

## **Stickney Township/Stickney Public Health District/Stickney Road District**

Decennial Committee Report May 2024

This consolidated report was developed jointly by the Decennial Committees of Stickney Township and Stickney Public Health District. The Stickney Road District participated in the Stickney Township Committee. The report is being completed to fulfill the requirements of Public Act 102-1088.

### **Summary**

The Committees established a meeting schedule, reviewed data provided by the Stickney Township Administrator/Public Health Director and reviewed this report prepared by the Township Administrator/Public Health Director. The Committees' focus was to study and review local efficiencies and provide a report to the Cook County Board.

### **Data Summary**

Stickney Township has been a unit of local government in Cook County since 1901. Per the Illinois Township Code, the Township has been responsible for the care and maintenance of the roads in unincorporated areas of Stickney Township since then. The Stickney Public Health District was established by referendum in 1946 under the Public Health District Act. The Township is governed by a board comprised of the Township Supervisor and four Trustees. The Township Supervisor, Township Clerk and Township Assessor serve as the governing board of the Stickney Public Health District. An elected Highway Commissioner is responsible for the operations of the Road District.

Stickney Township provides all services mandated by the Illinois Township Code plus extensive services to older adults and school age children. The Road District provides a transportation program for older adults and persons with disabilities in addition to road maintenance. The Stickney Public Health District is the only Township level Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) certified Health Department in the State of Illinois. In addition to a variety of public health services, the District provides health, dental, podiatry and behavioral health services to the residents of Stickney Township.

Stickney Township is comprised of the Villages of Stickney and Forest View, the City of Burbank, the unincorporated areas of Central Stickney and Nottingham, parts of the Villages of Bridgeview and Bedford Park. The current population of the Township is about 41,514 (2020 Census). Detailed data on services provided by Stickney Township and Stickney Public Health District follows below.

Most of the programs and assistance provided to senior citizens are administered through the General Town Fund. Current programs include a local and federally funded

program that provides nutritious meals in either a congregate site or via home delivery. Continuing with rules established during the ongoing pandemic, eligible seniors can pick up a meal or eat in. In January 2023, the long-serving caterer experienced a catastrophic fire. The seniors only missed two days of delivery and congregate meals as the Township moved to a new food provider and continued to use delivery drivers by the previous caterer. The Township was still working on plans for these programs as it was not clear by the end of the fiscal year if the previous caterer would reopen. These meals are prepared five days a week and seek to promote better health and reduce isolation. For calendar year 2022, 28,865 meals were served at the senior center or local hall. Home delivered weekday hot meals were provided to 295 consumers totaling 37,228 meals. There was a slight decrease in home delivered meals in 2022 due to the reopening of the on-site meals. In addition, 286 persons received weekend fresh boxes and 1,751 special diet meals were delivered.

The Youth Commission has successfully operated its pre-school programs both in the City of Burbank and the Village of Stickney throughout the fiscal year. The program continued in-person programs consistent with CDC guidelines. The full class schedule did resume in the fall of 2022.

The Louis S. Viverito Senior Center is located at 7745 S. Leamington Ave., Burbank, IL 60459. Along with the provision of meal services, the Center is instrumental in bringing senior citizens out of their homes to socialize, educate and interact with others. Some of the various activities provided at the Center are art classes, line dancing, exercise, movies, cards, craft classes, and billiards.

Transportation for older adults is provided by the Road District. Data from 2023 indicated that 8172 individual trips were provided. 3092 were for medical appointments. Stickney Township is not aware of any other similar free transportation program in the adjacent communities.

The Central Community Center remodeling was completed in 2023, and the seniors returned to a weekly meal funded by the Township in January 2023. The Township also worked with the Stickney/Forest View Library to bring community library services to the Central community.

Stickney Township owns five buildings in the Township, four of which provide services to the residents. They are listed below:

North Building  
6721 W. 40<sup>th</sup> Street  
Stickney Il. 60402

Central Community Center  
4949 So. Long Ave  
Central Stickney, Il. 60638

Louis S. Viverito Senior Center  
7745 So. Leamington Ave.  
Burbank, Il. 60459

South Building and Main Office  
5635 State Road  
Burbank, Il. 60459

Highway Garage and Transportation Program  
7661 So. Austin Ave.  
Burbank, Il. 60459

All facilities have had major repairs and remodeling over the past 10 years with the goal of providing the residents safe and comfortable facilities.

