

**BLACK HAWK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

January 26, 2022

The meeting of the Black Hawk County Board of Health was called to order at 7:32 a.m. by Chair, Rev. Dr. Mary Robinson (via video conferencing). Members present: Dr. Disa Cornish (via video conferencing), Dr. Adam Roise, Dr. Wesley Pilkington and Attorney Mike Treinen (via video conferencing). Absent: None. A quorum was met.

Others present in person: Dr. Nafissa Cisse Egbuonye, Kaitlin Emrich, Megan Olmstead, and Lisa Sesterhenn.

Others present via video conferencing: Gabbi DeWitt, Jenna Diephouse, Amanda Fesenmeyer, Hailey Finn, Micah, Knebel, Travis Larson (Waterloo Water Works), Rachael Mayer, Jared Parmater, Joshua Pikora, Aaron Reinke, Lori Rottinghaus, Toki Selby, Katie Strub (Allen's Women's Health Center), Tonya Wilder, and Bridgett Wood.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

I. Approval of Agenda – For Vote

Discussion: none

Action: Ms. Knipp moved, and Dr. Pilkington seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

II. Approval of Minutes\* For Vote

Discussion: None

Action: Dr. Cornish moved and Dr. Roise seconded to approve the Board of Health Minutes for the Work Session: December 8, 2021 and the Regular Meeting: December 15, 2021. Motion carried.

III. Public Comments – No comments

IV. Election of Officers:

Nominations received for Chair: Rev. Dr. Robinson nominated by Dr. Roise. No other nominations received.

Action: Dr. Pilkington moved and Dr. Cornish seconded to elect Rev. Dr. Mary Robinson as Chair for the Board of Health in Black Hawk County for calendar year 2022. Motion carried.

Nominations received for Vice-Chair: Dr. Pilkington was nominated by Dr. Roise. No other nominations were received.

Action: Dr. Roise moved and Dr. Cornish seconded to elect Dr. Wesley Pilkington as the Vice-Chair for the Black Hawk County Board of Health for calendar year 2022. Motion carried.

V. Presentation from Katie Strub: 2021 overview of Family Planning Title X, Maternal Health Title V and Child Protection Center programs:

Handouts were provided to the board.

*Summary of presentation:*

- Title X program- Family Planning
  - Reproductive and sexual health services provided for men and women
  - 2,200 patients served
  - 84% of patients seen reside in Black Hawk County
  - Added blood draws in the clinic which increased compliance and sped up process for results
  - Working on revising HIV/AIDS risk factors in patient history information and as part of the routine sexual health screening to implement the use of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) when appropriate
  - Challenges
    - Supply shortages caused some extra administrative work
    - 2022 is a competitive year for the Title X funding - proposal for the service map to be reduced in our area (will not affect Black Hawk County) but will reduce the service area to the rural counties and will be seeking out other agencies to provide the services in these communities
- Title V
  - Pregnant moms and partners education
  - Diverse population served
  - Social workers and nurses use interpretation services every day to coordinate culturally specific care
  - Partnering with Tyson on barriers with pregnant women about prenatal care, collaboration to provide services at Tyson (pandemic has paused this outreach activity), missing work to attend appointments has been a barrier reported by Tyson's employees.
  - Collaborating with Black Hawk County Health Department with the doula project, mostly outreach, assisting in enrollment in the program, supporting doulas in the program
- Child Protection Center
  - 600 patients served: age range from 1 month – 67 years, 1/3 reside in Black Hawk County, services have expanded to include a family resiliency program that looks at prenatal exposure to drugs (developmental screenings and referral for services) and mental health referrals from the community
  - Challenges in 2021
    - Staff changes in programs, the intense training for interviewers is several months, so it takes a while to get up to full speed
    - Increase in court appearances due to back log from the pandemic

Discussion: Dr. Cornish inquired if there is collaboration with Iowa Black Doula Collective. Ms. Strub confirmed there is collaboration.

