

BLACK HAWK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
MINUTES

July 26, 2023

The meeting of the Black Hawk County Board of Health was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chair, Dr. Wesley Pilkington. Members attending: Vice-Chair, Dr. Disa Cornish (virtual), Kingsley Botchway (virtual), Dr. Adam Roise (virtual), Rosario Garcia Fino(virtual) and Attorney, Michael Treinen. Absent: Attorney, Heather Prendergast. A quorum was met.

Others present in person: Kaitlin Emrich, Kristinia Kielman, Matt Mayner, Dusti Nicol, Megan Olmstead, and Matthew Verbraken.

Others present via video conferencing: William Aukes, Bethany Fratzke, Gabbi DeWitt, Jenna Diephouse Amanda Kirchhoff, Micah Knebel, Rachel Mayer, Sarah Mergenthaler, Jared Parmater, Aaron Reinke, Chris Schwartz, Michelle Wiedner, and Tonya Wilder

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

I. Approval of Agenda – For Vote

Discussion: No discussion.

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

II. Approval of Minutes* For Vote

Discussion: No discussion.

Action: Dr. Roise moved, and Mr. Botchway seconded to approve the Board of Health Minutes for the Regular Meeting June 28, 2023. Motion carried.

III. Public Comments – No comments.

IV. Introduction of New Hires:

Tonya Wilder introduced Dusti Nicol, Dental Hygienist
Matthew Verbraken introduced Kristinia Kielman, Administrative Aide I
Kaitlin Emrich introduced Matt Mayner, Emergency Preparedness Specialist

V. Amanda Kirchhoff, WIC Director presented annual FFY23 report to the board.

Summary:

- The WIC program has faced a declining caseload for years for the following reasons:
 - Changing economy, declining birthrates, and the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Areas for improvement: lack of awareness or understanding of WIC, negative perceptions of WIC, lack of referrals to WIC, barriers to applying for WIC, transportation issues, and difficulties with the WIC shopping experience and clinic experience
- Outreach

- Provide enrollment and benefits information to approximately 75 community partners
- Attend Community Meetings
- Cedar Valley Breastfeeding Coalition
- Attend Community Gatherings, baby showers, health fairs, fun fairs, and cultural celebrations
- FY24 planning to contact grocery vendors in the service area to develop strategies to improve WIC shopping experience and increase redemption rates
- Childhood Obesity
 - WIC Foods decrease obesity and improve health of participants
 - Improve WIC redemption by developing toolkits that include recipes and tips on making the most of WIC dollars to incorporate into family meals
 - Food packages to be tailored to family's needs
 - Farmer's Market checks distribution to eligible participants
- Breastfeeding
 - New Project- providing WIC appointments at MercyOne in Waterloo and met with UnityPoint to discuss seeing participants there also
 - Improve support and services and increase collaboration with partner organizations making breastfeeding/pumping at work easier for mothers.
 - Work closely with birthing hospitals in our CSA to provide continuous care and support for new breastfeeding mothers and help them continue breastfeeding once they are home from the hospital
- Black Hawk County WIC locations
 - Operation Threshold, Waterloo
 - Allen's Women's Health Center, Waterloo
 - Kimball Ridge, Waterloo
 - Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls
- Ever Breastfed Rates for Black Hawk County
 - Operation Threshold – 4 county total 72%
 - Waterloo Operation Threshold – 70%
 - Cedar Falls- 74%
 - Allen Women's Health – 76%
 - Kimball Ridge – 71%
 - State Average – 69%
- Black Hawk County WIC total amount spent on WIC foods in Calendar year 2022
\$2,709,567.53

Discussion: Dr. Cornish asked what has caused the decline in participation in WIC. Ms. Kirchhoff stated that WIC participation has declined and increased over the years. Some of the reasons for a decline in participation is because the appointment times available do not work with working families, and during COVID, people were not comfortable meeting in-person, and the shopping experience.

Dr. Pilkington asked if breastfeeding rates have gone up in recent years. Ms. Kirchhoff stated that breastfeeding rates have gone up significantly and the hospital outreach will help initiate that relationship with the lactation consultants and mothers.

VI. Financials – *Matthew Verbraken*

A. Disbursements* – For Vote

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

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

- B. Mr. Verbraken presented the Financial Report (new format presented that matches the state format) as of 07/21/2023 to the board.

Discussion: The board agreed the new format will be beneficial.

VII. 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 (Renewal) FY24 – Grants to Counties, Iowa HHS
- B. Letter of Intent (Spring 2023), Novel Food Licenses and Equity in Historically Impacted Communities, Otto Schoitz Foundation
- C. Contract (Renewal) 58841407 FY24 – Immunization Services, Iowa HHS
- D. Memorandum of Understanding (Renewal) FY24 – Child Care Nurse Consulting, Exceptional Persons Inc./Child Care Resource Referral
- E. Public Health Preparedness-Service Area 6 Partner Acknowledgement – FY24 – Intent to Comply
- F. Memorandum of Agreement (Amendment) FY23 – Oral Health Services, Operation Threshold
- G. Business Associate Agreement (BAA) Operation Threshold, Oral Health
- H. Contract (Amendment 2) 5883AP03 FY23 – Integrated HIV and Viral Hepatitis Testing Services, Iowa HHS

Discussion: No discussion.

