

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

March 30, 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: Kingsley Botchway (via video conferencing), Dr. Disa Cornish (via video conferencing), Dr. Wesley Pilkington, Dr. Adam Roise and Attorney Mike Treinen (via video conferencing). Absent: None. A quorum was met.

Others present in person: Dr. Nafissa Cisse Egbuonye, Kaitlin Emrich, Bethany Fratzke, Bailey Goldman, Karen Graten, Feli Ketu, Megan Olmstead, Jared Parmater, and Joshua Pikora.

Others present via video conferencing: Keitasha Arnold, William Aukes, Reumina Cufurovic, Gabbi DeWitt, Jenna Diephouse, Michelle Griffin, Brenda Hostetler, Micah Knebel, Rachael Mayer, Becky Nowachek, Aaron Reinke, Lori Rottinghaus, Toki Selby, Lisa Sesterhenn, Dan Trelka, Tonya Wilder, and Bridgett Wood.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

I. Approval of Agenda – For Vote

Discussion: none

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

II. Approval of Minutes\* For Vote

Discussion: None

Action: Dr. Pilkington moved, and Dr. Roise seconded to approve the Board of Health Minutes for February 23, 2022. Motion carried.

III. Public Comments – No comments

IV. Introduction of New Hires

- A. Kaitlin Emrich introduced Bethany Fratzke to the board as the new Community Health Program Manager.
- B. Interns Reumina Cufurovic, Unique Oddoye, and Michelle Griffin were all introduced by Lisa Sesterhenn, Bethany Fratzke, and Jared Parmater.

V. Joshua Pikora introduced Feli Ketu as the new Disease Prevention Specialist, Mr. Ketu was previously a Contact Tracer in the department.

VI. Tonya Wilder announced Diane Hoffman's retirement, Ms. Hoffman has been in nursing field for over 46 years and 28 years of service at Black Hawk County Public Health. The board congratulated Diane and thanked her for her service. Diane was not in attendance.

- VII. Keitasha Arnold presented SafeNetRX charitable Pharmacy Program to the board with a video and power point presentation.

Summary of the presentation:

- SafeNetRX located in Grimes, IA
- Provides affordable medications to vulnerable populations:
  - Residents of Iowa
  - Medically uninsured and underinsured patients
  - Patients with household incomes less than 200% of the Federal Poverty level
- Iowa Based 501(c) established in 2001 – transparent partnership between public and nonprofit sectors to provide affordable medication access to patients in need
- Mission: To serve vulnerable populations through responsible collection and distribution of donated drugs
- Programs available to patients:
  - Pharmacy services Eligibility
    - Reside in Iowa
    - Unable to afford medications
    - Annual household income up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
  - Behavioral Health Medication Assistance Program & eligibility
    - Collaborative project between SafeNetRx Charitable Pharmacy and the Iowa Attorney General's Office
    - Offers free behavioral health medications to justice-involved individuals for up to 6 months
    - Eligibility
      - Previously incarcerated or placed under the supervision of state or local law enforcement in the past 3 years
      - Reside in the state of Iowa
      - Unable to afford their medications
      - Have an annual household income up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
  - No controlled substances or refrigerated items (i.e., insulin)
- Applications can be found on [www.safenetrx.org](http://www.safenetrx.org)
- Homeless applicants can list a shelter address to be eligible
- Future Goals of SafeNetRx
  - Serve more of Iowa's vulnerable populations
  - Disseminate information to eligible patients
  - Reduce rates of recidivism in Iowa and help individuals transition back into the community successfully and reduce the number of patients unable to access their medications in Iowa

Discussion: Rev. Dr. Robinson asked how those who do not have access to computers or do not have the ability to fill out online applications would access this program. Ms. Arnold stated that anyone can call SafeNetRx and they can be assisted in filling out an application.

Rev. Dr. Robinson asked for clarification that 1200 patient's prescriptions totaling more than 2 million dollars. Ms. Arnold stated total expenses are from both programs and includes injectable medications that are more expensive.

