

Kathy Fosser, Interim Executive Director



## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

Essential Service #10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

### Kane County Health Department Executive Director Barbara Jeffers Retires



Kane County Health Department Executive Director Barbara Jeffers, MPH, announced her retirement, effective December 1, 2020. In a letter to the Kane County Board, Jeffers expressed her thanks for her 15 years at the nationally accredited and highly respected Kane County Health Department, the last eight-and-a-half years as the Executive Director. Jeffers also oversaw Kane County Animal Control.

“During my tenure as the Executive Director, I dutifully led our staff as we guided and supported residents of Kane County through a significant TB Outbreak, Ebola, Zika, and now Covid-19 while maintaining a balanced budget annually,” said Jeffers. “Our success in taking on these challenges was strengthened by the infrastructure we developed and sustained through our twice achieving National Public Health Accreditation status. Being a vital contributor and leader of these significant public health achievements has been the highlight of my career.”

Said Jeffers, “Throughout my time at the health department I have witnessed the work and performance of our dedicated and committed employees who each day faithfully showed how committed they are to the health and safety of Kane County residents. Their performance during the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed how essential their work is to the betterment and survival of our county. One of the unknown jewels of our county health system is our Animal Control department and during my tenure, they successfully repaid their debt to the county as well as maintained a balanced budget annually.” In her closing words, Jeffers remarked, “I will miss all those who I have encountered during my tenure and know my work continues in spirit. Now is the time for me to blaze the retirement trail with vigor.”

### Ten Essential Services of Public Health 2020

1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets
2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population
3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it
4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health
5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health
6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health
7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy
8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce
9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement
10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

Link to Departmental Statistics: [kanehealth.com/Pages/Public-Health-Reports.aspx](http://kanehealth.com/Pages/Public-Health-Reports.aspx)

Essential Service #10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

**Kathy Fosser Named Kane County Health Department Interim Executive Director**



The Kane County Board has approved Kathy Fosser to be the transitional Interim Executive Director for the Health Department. This comes after the recent retirement of Executive Director Barbara Jeffers.

In 2007, Fosser joined Kane County working in Public Health for Barbara Jeffers, who at that time was the Director for Resources and Support. Fosser maintained her focus on labor relations, employee trainings/skill competencies, improving processes/efficiencies within the department, employee safety, and assisted with financial/accounting functions. In 2011, she joined Kane County Department of Employment & Education (which has since been renamed Kane County Office of Community Reinvestment-

Workforce Development Division) where she monitored, reviewed and audited sub-recipient providers receiving federal grant funds. In 2013, Fosser returned to Public Health in Senior Management under Barbara Jeffers' Executive Leadership. "It was during this time, I knew this was my calling and Barb truly made me fall in love with public health and working to improve population health in our community," said Fosser.

Fosser is a Kane County resident since 1998 and lives with her husband and children. She will be reporting to recently sworn County Board Chairperson Corinne M. Pierog who will oversee this position's transition and recruitment to be determined 2021.

---

Essential Service #4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health

**Rapid Antigen Testing Deployed in Kane County**

KCHD has begun using the Abbot BinaxNOW COVID rapid test kits throughout the county. The first allocation of more than 24,000 test kits have been received and are being allocated. In conjunction with the Kane County Office of Emergency Management, the KCHD staff has been on site investigating outbreaks in the county, and have provided more than 250 rapid tests. The kits have also been used to test county employees and first responders, such as Police, Fire, EMS and Department of Transportation These agencies are being trained to provide the tests for their own staff at the point of care (POC). Staff is working to increase testing among the county's most vulnerable, such as residents and staff of homeless shelters, long term care facilities, independent living facilities and substance abuse centers. The Abbott BinaxNOW test is a fast-acting antigen test granted an Emergency Use Authorization in August by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to detect the presence of SARS-CoV-2 viral protein. These tests are inexpensive, POC tests, with results available in as little as 15 minutes to an hour.