### **Strengths**

The Stickney Township Board of Trustees has ensured the long-term financial viability of the programs by the Township of Stickney through use of grant support and prudent financial decisions. Although challenged by declines in the demands for some services, the Township has the financial and personnel resources to adjust to these issues.

The following is a partial list of services to the residents of Stickney Township during the past fiscal year\*:

- 1824 persons received information on Senior Services
- 201 low-income seniors received LIHEAP application assistance
- 10 Medicare Part D enrollments completed.
- 28,805 meals were served at congregate meal sites
- 37,228 home delivered meals were provided to 295 different individuals

---

\* Senior services are for the 2022 calendar year.

- 106 Managed Care Organization assessments
- 316 Comprehensive Care Coordination assessments
- Three and four-year-old pre-school programs and youth activities served children and families, including field trips to the Oak Lawn Children's Museum

## **Stickney Public Health District**

### **Strengths**

The Public Health District continues to meet its core mission of protecting and enhancing the health of the residents of Stickney Township. Two health clinics (also supported by the resources of the Township of Stickney) provide access to ambulatory care every business day as well as dental, podiatric, WIC and behavioral health care. In addition, through its environmental health program, the Public Health District provides food service inspections and education, mosquito abatement, animal control, rodent control, and general public health nuisance control.

The Health District has participated in disaster planning and response primarily in the areas of bioterrorism. As the pandemic continued through this fiscal year, the health district continued to provide Covid-19 vaccinations, public education, distribution of Covid-19 tests. This year also saw the end of community contact tracing for Covid-19.

A synopsis of available programs through the Public Health District is as follows (a full annual report of the Health District is/will be available on the Health District web site).

### COVID-19 Response

The Health District received grants to support the Covid-19 response, some of which will continue through July 2023. It is possible that the Health District will receive additional funds to support public health staff retention in the following fiscal year as well.

### Maternal/Child Outreach Program

Services provided include pregnancy testing, counseling, referral services, and parenting. A special emphasis is placed on health care services for pregnant teens and their infants. Health District employees also conduct outreach at Reavis High School and School District 111. Women are assisted in obtaining prenatal care and family planning services through cooperative arrangements with surrounding health care agencies.

The WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program provides services to women with various nutritional needs. Individuals in this program include women who are pregnant, breast-feeding or postpartum, as well as children five and under.

#### Child Health Programs

Child Health Conferences are offered on an appointment basis. Despite limited demand, the Health District continues to provide this program as an assurance to families that access to well-child services remains in the community.

#### Dental Division

The Division of Dentistry continues to implement a Dental Health Treatment Program throughout the Township for grade school children (kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade) and for senior citizens (age 55 and over). The Division also runs a dental sealant program for children. Despite some inefficiencies due to Covid safety protocols, the Division is operating at full capacity.

The Division began the process of moving to a new electronic dental record system and digital X-rays in this fiscal year. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in the first half of the next fiscal year.

The Division provided 12,632 dental procedures provided to residents (a nearly 50% increase from previous fiscal year).

#### Behavioral Health Division

Licensed outpatient counseling therapy and psychiatric services are provided to residents on a sliding fee scale. A special focus is on services to adults with serious and persistent mental illness. Youth, family, and adult counseling is also available in English, Polish and Spanish. The Division is now a Medicaid licensed Behavioral Health Clinic. The Division also provided telehealth or telephone services for 42% of client visits as the return to in-office care became more commonplace.

#### Environmental Health Division

The goal of the Stickney Public Health's Division of Environmental Health is to reduce the incidence of disease and injury related to environmental and food safety factors and to help ensure a safe, wholesome, and nutritious food supply through inspections, training, education, and enforcement and abatement activities.

Division activities include maintaining required programs as prescribed by the Illinois Department of Public Health as well as other recommended programs, such as vector, mosquito, nuisance, and animal control, all designed to protect the general health, safety, and welfare of the public. All establishment inspections were back to pre-Covid-19 frequency.

Since the introduction of the West Nile Virus into the State of Illinois, available grant funds have allowed the expansion of the Mosquito Abatement Program to include the trapping of mosquitoes and the submission of dead birds for WNV testing. Routine

functions of property inspection, larvicide, and adulticide chemical applications have also increased.

