

BLACK HAWK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
MINUTES

May 31, 2023

The meeting of the Black Hawk County Board of Health was called to order at 7:32 a.m. by Chair, Dr. Wesley Pilkington. Members attending: Vice-Chair, Dr. Disa Cornish, Kingsley Botchway (virtual), Dr. Adam Roise, Rosario Garcia Fino and Attorney, Mike Treinen. Absent: Heather Prendergast. A quorum was met.

Others present in person: Kaitlin Emrich, Amanda Fesenmeyer, Megan Olmstead, Jared Parmater, and Matthew Verbraken

Others present via video conferencing: William Aukes, Jenna Deiphouse, Gabbi DeWitt, Micah Knebel, Amanda Knudsen, Racheal Mayer, Sarah Mergenthaler, Aaron Reinke, Lori Rottinghaus, Toki Selby, Lisa Sesterhenn, and Tonya Wilder.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

I. Approval of Agenda – For Vote

Discussion: No discussion.

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

II. Approval of Minutes* For Vote

Discussion: No discussion.

Action: Dr. Cornish moved, and Dr. Roise seconded to approve the Board of Health Minutes for the Regular Meeting April 26, 2023. Motion carried.

III. Public Comments – No comments.

IV. Katie Strub presented Family Planning, Maternal Health, Child Protection Center Data from 2022 (Allen Women's Health Center)

Summary

Allen Child Protection Center

- Work with law enforcement and Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) to assist in investigations of suspected child and adult dependent abuse in 27 counties in Northeast Iowa
- Black Hawk County Stats 2022
 - Cases increased in volume by 23%
 - 244 patients were Black Hawk County residents
 - 60% were sexual abuse and other allegations such as physical abuse, drug endangerment, or witnessing crimes or abuse. Some patients were seen for multiple allegations.
 - Most common relationship between the parent and alleged offender in Black Hawk County cases was an other known person but not biologically related, a birth father, a birth mother, or a birth mother's partner

Cases seen at the Allen Child Protection Center resulted in 42 founded or confirmed abuse cases by Iowa HHS, 41 law enforcement charges filed, 1 conviction, and 16 plea agreements Family Planning

- Reproductive and sexual health services provided to men and women who are low-income, uninsured, or underinsured. Services include physicals, routine laboratory work, cancer screening, contraception, and STI treatments.
- In 2022, Iowa HHS changed collaborative services areas for both Family Planning and Maternal Health which resulted in Allen's Women's Health receiving funding for 4 counties rather than previous 9-county service area. Funding also decreased. Currently provide services in Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, and Grundy counties for both programs although will see patients from anywhere.
- Due to changes in funding, lab hours were reduced to cut down the number of hours spent on staff time. This has not impacted the program's ability to see patients but does sometimes cause a delay in responding to phone calls or getting lab results to patients. There has not been a drastic decrease.
- In 2022, the program started promoting telehealth appointments when a physical examination is unnecessary. This has allowed flexibility in medical providers' schedules and given patients more opportunities to be seen. This has especially been a benefit for patients with barriers in have transportation or employment.
- In 2022, administered over 1200 Depo-Provera shots, placed 132 contraceptive implants, and 153 IUD's. Also prescribed contraceptive vaginal rings and pills for those who preferred them but those numbers continue to decrease.
- IUDs and implants are the most effective methods of contraception beyond abstinence
- In 2023, continuing to provide monthly services at Buchanan County Health Center. In May, began monthly services at Grundy County Memorial Hospital . Both are intended to improve access to these services.

Iowa Healthy Pregnancy Program (Maternal Health) handout was provided to the board.

- Iowa HHS rebranded the name Maternal Health to Iowa Healthy Pregnancy Program.
- In 2022, Allen's Women's Health service area was changed from 9 counties to 4 counties, resulting in reduced funding.
- Social workers are available to meet with mothers and their partners to sign up for presumptive Medicaid, link up with community resources, and help the mother find a prenatal care provider if one is not already established.
- Enhanced services for high-risk parents
- Goal is to reduce maternal mortality and to improve birth outcomes, more than 700 women die in a year from complications in pregnancy and childbirth.
- Age range of patients: 14-43
- 89% of program participants started breastfeeding
- At the end of pregnancy 100% identified a medical home
- 2022 – 15% of our patients required language interpretation (17 languages)
- 569 patients in service with 2,885 visits
- In 2022, worked with Tyson to set up educational opportunities including information on breastfeeding and promoting pumping practices in the workplace.
- In 2023, established a maternal health coalition focusing on reproductive and sexual health per a requirement by Iowa HHS. Had a great turnout. Discussion topics have included reenrollment in Medicaid, barriers with getting breast pumps covered by Medicaid, and ensuring all areas of services are available at community events.