Dr. Pilkington asked how former offenders receive the remainder of their medication benefits. Ms. Arnold said they can apply for program when they are still incarcerated and can receive them in the mail if preferred to an address that includes residential facilities or homes and they can also utilize local pharmacies.

Dr. Cisse Egbuonye stated that it is important to identify navigators within the healthcare system and community that can assist in the application process. The health department has two community health workers that can assist.

Dr. Roise advised he has the contact information for a UnityPoint potential navigator and referral source for the program.

Dr. Pilkington stated that in the mental health area, Black Hawk Grundy health would be a good contact along with the case workers that work in the residential facilities. Mr. Pilkington added that the facilities have utilized this program in the past.

#### VIII. Health Department & COVID-19 Update

##### *Summary of Health Department Update presented by Dr. Cisse Egbuonye*

- Officially accredited and want to thank the Board for their support, the team's hard work, and everyone that has supported our process, especially our coordinators, Joshua Pikora and Toki Selby
- Two key facilitators from Engaging Inquiry, Karen Grattan, Bailey Goldman are here this week working with staff to train and increase understanding of the systems practice that has been put into place. It is important to strengthen the department's workforce and to really understand root causes of the systems issues in the community. Teams will share their own work at the end of the week
- IDPH will be coming later this month to conduct Quality Improvement training to staff and leadership
- Recruiting for Public Health Nurse position vacancy
- Environmental Health getting ready for their busy season (spring and summer food events)
- Strategic Plan implementation update will be presented at the April board meeting
- Bid proposals have been sent out for the After-Action Report for COVID-19. Funding of report to be discussed with IDPH soon and an update will be provided later

##### *Summary of COVID-19 Update presented by Mr. Pikora*

- CDC updated metrics to update community risk levels to Low, Medium, and High, and is more focused on severe illness and hospitalizations
- Black Hawk County is currently at the Low community level with <200 new cases per 100k over the last 7 days, < 10 new admissions per 100k over the last 7 days, <10% 7-day average of staffed and patient beds occupied by COVID 19 patients
- February case numbers: 32,678 positive individuals, 32,011 recoveries, rates over last 7 days: 37 cases per 100k, 4.9 new covid admissions per 100k, 1.2% occupied inpatient beds, 467 deaths (very low levels per CDC metrics)
- Vaccines: Ages 12+ 71.6% one dose 67.3% fully vaccinated, continually increase each week, Ages 5-11 27.3% one dose administered, 23.4% fully vaccinated
- FDA approved additional booster for individuals over age 50 or immune compromised individuals, recommendations for a 4<sup>th</sup> dose is 4 months after initial booster

- Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> will be the last day of the department's COVID-19 call center for contact tracers. They were a tremendous help with case investigations and want to thank them all for their hard work
- Continue to monitor the BA.2 Omicron variant, increase in cases has not been seen yet in Iowa, not seeing high levels of illness yet, will continue to monitor

Discussion: Dr. Rev. Robinson asked about the Iowa and Black Hawk County rates for the variant that has been identified. Joshua said that 3% is the most recent data but it is probably closer to 60%, state data identifies all as Omicron and does not differentiate between Omicron and the variant.

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

*Summary of Update*

- Public Health Week- Public Health is Where you are, staff that have volunteered to highlights on social media outlets and promoting health services throughout the summer at all events across the county and other counties we serve
- STI Awareness-2<sup>nd</sup> week of April, STI services highlighted, videos and posts about myths on STI's and raising awareness
- New online store for staff to purchase uniform apparel with our logo, each employee has received a voucher to purchase items with ARPA funds, store will remain open for staff to purchase other items as they wish
- Soutown magazine ad highlights colorectal cancer screening and vaccines. The next ad in April features STI screenings and a feature article will be done on the BHC Public Health Department (hard copies will be provided upon request)
- Billboard for March: Colorectal Screening and will continue to update each month with different services
- The social media and language policy are being created and will be ready for approval soon

Discussion: No discussion

- X. Propose New Lead Based Paint Regulation and Schedule Public Hearing – For Vote

Discussion: Mr. Parmater reviewed the overall process of updating the current Lead-Based Paint Regulation. Different stakeholders were invited to meet and provide feedback and sent out to stakeholders by email to request feedback. Mr. Parmater added that the process sheet and the new regulation was included in the packet for the board to review and would like to move to the next step in the process of scheduling a public hearing on this proposed Lead-Based Paint regulation.

