

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

February 23, 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. 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, and Megan Olmstead.

Others present via video conferencing: William Aukes, Gabbi DeWitt, Jenna Diephouse, Brenda Hostetler, Linda Laylin, Rachael Mayer, Joshua Pikora, Aaron Reinke, Lori Rottinghaus, Toki Selby, 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. Introduction: New Board of Health Member, Kingsley Botchway, II, JD, SHRM-CP  
Rev. Dr. Robinson introduced new board member, Kingsley Botchway, Chief Officer of Human Resources & Equity. Mr. Botchway comes to the board with

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

*Summary of update provided by Dr. Cisse Egbuonye*

- PHAB Accreditation update: 100 measures submitted, 59 fully demonstrated and 41 largely demonstrated. The coordinators did an excellent job (Joshua Pikora and Toki Selby). Accreditation decision should be announced by the middle of March
- COVID cases slowing down and can start working on other initiatives
- Two position vacancies: Disease Prevention Specialist and Public Health Nurse
- New Community Health Program Manager – Start date is March 7<sup>th</sup>
- Workforce Development update:

- Staff training: Collaboration with three agencies (U of I, IDPH and possibly UNI), to develop trainings with a Systems Thinking approach. There will be trainings with IDPH on quality improvement (April/May) and Engaging Inquiry will be here in March to hold work sessions with staff on identifying action opportunities using our systems map. These trainings will assist us in creating a culture of learning and building long term sustainability for workforce development.
- We are working with our partners at the state, U of I and Engaging Inquiry to determine how trainings can be duplicated for other health departments and how we can influence trainings needed for students entering the public health workforce. We also need to understand the career aspirations of our staff and determine how we can help them meet their goals.
- In process of developing external partnerships for equity initiatives to decrease duplication of services, deepen and broaden our external partnerships
- Discussion on retention bonuses/premium pay will be on the Board of Supervisor's meeting agenda next week

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

- 32,381 positive individuals, 30,432 recoveries, 454 deaths
- 99 per 100k over the last 7 days, has dropped down to the substantial risk level (orange), may fluctuate between high and substantial over next few days
- Almost a tenfold decrease from the month of January to February (240 cases per day to date in Feb, 42 cases per day)
- Black Hawk County percentage for 12 and over with at least 1 dose of COVID 19 vaccine is at 71.2% which is above the state average and 66.8% are fully vaccinated
- 5 -11 age group, 26.2% received at least one dose and 21.5% have completed the full series
- 1/31/22 FDA has full approval for Moderna COVID 19 Vaccine and has been renamed Spike
- 2/11 was last day of universal investigations here in Black Hawk County, Contact Tracing Team will be finishing up their case investigations and the call center will be remained open until April 1, 2022
- FDA meeting that was scheduled 2/14/22, was postponed meeting to the need for more evaluation the age group
- The State of Iowa's Public Health Emergency Proclamation expired 2/15/22 and the state's COVID-19 data page was decommissioned. A new data page was created and there were several changes how COVID-19 is reported. The largest change was the elimination of reporting negative testing, so the department cannot track positivity rates any longer. Now there will only be a 7-day rate only going forward
- Hospital and Long-Term Care facilities were reporting case data to IDPH, and will no longer be required to report to IDPH all other reporting requirements have not changed (still reporting to oversight agencies)

Discussion: No discussion

- VI. Communications Update was presented by Gabbi DeWitt, Public Health Communications Strategist

*Summary of Update*

- Public Health Mailer was sent out on Monday 2/21/22 to 62,000 households and PO boxes in Black Hawk County. There is a QR code to scan and on the front translates into following languages: Bosnian, French and Spanish that explains all public health services available in Black Hawk County
- Soul Town Magazine: 15-month contract, ad for vaccine, and the March ad will be half page vaccine and half page colorectal screening ad special
- Billboards are located on Washington and San Marnan: this month features vaccine and colorectal cancer screening messages in Spanish, French and English. The team is working on policy/workflow for translation decisions based on populations. We are currently using What's App to connect with French speaking populations

Discussion: Rev. Dr. Robinson asked how the Burmese and Marshallese are getting this information. Ms. DeWitt stated that EMBARC is included in the department's press release distribution then they send out a weekly news update for the Burmese and Karan populations since these languages are harder to translate with a desktop layout. The priority is ensuring all communication and advertising is sent out to all our populations.

Mr. Botchway asked about what kind of paid ads we are running with different social media outlets.