Discussion: Dr. Cornish asked for more information on the pregnancy program statistic: Team of two social workers completed nearly 1/3 of all Presumptive Medicaid applications for pregnant persons across the state of Iowa. (Allen Women's Health Center)

Ms. Strub stated there are many funded HHS programs to ensure access to healthcare for pregnant people. A team of two social workers do a good job helping pregnant individuals obtain coverage especially beginning at 12 weeks for their first ultrasound, as these medical bills can add up. They like to time it so all their prenatal care is covered. This will prevent barriers for low income or underinsured patients in receiving the prenatal care they need and reduce negative health outcomes. Ms. Strub stated that all areas of the UnityPoint health system are good about contacting the program when they identify patients that may qualify.

Dr. Pilkington asked if there have been many interruptions in care with the Medicaid re-enrollment requirement. Ms. Strub said that they have not seen that yet, but they are concerned about this summer and fall. Barriers have been identified, and the program is working with partners and MCOs to identify ways clients can talk to MCOs directly for assistance with filling out applications including receiving interpretation services.

Dr. Pilkington inquired if there were any challenges due to the increased access to birth control over the counter. Ms. Strub stated that she can see two sides. One is that any access to birth control is good. The other is that providers want people to receive regular medical checkups and yearly exams. At Allen Women's Health Center, clients also receive breast and cervical cancer screenings, check blood work, and receive pregnancy tests before starting contraceptives. The Allen's Women's Health Center clinic receives 340b pricing, which allows patients to pay on a low sliding fee scale. And the other benefit is that adolescents can be provided services confidentially.

The board stated how this work is appreciated and is very important it is for the program.

- V. MOTION: The Black Hawk County Board of Health Proclaims June as Black Hawk County National Healthy Homes Month* - *Jared Parmater*

Discussion: No discussion.

Action: Dr. Cornish moved, and Dr. Roise seconded to proclaimed June 2023 as Healthy Homes month in Black Hawk County. Motion carried.

- VI. Review of Isolation and Quarantine Ordinance & MOTION: to maintain adoption of the model rule of "Notification and Surveillance of Reportable Communicable Disease, Poisonings and Conditions" Section 1.12(1) through 1.12(10) * - *Kaitlin Emrich*

Discussion: Ms. Emrich stated this supports the agency's needs to enforce with guidance and structure when there is an isolation and quarantine needed.

Action: Dr. Roise moved and Dr. Cornish seconded the motion to maintain the adoptions of the model rule of "Notification and Surveillance of Reportable Communicable Disease, Poisonings and Conditions" Section 1.12(1) through 1.12(10). Motion carried.

VII. Black Hawk County Public Health By-Laws* - Kaitlin Emrich – For Vote

Discussion: No discussion.

Action: Dr. Cornish moved, and Dr. Roise seconded to approve the Black Hawk County Public Health By-Laws that were updated and reviewed by the board as required. Motion carried.

VIII. 28E Agreement for Private Well Permitting, Iowa Department of Natural Resources* – For Vote - Jared Parmater

Discussion: Mr. Parmater reviewed the changes with the board and this will go to the Board of Supervisors after Board of Health approval.

Dr. Cornish asked Mr. Parmater to speak about the health equity lense for rural communities.

Mr. Parmater stated this allows public health to make sure high-water standards are maintained in rural communities which is always a concern for sanitation. Clean water sources in the rural community maintain healthy standards. Rural communities are not always comfortable with receiving government services but can offer support to help mediate any issues with wells not at standard drinking quality.

Action: Ms. Garcia moved, and Dr. Cornish seconded to approve the 28E Agreement for Private Well Permitting and to submit to the Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors for final approval. Motion carried.

IX. Financials – *Matthew Verbraken*

A. Disbursements* – For Vote

Discussion: Mr. Verbraken reviewed the disbursements with the board.