Action: Dr. Cornish moved, and Dr. Pilkington seconded to approve the proposal of the New Lead Based Paint Regulation and schedule a public hearing at the next board of health meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 7:30am. Motion carried.

XI. Updated Health Equity Policy \* - For Vote

Discussion: Dr. Cisse Egbuonye reviewed the updates to the policy.

The Health Equity Policy has been updated with the following changes:

- Added the BHC Equity Lens Assessment– it is a much shorter version of the Health Impact Assessment that can be used by staff to examine decisions under consideration by the department
- Moved #3 from Section D to Section E as the use of a health equity impact assessment would need to be a community effort

Rev. Dr. Robinson asked for illiteracy and mental impairments to be included in the equity assessment tool.

Dr. Cisse Egbuonye stated this tool includes examples of underserved populations and can edit this policy to include these groups.

Action: Dr. Roise moved, and Dr. Pilkington seconded to approve the updated Health Equity Policy with the edits requested. Motion carried.

XII. Financials – *Bridgett Wood*

A. Disbursements\* – For Vote

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

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

B. Ms. Wood presented the Financial Report as of 03/25/2022 to the Board.

Discussion: Ms. Wood stated that a budget amendment will be submitted this spring due to the vaccine equity grant revenue and expenses and vaccine response revenue and expenses.

XIII. Chapter 80 Local Public Health Services Contract Changes from IDPH\* were presented to the board by Dr. Cisse Egbuonye.

*Summary*

The Iowa Department of Public Health has informed local health departments the use of Local Public Health Services funds for population health will incrementally change from FY23 to FY27. Changes to the contract will be a tiered approach. IDPH Bureau of Public Health Performance staff and local public health agencies will work together to advance population health at a systems level.

Why the proposed changes:

- Spotlight on public health due to COVID-19
- Opportunity for LPHS dollars to be used with increased flexibility based on needs of community
- Allows for infrastructure building at local level
- Home care language did not apply to all contractors

- Some language did not align with DIA
- Allows LBOH to more engaged
- Chapter 80 last revised in 2019

Dr. Cisse Egbuonye stated that this contract can support the workforce and public health systems. Dr. Cisse Egbuonye added that the new direction of this grant will allow for the board to take on more policy initiatives and engage elected officials.

Becky Nowachek said one of the goals with the new contract is for all Iowans to know what to expect from their local public health agencies. Three required areas of work will focus on Leadership and Governance, health promotion, improving public health infrastructure that are part of the 10 essential public health services.

Ms. Nowachek stated that there will be struggles with these changes but there is opportunity for improvement at the systems level having IDPH working with local public health agencies.

Ms. Nowachek presented a graph of the utilization of LPHS funds from FY15 to FY21 and Black Hawk County Health Department has significantly reduced the utilization of funds by contracting out the home health program. Black Hawk County has taken the lead on this change at the local level.

Ms. Nowachek will share this information with the board members.

XIV. 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. Application – Local Public Health Services, IDPH, Project and Contract Period: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023
- B. Request for Application 58818021-5 – Iowa Nutrition Network School Grant Program (INNSGP), IDPH, Project Period October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2024, Contract Period: October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023
- C. Request for Proposal, Cedar Valley Promise, Contract Period: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
- D. Scope of Work Agreement (New) Partnership to Understand and Address Disability in Immigrant and Refugee Populations, University of Iowa Center for Disabilities and Development
- E. Memorandum of Understanding (New) Collaborative Partnership Public Health Education & Projects, Cedar Falls Community Schools
- F. Memorandum of Understanding (Renewal) MOU – 2022 - TB03, Tuberculosis Directly observed Therapy, IDPH
- G. Contract (Amendment 21) 5885BT407 Emergency Response Multi-Year Program, IDPH
- H. Contract (Amendment 22) 5885BT407 Emergency Response Multi-Year Program, IDPH