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

VIII. Board of Supervisors Update presented by Supervisor Chris Schwartz

Summary:

- Public Health Clinic space assessment remains a priority even with ARPA funding requests coming in from other entities
- New Black Hawk County Website launched

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

Summary:

- Performance Management Update Q3 Jan-March – Aaron Reinke
 - Overview of performance management
 - Set goals, measure progress, make changes, implement Quality Improvement tools
 - Accountable to goals. If not met; Quality Improvement tools will be utilized.
 - Sub-Committee evaluated accredited health department performance management plans to enhance our own plan
 - Adoption of a comprehensive approach to performance management
 - Reviewed current measure progress updates with the board
 - Performance management is an opportunity for Quality Improvement

Ms. Emrich presented Public Health Update:

- Administration
 - HHS Local System Alignment Assessment – Active in July
 - Ms. Emrich participated in interview with other PHAB accredited agencies on 7/18/23 that was facilitated by Health Management Associates, the vendor that was chosen to perform the local health and human services alignment assessment for state department of health and human services; provided feedback of duplications, areas of improvement, and strengths
 - Referenced e-mail from 7/18/23 to BOH and BOS and noted town hall attendees voiced a strong interest in maintaining local services and concern for rural counties. Ms. Emrich also noted attendees stated desire for design of alignment to be informed by people providing services at the local level.
 - Partner organizations setting up meetings to discuss realignment with state senators and representatives
 - Alignment report is due to come out in October.
 - Advocacy Committee
 - Planning for FY24 legislative priorities. Will finalize department's priorities after professional services complete theirs by 8/1/2023.
 - Meet with local elected officials' late summer/early fall; requested board participants
 - COVID Funds
 - Extension of unspent funds has been verbally communicated, but contract extensions have not been received
 - Training
 - Jared Parmater, Eric Heinen attending NEHA beginning 7/31/2023
 - Bethany Fratzke, Lisa Sesterhenn, Tonya Wilder attended NACCHO 7/10/23-7/13/23
 - Vacancy Updates (7 positions)
 - Public Health Nurse and/or Licensed Practical Nurse – two openings
 - Dental Hygienist – reposted until 8/19/23
 - Dental Assistant – reposted until 8/19/23
 - Community Health Worker – Temporary Part-Time – Closes 7/4/23
 - Community Health Worker – Nutrition – Closes 7/25/23
 - Public Health Director
- Community Health
 - 1st Five: Continues to build tracking system to align outreach efforts with measurable outcomes through referrals
 - Nutrition team continues to interview for vacant position, concerns with filling Green Iowa positions (2 full time starting in September), requesting board to share GIA opportunities within their networks
 - Informing: Planning changes to informing forms based on Community Advisory Council's feedback, looking to go live with improvements by 10/1/23
 - Physical Activity Access: SPAN award pending, working with low-income senior community on walkability/access to farmers markets and nutrition stores.

Continuing work with Waterloo Complete Streets Advisory Committee to improve bikeability and safe routes in Waterloo

- Disease Surveillance and Investigation
 - Iowa HHS issued colleague letter recommending the that medical providers conduct serological testing for syphilis among pregnant women at three intervals: during first prenatal visit, at 28-32 weeks gestation and again at delivery. Presentation to UnityPoint OBGYN completed; MercyOne OBGYN scheduled for November. Working on effective methods to reach all providers
 - Tuberculosis (TB) case counts continue to rise, currently at 12, total cases managed in 2023: 15
 - Working on TB team morale to prevent burnout
 - Hopeful with filling the Community Health Worker position will help with case load
 - Administrative Aide I will now be assisting TB case management as well
- Environmental Health
 - Mosquito Surveillance program has detected West Nile virus in three sampling pools – a little early to be seeing positive samples
 - All samples from Evansdale trap – Water Treatment Facility – typically produces West Nile every year
 - Social Media Campaign – Anti-Mosquito information this week; will explore news release if keep seeing positive samples
 - Food Safety staff have had a busy summer. Uptick in complaints the past few months. Targeted food safety education with Amish and People of Burma.
 - Exploring certification for staff to teach Food Safety Classes for certification.
 - Schoitz Foundation grant to look at food plate food safety education for specific populations
 - Housing Coalition has been active and working with public health to help with housing issues in the community
- Public Health Center
 - Outreach partnerships are going well (UNI, Jail). In process of expanding partnership with Black Hawk County Juvenile Detention Center.
 - Doula Program is going well with 4 contracted doulas working with Black/African American pregnant women

Discussion: The board discussed the concern with the increase in TB caseload for nurses and asked what they could do to advocate Ms. Emrich stated that funding is not available from the state. Major public health issue since it is a communicable disease. Agencies do not have the resources to implement strategies to stop the spread.

X. Communications update was presented by Gabbi DeWitt

Summary:

- External sign installed in July. Pinecrest tenants have priority for messaging, Other events at the courthouse or other county departments will be incorporated if deemed applicable to Pinecrest tenants
- Finalizing videos with Pixel labs that will promote Black Hawk County Public Health (BHCPH) services including immunizations; paid for with M-Pox grant funding
- Brand website for staff to promote brand and guidelines for brand usage; new and more user friendly; offering tools needed to promote BHCPH brand

- Events attended
 - Alive and Running for Mental Health
 - Juneteenth
 - Summer Soul Classic Parade - drove I-Smile van; after parade attended Northend Fest
 - Fiesta Latin Festival
- Events coming up
 - Back to School Bash
 - Peoples Clinic Health Fair Tent Event

XI. Set Public Hearing for August 30, 2023, at 7:30am – Mobile Clinic (ARPA Funds) *- Matthew Verbraken- For Vote

Discussion: none

Action: Ms. Garcia Fino moved and Dr. Cornish seconded to set the public hearing for August 30, 2023, at 7:30am, 1407 Independence Ave. Room 420, Waterloo, IA. Motion carried.

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT -

Dr. Cornish moved and Dr. Roise seconded to adjourn at 8:35am. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Olmstead, Secretary

Chair, Dr. Wesley Pilkington