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

B. Mr. Verbraken presented the Financial Report of 05/26/2023 to the board.

Discussion: No discussion.

X. Consent Agenda: Grants and Contracts* - *Kaitlin Emrich, Deputy Director* – 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 – FFY2024 – Child and Adolescent Health and Oral Health Programs, Iowa HHS
- B. Application – FY24 Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP), Iowa HHS
- C. Provider Services Agreement (New) Molinia Healthcare of Iowa, Inc.
- D. Request for Contract Information (Renewal) – Iowa Get Screened: Colorectal Cancer Program, Iowa HHS
- E. Statement of Work – FY24 – Agency Services Retainer, Cohesive and Code, Inc.
- F. Memorandum of Understanding (Renewal) MOU-2023-ELC20 Mosquito Surveillance, Iowa HHS
- G. Contract (Amendment 31) 5885BT407 FY23 – Emergency Response Multi-Year Program, Iowa HHS

- H. Contract (Amendment 1) 5883AP03 FY23 Integrated HIV and Viral Hepatitis Testing Services, Iowa HHS
- I. Memorandum of Understanding – MOU-2023-TB03 (Amendment 5) Tuberculosis Direct Observed Therapy, Iowa HHS

Discussion: Ms. Emrich reviewed the new agreement for Molina Healthcare which was just added as a Medicaid MCO.

Action: Ms. Garcia Fino moved, and Dr. Roise seconded to approve items A-I as presented on the grants and contracts memo. Motion Carried.

XI. Board of Supervisors Update presented by Chris Schwartz – *Supervisor Schwartz was not in attendance.*

XII. Public Health update was presented by Interim Director, Kaitlin Emrich

Summary:

- ARPA funding update: small group discussions to examine space needs within Pinecrest Building; progress slower than anticipated
- Vacancies (9 positions plus vacant Director)
 - Public Health Nurse/Licensed Practical Nurse (2)
 - Administrative Aide I (backfill from retirement) – hired; start date July 10, 2023
 - Emergency Preparedness Specialist (New) – interviews scheduled
 - Dental Hygienist (1 new, 1 filling vacancy) – interviews underway
 - Registered Dental Assistant – job posting closes June 7, 2023
 - Temporary Part-Time Community Health Worker (New) – posting soon
 - Health Educator – posting soon
- Health and Human Services (HHS) Service Delivery System Assessment led by HHS is anticipated to launch fall of 2023 which will inform recommendations and rationales for options for service delivery maps and funding models for the local HHS system
- Community Health
 - Medicaid informing rates have increased to 59% (minimum required is 40%)
 - First family engagement advisory committee meeting scheduled for June
 - Nutrition program is busy with community gardens at the schools and are working with Green Iowa and Food Corps members
 - Care For Yourself program has had some staffing adjustments to provide additional support with scheduling
 - 1st Five and Hawki programs are on track with grant requirements
- Disease Surveillance and Investigation
 - Syphilis is a concern within the community. Working with Iowa HHS on putting together a recommendation to change to opt-out screening for pregnant individuals because seeing congenital syphilis in the community. A letter will be sent to healthcare partners that will speak to case increases across the state and nationally and will recommend opt-out screenings for pregnant individuals to combat congenital syphilis. The letter will also have a graph of trends. In 2011, syphilis cases were so low that the agency had to suppress data, but in 2021 and 2022, cases rose to over 50. Ms. Emrich will provide a copy of the letter to the board once it's been finalized.
 - Healthcare provider alert was released by Iowa HHS regarding TB cases among Pacific Islander communities. Most cases in the Pacific Island communities are in Black Hawk County. Shifted staffing to adjust for the

sustained increase in cases. Utilizing more staff time within the DSI program to focus on TB and have requested help from other program areas.

- ICS 300 and 400 trainings are being offered in June. This is in alignment with COVID-AAR recommendations for the Operational Coordination core capability. The intent is to build depth in response staffing that will allow staff to be more easily rotated during a future event and combat burnout. More staff are being trained in identified response roles.
- Environmental Health
 - Busy summer season with all types of inspections/activities: temporary food licenses at various events in the service area, pools, Healthy Homes, and Child Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) outreach, mosquito surveillance, and well/septic
 - June is Healthy Homes month
 - CLPPP program has increased in activity. Alex Writz and Aaron Reinke have graphed different locations in Waterloo in critical neighborhoods and will be adding churches soon.
 - Housing coalition have identified some new houses to work with
 - FDA virtual trainings and conferences with Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) and National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
- Public Health Center
 - Child Health site visit from the state held on May 16, 2023. The visit went very well with a few areas of improvement identified for lead screening and immunization service delivery, which is currently impacted by staff vacancies
 - Oral health programs received the dental care coordination incentive with providing care coordination or follow up to 64% or 627/980 children in the first six months of the grant

Discussion: Dr. Pilkington asked about how the board could support filling the vacancies.