Rev. Dr. Robinson asked if there are other large employers that would be included in the outreach for mother's prenatal care barriers. Ms. Strub stated that there are not any other employers that outreach is planned for, but if there are any employers that can benefit from this outreach, please let her know. The pandemic has prevented outreach programs from progressing.

Rev. Dr. Robinson stated the work that is being done is very intense and asked if plans are in place to ensure there is self-care. Ms. Strub stated that there are monthly check-ins to ensure they are making time for self-care. There is an employee engagement committee and they plan activities to celebrate and to keep comradery to ensure we have inclusiveness that is embedded into the daily culture. There are therapists on the team and conduct formal debriefings when there are challenging cases.

VI. Rev. Dr. Robinson presented awards for the cities of Waterloo and Cedar Falls.

The Water Fluoridation Quality Award for 2020 recognizes Cedar Falls and Waterloo for twelve consecutive months of maintaining optimal fluoride levels. In public health we recognize the importance of prevention and its role in improving and maintaining community health. Adding fluoride to the water prevents approximately 25% of cavities in both children and adults and is recognized by the Centers for Disease Control as one of the ten great public health achievements of the 20th century.

The Black Hawk County Health Department and the Iowa Department of Public Health are proud to present this award to both Waterloo and Cedar Falls. (The Health Department will be delivering the award certificates and letters later this week to each location)

VII. Health Department & COVID-19 Update – Dr. Cisse Egbuonye

*Summary of update provided by Dr. Cisse Egbuonye*

- PHAB accreditation site visit was held week of 1/10/22
  - Team did fantastic job on answering questions, proud of team's hard work
  - Thanked PHAB coordinators Joshua Pikora and Toki Selby
  - Good positive feedback, no matter the outcome very proud of team, should hear back in March on decision if accredited.
- Lead ordinance stakeholder review of existing ordinance and presented to invited community partners on January 19, 2022. Attendance to this review was lower than expected. To follow up with those that could not attend, a written communication and video of the presentation were sent out with feedback to be submitted by 2/4/22.
- Next couple of months: operationalization of the Strategic Plan (will present in March) with key items for the Board of Health to complete with support from the department
- Follow up on healthcare providers to conduct a youth vaccination Q and A session suggested by Dr. Pilkington:
  - Emphasis to have providers ensure conversations are happening with parents of young children
  - Newspaper ad (collective with community healthcare partners) to increase messaging on vaccinations and the COVID-19 surge
  - Discussions continue in vaccine planning meetings with community partners on vaccination statistics and exploring ways to increase vaccination rates

*Summary of COVID-19 & Vaccination update provided by Joshua Pikora*

- Currently at the High-risk level per CDC guidelines, surging very high and have exceeded the November of 2020 peak
- 30,330 positive individuals, 22,831 recoveries, 40.9% average 14-day positivity rate, 942 cases per 100,000 over the last 7 days, 417 deaths, still seeing a large case number each day, and the percent positivity rate slowly decreasing
- Continuing to work as many case interviews and investigations as we can
- Working with health care partners and have administered 197,173 total doses of vaccine which amounts to 84,643 completed vaccination series. Black Hawk County percentage for 12 and over with at least 1 dose is at 70.7% which is above the state average and 66.2% are fully vaccinated
- 5 -11 age group, 14% received at least one dose and 10.2% have completed the full series
- CDC shortened the Isolation and Quarantine time for the public. People with COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days and may end isolation if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), followed by 5 days of wearing a mask when around others to minimize the risk of infecting people they encounter. The change is motivated by science demonstrating that most of the SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness, generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after. Boosters are now recommended at 5 months instead of 6 months after completion of the primary vaccination series for the MRNA vaccines.
- Ages 12 and up are now eligible for Pfizer booster shots
- Omicron is now the dominant strain, state and nationwide, and seeing high levels of this strain
- Starting to see the anti-viral treatment and other therapeutics being disbursed into the county, only available in limited supplies. The Health Department is keeping healthcare partners up to date with available supplies
- The Federal Government is now offering free at home rapid testing kits, 4 per home address. Ordering kits: [www.covidtests.gov](http://www.covidtests.gov) or can call 1-800-232-0233.

