at klattholly@co.kane.il.us or at 847-888-7110.