Ms. DeWitt said the department uses Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter advertising and creates videos to share on a variety of public health topics. Cedar Falls High School CAPS program helped with build Instagram following. Recently have had paid ads about HIV screening and vaccine ads. For French speaking communities we post on WhatsApp. Community Health Worker, Julie Molisho will post videos on this application about a variety of public health services and initiatives.

Mr. Botchway inquired on HIV communication and education being messaged in the community. It is a growing concern.

Ms. DeWitt stated HIV is a priority with Disease Surveillance programs. There have been four HIV testing initiatives as a QI project in the last year. Have promoted HIV initiatives on Twitter like National Condom week. Ms. De Witt will be presenting an overview of Public Health to Cedar Falls High school health classes. The department would like to branch out to other schools and inform of the services available. Today, public health clinic and disease surveillance staff are attending UNI health fair.

Dr. Pilkington asked if we are talking about HIV prevention like the medication PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis). Ms. DeWitt said that April is Sexual Transmitted Infection (STI) awareness month that we will be doing more videos and ads in April on HIV prevention.

Dr. Cisse Egbuonye stated there used to be a STI Coalition before COVID-19 that was not led by Black Hawk County Public Health. This is a sensitive topic to introduce in schools, but if we could get some messaging out to target adolescents in the school district and identify what other education can be provided at home. There have been successful models in other locations. This is a great need for Black Hawk County but it may be difficult to do based on the political environment.

Dr. Roise stated that PrEP is new and not sure of providers comfort level on presenting to patients and how to prescribe and utilize PrEP.

VII. Annual Health Department Policy Approval Consent Agenda\* For Vote

Discussion: No discussion

Action: Dr. Pilkington moved, and Dr. Cornish seconded to approve the health department policies as presented on the consent agenda A-M. Motion carried.

VIII. Adoption of Board of Supervisors Policies\* For Vote

Discussion: No discussion

Action: Dr. Cornish moved and Dr, Pilkington seconded to approve the adoption of the Board of Supervisor's policies as presented. Motion carried.

IX. Request to Purchase Software (Grant Funding) \* For Vote

Discussion: Software service to assist with reportable disease especially sexually transmitted disease. Allows us to search for additional contact information when we have outdated contact information. This is being paid for with the IDPH grant funding.

Action: Dr. Roise moved, and Dr. Pilkington seconded to approve the purchase of the software service as presented in the amount of \$4,700 being paid for with grant funding. Motion carried.

X. Financials – *Bridgett Wood*

A. Disbursements\* – For Vote

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

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

B. Ms. Wood provided background information on extra funds available that were from a previous agreement for children's health services. This model was to ensure efficient administration of Medicaid reimbursement, this agreement had continued until 2003 or 2004 and the last deposit was in the same time frame. In 2005 an audit was conducted by Medicaid and some funds were reimbursed to Medicaid. The last time any funds had been moved from this account was in 2014 for Planning and the department's offsite Success Street Clinics. The remaining balance in the account is \$110,902.46.

Discussion: Rev. Dr. Robinson asked if there is a plan for the funding.

Dr. Cisse Egbuonye stated that the department wanted to inform the board first on the history of the funding and will move forward once the space assessment is completed by the county to find out if public health will remain in this building.

C. Ms. Wood presented the Financial Report as of 02/18/2022 to the Board.

Discussion: None

- XI. 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. Request for Proposal 58823006 - 1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative: Implementation Phase, IDPH
  - B. Service Agreement (Renewal) IBM MAAS360 Essentials Suite, ProActive Solutions, Inc.
  - C. Memorandum of Understanding (New) Host Site for AmeriCorps members, University of Northern Iowa (UNI)/Green Iowa AmeriCorps and Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission

Discussion: No discussion

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

XII. For Information Only

- A. NEHA- FDA Retail Flex Model Program Grant Award

Discussion: Dr. Cisse Egbuonye stated the Environmental team was awarded \$5,000 to write a comprehensive strategic improvement plan to develop retail standards. Once this plan is in place the department will be able to apply for future funding.

- B. Legislative Update – Lisa Sesterhenn

*Summary of Update*

- Iowa Legislature wrapped up first funnel this week and some bills that Iowa Public Health Association (IPHA) watching are:
  - School vaccine mandates – aimed at preventing certain vaccination mandates for children in schools and daycares
    - HF2298 which prevents students in K-12, colleges, or childcare centers from COVID-19 vaccination requirements (IPHA against)
    - SF2079- requires vaccination rules for those entering schools, colleges, and childcare centers to be uniform throughout the state – adding that medical and religious exemptions for requirements would apply “in times of emergency or epidemic” changing a sentence in Iowa law that currently specifies they do not. (IPHA undecided)
  - HSB647 soon to be HF2416 – medical information bill that prevents businesses, educational institutions, employers, and governmental entities from inquiring about or retaining records of medical treatment, including immunizations. There are no exemptions for public health or healthcare facilities. There are concerns for far reaching impacts beyond vaccination. It could mean that providers could not collect a complete medical
- Other items tracked by IPHA
  - SF2028, amended to SF2335, requires consent prior to immunization of a minor (IPHA undecided)