Discussion: Rev. Dr. Robinson asked when other languages will be added, like Bosnian, Creole and Marshallese. (Item D-Scope of Work)

Ms. Emrich said that the former deputy director, Mr. Tura cultivated this project, William has taken the lead on this project, we have limited funds, small pool of funds that need to be spent

down from U of I, the chosen populations were the quickest populations that we can work with and if we are able to attain additional funding, additional languages can be added.

Dr. Pilkington asked if the department is requesting funding from Cedar Valley Promise in item C.

Dr. Cisse Egbuonye confirmed that the department is seeking funding.

Dr. Cisse Egbuonye (Item E) stated that the department is working with school districts identify creative ways to reach school aged populations to increase awareness of public health services and education. Cedar Falls Community Schools CAPS program has worked with us recently on some social media outlets and discussing similar future partnership with the Waterloo Community School District.

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

XV. For Information Only

A. Legislative Update was presented by Lisa Sesterhenn

The second funnel for the Iowa legislature was held on March 18<sup>th</sup>

*Summary of bills either tracked by IPHA or related to public health*

- Vaccine Mandates:
  - HF2298 is alive and relates to requirements against COVID-19 immunizations for enrollment in K-12 schools, colleges, or childcare centers (IPHA against)
  - HF2545 would have widely banned vaccinations and mask mandates for businesses, governmental entities, and schools. Although the bill is dead, House leaders have attempted to add a scaled-down version as an amendment to other legislation as an indication that some form of the bill could be alive and/or be part of an end of session discussion
  - SF2079 is also dead and primarily dealt with school vaccination rules to be uniform throughout the state
- Environmental Health
  - The Raw and Unpasteurized Dairy Products bill, SF2309, is dead. This bill would have allowed a person to produce raw and unpasteurized milk and dairy products and dispose of them or sell them to individuals on a retail basis
  - HF 2431 - Home-Based Food Businesses is still alive - For purposes of local government regulation, the bill states that a home-based business is a generally permitted use of a residential property, other than as prohibited by covenant or ownership community agreement. It strikes the term "home bakery" and adds a provision for selling non-perishable foods and labeling.

- HF2412 is still alive which requires radon testing and mitigation in schools.
- Bottle bill still alive
- The Iowa House approved a trio of bills recently addressing mental health issues
  - HF2529 address educational and workforce demands for providing mental health services
  - HF2546 assists in providing adequate Medicaid funding for individuals with complex mental health needs
  - HF 2549 which provides incentives to keep those educated in psychiatric studies to remain in Iowa if they stay for five years
  - SF2216 relates to the establishment of state intensive psychiatric units at the state mental health institutes. This is supported by IPHA and mental health and trauma is one of the Community Health Improvement priority issues
    - In the recent community partner task team meeting for the CHIP, the team spoke at length about concerns with staffing for mental health treatment and the importance of coming together to advocate for this
- Miscellaneous updates:
  - As a result of the end of the pandemic emergency proclamation, many families will see decreases in their SNAP total amounts starting in April – during the proclamation, many families received an additional \$95 or more each month
  - Public Health Day on the hill was this Monday, March 28 with the theme of “celebrate public health.” They had a good turnout of students and public health advocates
  - The 100th day of the legislative session is April 19 – which could be the end of the session

Discussion: No discussion

B. Board of Supervisors Update – Supervisor Laylin was not in attendance

XVI. Next Regular Board of Health Meeting: Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 7:30am, 1407 Independence Ave. Waterloo, IA.

XVII. Adjournment – For Vote

Action: Dr. Pilkington moved, and Dr. Roise seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 a.m.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Megan Olmstead, Secretary

  
Rev. Dr. Mary Robinson, Chair