#### Ambulatory Health Care

The Public Health District is responsible for the ambulatory care facilities. This includes clinic facilities and podiatry care. In addition, Stickney Public Health has partnered with Howard Brown Health center to bring services for sexually transmitted infections to the community.

The purpose of the clinics is to provide ongoing health care for chronic disease conditions, such as diabetes and hypertension, as well as episodic health care conditions, such as upper respiratory infections and flu symptoms. There are two clinics in Stickney Township for the exclusive use of our residents, regardless of age.

Clinic locations are as follows:

5635 State Road (South Clinic)  
Burbank, IL 60459  
Tel.: (708) 424-9200

6721 West 40<sup>th</sup> Street (North Clinic)  
Stickney, IL 60402  
Tel.: (708) 788-9100

#### Services Provided

Highlights of the Public Health District activities during the past fiscal year are below. Extensive details are available in the annual report of the Health District:

- 5,888 patient visits seen at the two health clinics
- 310 school physicals completed
- 468 Covid-19 immunizations given
- 1,914 Covid-19 cases
- 585 clients seen on average in the WIC program each month
- 616 screenings for vision disorders
- 100% of BH consumers reported feeling listened to.
- 384 food establishment inspections
- 2,200 sewers treated for larvae.

12,632 dental procedures were provided to residents.

The Decennial Committees also reviewed the following:

- Latest Financial reports
- Demographic analysis
- Focus Group report
- Latest Community Health Plan

The purpose of this report is not to delve into the Committee discussions and data used but to provide findings and recommendations to the Cook County Board on increased accountability and efficiency.

### **Findings and Recommendations**

The initial findings of the Committees indicated a high level of efficiency across the three units of government in Stickney Township. Accounting services, auditing, legal services, payroll, insurance, personnel policies and procedures, information technology, phone, utility contracts and vehicle maintenance are consolidated across the Township. In addition, the Township and Health District share an Administrator (Operating Officer). Per the Personnel Policy Manual, employees of a unit of Stickney Township government can be assigned to another unit at any time to meet the needs of the public.

Given the structure of government in Illinois, it is difficult to imagine that the services mentioned above could be consolidated with another unit of government in Stickney Township.

The committee also explored the geographic location of Stickney Township. Most of the roads in unincorporated Stickney Township are not contiguous with another Township that still has a Road District.

In addition, no other Township in Cook County has a Public Health District that is certified by IDPH. Although Cook County does maintain an IDPH certified health department; it does not provide the services outlined in the Public Health District Act. Therefore, there is no other Health District contiguous with the Stickney Public Health District.

For the Road and the Health District, at this time, it does not seem feasible nor in the best interest of the residents to explore a partnership or consolidation with another unit of government.

Stickney Township is contiguous with three other Townships: Lyons, Berwyn and Worth. Exploring efficiencies with these entities is not limited by geography but by differing histories and missions. First, Lyons and Worth Townships do not directly provide any health or public health services. Lyons does fund mental health services through its Mental Health Commission. However, neither Stickney nor Worth Townships have enacted this type of funding for mental health services. Stickney Public Health District directly provides those services to its residents and Worth Township provides counseling services under its Youth Service Bureau. The sizes of Lyons and Worth Townships (both geographically and in population) bring into question whether an

integration with them would lead to less services being provided within Stickney Township should there be any type of consolidation.

Berwyn Township is contiguous with Stickney Township and has a Public Health District. However, the paths of Stickney and Berwyn Township diverged many years ago as Stickney Public Health District became an IDPH certified local health department and Stickney Township invested in the direct provision of services for older adults. Berwyn Township, being wholly within (coterminous) the City of Berwyn would likely gain more efficiencies in working with the City of Berwyn than partnering with Stickney Township. Also, Berwyn Township does not provide any road maintenance due to its location within the City of Berwyn.

Currently, it does not seem that there are viable ways to improve the services within Stickney Township by partnering with neighboring Townships.

### **Closing Remarks**

The Decennial Committees were diligent in their work to evaluate Stickney Township, Stickney Public Health District and Stickney Road District. The Committee was pleased to find the number of internal efficiencies within Stickney Township governmental entities. Although there may be opportunities in working with other Townships, they seem long in the future and may not be beneficial to the residents of Stickney Township.

## Information maintained by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Updating the database of the Illinois Compiled Statutes (ILCS) is an ongoing process. Recent laws may not yet be included in the ILCS database, but they are found on this site as Public Acts soon after they become law. For information concerning the relationship between statutes and Public Acts, refer to the Guide.