- SF2088 – allows RNs to administer immunizations under orders of a pharmacist (IPHA is for)
- HSB 508 – act relating to the performance of an asset test to determine eligibility for SNAP program benefits (IPHA against)
- The Transgender athletes bill, (HF2416/SF2342) did pass the first funnel. IPHA hasn't declared yet but at its basis, conversation within IPHA that at its core, this is discrimination and falls in alignment with IPHA's priorities of mental health and equity, ensuring Health in All Policies
- Environmental Health
  - SF2309 (formerly SSB 3126) this bill allows a person to produce raw and unpasteurized dairy products and dispose of them or sell them to individuals on a retail basis. Iowa State University strongly recommends opposition to the bill based on the high risk of personal harm that could result from the direct-to-consumer sales. We need well defined regulatory oversight and consumers must be adequately protected from the well-known risks present in raw foods. The board of health has a 2013 policy statement for the sale of raw milk in Iowa
  - HF2412 - requires radon testing and mitigation in schools
- Next funnel date: March 18, 2022
- Misc. Updates:
  - HF2064 - County Board of supervisors to approve a county board of health proposed rule unless the proposed rule is found illegal and did not pass the first funnel last Friday
  - IPHA sponsored the Iowa Immunizes Day on the Hill on February 14th
    - Valentines for legislators, 3000 flags representing deaths in Iowa since vaccines became available for most Iowans, also had an immunization clinic with COVID boosters, shingles, and flu vaccines
    - The next event is on March 28 with the theme of "celebrate public health"

Discussion: Supervisor Laylin stated she serves on the board of the urban coalition who meet with lobbyists. If there are bills that need the coalition's attention, please let her know so she can bring these issues to the urban coalition to discuss and take possible positions.

Dr. Cisse Egbuonye stated the board of health created a position statement for immunizations. Position statements are published at [www.BHCpublichealth.org](http://www.BHCpublichealth.org).

C. Board of Supervisors Update was presented by Supervisor, Linda Laylin

*Summary of Update*

- Congratulations on receiving high scores for accreditation report from the PHAB accreditation site visit
- Thank you for the department's efforts to penetrate the community with outreach and a variety of advertising campaigns
- Next week's agenda item for Board of Supervisors meeting: Retention bonuses/Premium pay, welcome all to attend to address any concerns

- The space assessment on all county buildings and properties is one pending project that may use a significant portion of the funds. The board is scheduled to have a closed session with Envision to review the findings from the space assessment. Envision will be presenting their proposals for the space assessment at the next department head meeting
- The removal of mental health services levy that was taken over by the state reduced the county budget but should be aware that the state may cut these services in the county and the county should fill those gaps

Discussion: Mr. Botchway stated that there has not been any retention bonus for any of the health department staff. Supervisor Laylin confirmed.

Rev. Dr. Robinson stated the department is more than well deserving of receiving some type of retention or premium pay for working through a pandemic for an extended period.

Mr. Botchway asked if the ARPA dollars received at the county level can be used for premium pay or retention bonuses.

Supervisor Laylin said the funds can be used for this purpose but want to be sure the county is using the funding appropriately and would not want to have any repercussions if used inappropriately. There are still questions the board has on the eligibility and equity of disbursement.

Supervisor Laylin added that the county received 25 million dollars to spend down in a short period of time. There are several areas in the county that have definite needs and want to make sure there are no regrets in how these funds are allocated. So far 10 million has been allocated/approved from the ARPA funds.

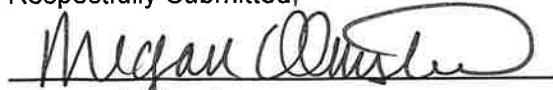
Supervisor Laylin is concerned that the ARPA funds were utilized for budget line items to reduce the county budget to lower taxes. Supervisor Laylin believes that the ARPA funds should allow for projects that would normally not be completed due to budget constraints. Supervisor Laylin added that the county should try to stabilize tax increases so there is a consistency zero to low increases.

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

XIV. Adjournment – For Vote

Action: Dr. Pilkington moved, and Dr. Roise seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 a.m.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Megan Olmstead, Secretary

  
Rev. Dr. Mary Robinson, Chair