Discussion: Rev. Dr. Robinson asked to explain the rationale behind the 5-day isolation reduction and how is this monitored.

Mr. Pikora stated that the omicron variant has a shorter incubation period, most people show symptoms in the 1<sup>st</sup> five days, people most infectious leading up to symptom onset and only a few days after. The press release provided by CDC has more details. The department continues to monitor the different groups, working with partners (healthcare, childcare, employers), sharing information to community partners, sharing information with investigations and education on isolation and quarantine periods.

Dr. Pilkington wanted to recognize the department on a great job with the accreditation process. The amount of detail that requires does not go unnoticed. Thank you for helping with the schools, providing masking guidance when the positive cases in the schools were at a high.

Rev. Dr. Robinson stated she is very proud of the department completing the accreditation process and has confidence that this department will be accredited. Thanks to the entire department.

Rev. Dr. Robinson requested to add agenda item to discuss the usage of ARPA funds for staff and mentioned that the Waterloo Community Schools recently provided staff with funds from ARPA. Mr. Treinen agreed to add this as an agenda item to discuss in further detail.

VIII. Purchase Requests

A. Computers/Laptops/Tablets (Grant Funding) \* – Bridgett Wood – For Vote

Discussion: no discussion

Action: Dr. Pilkington moved and Dr. Roise approved the purchase of six HP EliteBooks, six HP Rechargeable Active Pen G3s, and six docking stations for a total not to exceed \$15,000.00 using AFDO funds (\$13,500) and budgeted county tax dollars (\$1,120.62). Motion carried.

B. Vehicles w/ ARPA Funds\* – Bridgett Wood – For Vote

Discussion: Ms. Wood presented the bids selected based on operational needs, delivery date and price.

Action: Dr. Cornish moved and Dr. Roise seconded to approve the purchase of four vehicles totaling \$125,906.00 for the department's fleet using American Rescue Plan Act Funds. Motion carried.

C. Health Department Equipment Purchases w/ ARPA Funds\* - Bridgett Wood – For Vote

Discussion: none

Action: Dr. Roise moved and Dr. Pilkington seconded to approve the purchase of health department equipment: sit-to-stands, office desk chairs, XRF lead isotope reader, and employee uniforms not to exceed \$43,300.00. Motion carried.

D. COVID-19 Advertising (Grant Funding) – Lisa Sesterhenn – For Vote

Discussion: Lisa Sesterhenn & Gabbi DeWitt presented examples of billboards and print advertising with the board via screen sharing in person or via zoom. If using the QR codes the websites can be translated into several languages. Guidance changes frequently so the verbiage is general and provides links to the most up to date information.

Dr. Pilkington asked about including Bosnian on the billboard and print options. Ms. DeWitt stated that it can be considered, as we only have so much space and time on the print ads and billboards.

Dr. Rev. Robinson inquired on including all languages that are in our community to ensure we are being inclusive.

Ms. Sesterhenn and Ms. DeWitt reviewed the translation services available at the department and community health workers to assist with getting all information out to the different communities. There is a translation application that can be utilized on the health department website, videos on how to use the application in several different languages.

Ms. DeWitt stated that there can be more research conducted on expanding languages on the billboards with the billboard vendor. Right now, there will be options in French and Spanish. Ms. Sesterhenn stated the billboard is available for a year and possible to have more languages added.

Action: Dr. Cornish moved and Dr. Pilkington seconded to approve the purchase of health department expenses including digital billboards, direct mail brochure and print advertising not to exceed \$99,314.99 using Emergency Response Multi-Year Program: Equity and Prioritizing Populations Disproportionately Affected by COVID-19 Statewide Funding – Immunization funds. Motion carried.