Ms. Emrich suggested for the board to share job postings to increase word of mouth. These positions are posted publicly and on state sites like IPHA (Iowa Public Health Association).

Amanda Fesenmeyer, Human Resources Director, stated that the public sector is needing to reinvest in the current workforce as there is a shallow pool of applicants which forces the county to look internally to enrich skills and to support staff that are loyal. Externally, a lot of money can be spent for very little return in recruiting. Sometimes the greatest success is word of mouth and in the connections each department has. Indeed, an online job board. is over saturated. The county has struggled with recruiting in several positions' county wide. Every department has different target audiences to seek out through specific connections, etc. Some of the high skilled positions are hard to recruit for due to the competitive job market. The board is willing to share job postings to their respective connections.

XIII. Communications Update presented by Gabbi DeWitt

Summary:

- Position statement: Bias as a Public Health Crisis was posted to bhcpublichealth.org
- Videos for Healthy Homes to educate community on lead poisoning prevention

- Public Health staff seeking out events to attend in Black Hawk County and surrounding service areas
- Juneteenth event at Sullivan Park – June 17, 2023
- Pop-up Events for Healthy Homes (in neighborhoods with older homes, where lead poisoning risk is higher)
- Translation of Temporary Food Vendor toolkit (Spanish and French) completed by Community Health Workers and the Environmental Health team
- Bus wraps ending in October
- SoulTown Magazine published article and ad for Healthy Homes in June
- “Come Work With Us” will be presented at public events the agency attends to attract more candidates

Discussion: No discussion.

XIV. Board Chair, Dr. Pilkington provided an update for the Public Health Director:

Summary

- November -- Authorized executive search with Baker Tilley
- Board members met with firm one on one to discuss recruiting strategy
- Mid-December – first draft of recruitment brochure, approved final in February
- Survey from key department staff to identify leadership skills and competencies for this position
- April - Baker Tilley screened several candidates and came up with a final five to bring in for in-person interviews Board selected two of these five to interview in May.
- Anticipated challenges recruiting for this position
- Remains top priority for the board to hire a director for the department that is a good fit and not rush this decision
- Dr. Pilkington thanked Kaitlin Emrich for stepping up into the role and leading the department in this difficult time

XV. The board moved into EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:36am, moved by Dr. Cornish and seconded by Dr. Roise. Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:

Dr. Wesley Pilkington: Aye

Dr. Disa Cornish: Aye

Dr. Adam Roise: Aye

Rosario Garcia Fino: Aye

Kingsley Botchway: not present for roll call vote, joined closed session virtually by 8:40am. Motion carried.

The board moved into executive closed session to discuss the recruitment and selection process for the public health director position.

- A. RESOLUTION-that pursuant to the provisions of the Iowa Open Meetings Law, by the Authority of the Code of Iowa, Chapter 21.5(1)(i) the Black Hawk County Board of Health shall proceed into closed session.

- To discuss the professional competency of individuals whose appointment, hiring or performance is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and the individual requests a closed session.

B. MOTION-that the Board of Health meeting in closed session be adjourned.

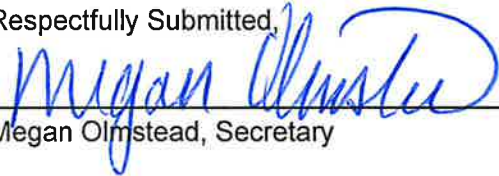
9:19am: Dr. Roise moved, and Ms. Garcia Fino seconded to adjourn closed session.

XVI. Next Board of Health Meeting: Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 7:30am, 1407 Independence Ave. Room 420, Waterloo, IA.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT -

The regular board meeting was adjourned at 9:20am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Megan Olmstead, Secretary



Vice-Chair, Dr. Disa Cornish