Because the statute database is maintained primarily for legislative drafting purposes, statutory changes are sometimes included in the statute database before they take effect. If the source note at the end of a Section of the statutes includes a Public Act that has not yet taken effect, the version of the law that is currently in effect may have already been removed from the database and you should refer to that Public Act to see the changes made to the current law.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### (50 ILCS 70/) Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act.

(50 ILCS 70/1)

Sec. 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act.

(Source: P.A. 102-1088, eff. 6-10-22.)

(50 ILCS 70/5)

Sec. 5. Definition. As used in this Act, "governmental unit" includes all units of local government that may levy any tax, except municipalities and counties.

(Source: P.A. 102-1088, eff. 6-10-22.)

(50 ILCS 70/10)

Sec. 10. Formation of committee; members; vacancy; administrative support.

(a) Within one year after the effective date of this Act and at least once every 10 years thereafter, each governmental unit must form a committee to study local efficiencies and report recommendations regarding efficiencies and increased accountability to the county board in which the governmental unit is located.

(b) Each committee's membership shall include the elected or appointed members of the governing board of the governmental unit; at least 2 residents of the governmental unit, who are appointed by the chair of the board of the governmental unit, with the advice and consent of the board; and any chief executive officer or other officer of the governmental unit. The committee shall be chaired by the president or chief elected or appointed official of the governing board of the governmental unit, or his or her designee. The chairperson may appoint additional members to the committee as he or she deems appropriate.

Committee members shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed by the governmental unit for their expenses incurred in performing their duties.

(c) A committee may employ or use the services of specialists in public administration and governmental management and any other trained consultants, analysts, investigators, and assistants it considers appropriate, and it may seek assistance from community colleges and universities as necessary to prepare the report required under Section 25.

(d) If a vacancy occurs in the committee membership, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the appointments under subsection (b).

(e) Each governmental unit shall provide administrative and other support to its committee.

(Source: P.A. 102-1088, eff. 6-10-22.)

(50 ILCS 70/15)

Sec. 15. Duties of a committee. The duties of a committee include, but are not limited to, the study of the governmental

unit's governing statutes, ordinances, rules, procedures, powers, jurisdiction, shared services, intergovernmental agreements, and interrelationships with other governmental units and the State. The committee shall also collect data, research, and analysis as necessary to prepare the report described in Section 25.

(Source: P.A. 102-1088, eff. 6-10-22.)

(50 ILCS 70/20)

Sec. 20. Meetings. Each committee shall meet at least 3 times. The committee may meet during a regularly scheduled meeting of the governmental unit as long as: (1) separate notice is given in conformance with the Open Meetings Act; (2) the committee meeting is listed as part of the board of the governmental unit's agenda; and (3) at least a majority of the members of the committee are present at the committee's meeting. Each meeting of the committee shall be public, and the committee shall provide an opportunity for any person to be heard at the public hearings for at least 3 minutes. The committee may require speakers to register. The committee shall meet in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, and the committee shall be a public body to which the Freedom of Information Act applies.

At the conclusion of each meeting, the committee shall conduct a survey of residents who attended asking for input on the matters discussed at the meeting.

(Source: P.A. 102-1088, eff. 6-10-22.)

(50 ILCS 70/25)

Sec. 25. Report. Each committee shall summarize its work and findings within a written report, which shall include recommendations in respect to increased accountability and efficiency, and shall provide the report to the county board in which the governmental unit is located no later than 18 months after the formation of the committee. The report shall be made available to the public.

(Source: P.A. 102-1088, eff. 6-10-22.)

(50 ILCS 70/30)

Sec. 30. Dissolution of the committee. After a committee has made the report required under Section 25 available to the public, the committee is dissolved until it is reestablished with newly appointed members under Section 10.

(Source: P.A. 102-1088, eff. 6-10-22.)

(50 ILCS 70/85)

Sec. 85. (Amendatory provisions; text omitted).

(Source: P.A. 102-1088, eff. 6-10-22; text omitted.)

(50 ILCS 70/90)

Sec. 90. (Amendatory provisions; text omitted).

(Source: P.A. 102-1088, eff. 6-10-22; text omitted.)

(50 ILCS 70/99)

Sec. 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.

(Source: P.A. 102-1088, eff. 6-10-22.)