IX. Financials – *Bridgett Wood*  
A. Disbursements\* – For Vote

Discussion: Ms. Wood reviewed the disbursements with the board.

Dr. Pilkington asked if UnityPoint is being reimbursed for the mobile vaccine unit. Ms. Wood stated that they have submitted for reimbursement for rental of the van/vehicle, supplies, staff time and gas for the vehicle with funding from the equity grant.

Ms. Sesterhenn added that the vaccine mobile unit was a successful project to get vaccines out to where people are.

Action: Dr. Roise moved, and Dr. Pilkington seconded, to approve to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried.

B. Ms. Wood presented the Financial Report as of 01/21/2022 to the Board.

Discussion: None

X. Consent Agenda: Grants and Contracts\* - *Dr. Cisse Egbuonye – For Vote*  
*The following items will be acted upon by vote on a single MOTION, without separate discussion, unless someone from the board or the public requests that a specific item be considered separately.*

- A. Contract (New) – Digital Billboard Rental, Lamar
- B. Contract (Renewal) - #5883ST12 CY2022 Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) and Partner Services for Sexually Transmitted Infections, IDPH
- C. Contract (Renewal) - #5882AP03 CY2022 Integrated HIV and Viral Hepatitis Testing Services, IDPH
- D. MOU (Renewal) – TelePrEP Care Coordination, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics/IDPH

Discussion: none

Action: Dr. Roise moved, and Dr. Pilkington seconded to approve items A-D as presented on the grants and contracts memo. Motion carried.

XI. For Information Only  
A. Human Resources Update – Amanda Fesenmeyer

*Summary of Update*

- *Budget Sessions on Salaries for Department Heads*
  - Four department heads (including Public Health Director) that were not being compensated at the same scale as the other department heads and it was voted on by the Board of Supervisors (4-1) to add these four positions to the same compensation plan and would make all Department Heads on the same plan
  - The four that were affected by this now are eligible for the merit increase each year based on where they fall in the pay range

Dr. Pilkington inquired if this merit increase would replace the board of health recommendations for salary increases. Ms. Fesenmeyer stated it would, but the board of health could bring their request to the board of supervisors and have it approved for outstanding performance

Rev. Dr. Robinson asked if retro pay will be considered. Ms. Fesenmeyer stated retro pay was not discussed.

B. Board of Supervisors Update – Linda Laylin not in attendance

C. Legislative Update – Lisa Sesterhenn

*Summary of Update*

- State income tax reduction, priority due to surplus
- Workforce shortage, childcare workers, teachers, and health professionals
- Promoting funding for private schools and increasing local control
- Pay close attention to bills that impact immunizations
- Safety and sanitation at tattoo parlors, allowing food and drink, eliminating requirements to post no smoking signs
- Reducing rules for home- based businesses
- County Board of Supervisors to approve a Board of Health rules unless found illegal, as affirmed by the county attorney, or unreasonable or unnecessary
- IPHA, sent comments on HHS alignment's lack of focus on population health, health equity, and workforce development
- Monthly updates will continue and if there are any bills that the board is interested in following or if there are any actions that the board is interested in taking to please let Ms. Sesterhenn be aware

Dr. Pilkington asked about the definition of what a rule is for Board of Health. Board of Health already must have board of supervisor's approval for local ordinances or regulations, so not sure what it means by rule. Ms. Sesterhenn will follow up on this.

Dr. Rev. Robinson would be interested in any bills related to equity.

Dr. Cisse Egbuonye stated that the board and department should be following the restructuring of HHS and how that will impact public health funding.


Dr. Cornish stated that there is a proposal related to written consent for immunizations that we should follow.

XII. Next Regular Board of Health Meeting: Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 7:30am, 1407 Independence Ave. Waterloo, IA.

XIII. Adjournment – For Vote

Action: Dr. Roise moved and Dr. Pilkington seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 a.m.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Megan Olmstead, Secretary

  
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Rev. Dr. Mary Robinson, Chair