



Scott County Health Department

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SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

April 15, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

12:00 p.m.

Meeting Held at: Via Web-Ex at the Scott County Administrative Center
600 West 4th Street – 4th Floor Conference Room
Davenport, Iowa 52801

Mrs. Coiner, Chair of the Scott County Board of Health, called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Members Present: Via Web-Ex: Mrs. Coiner, Dr. O'Donnell, Dr. Hanson, Dr. Sandeman

Member Absent: Dr. Squire

Staff Present: Via Web-Ex: Amy Thoreson, Eric Bradley, Tiffany Peterson, Lori Steiner, Roma Taylor, Lashon Moore, Teri Arnold, Lenore Alonso, Brooke Barnes, Shiobhan Burkhead, Anna Copp, Carole Ferch, Julia Lotta, Christina McDonough, Brenda Schwarz, Jennifer Stout

Others Present: Via Web-Ex: Brinson Kinzer, Mahesh Sharma, Mary Thee, David Farmer, Dr. Lois Katz, Nicole Mann, Rebecca Heick, Becky Nowachek, Mark Ridolfi

Mrs. Coiner called for a motion to accept the agenda. Dr. Hanson moved to accept the agenda. Motion seconded by Dr. Sandeman. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Coiner called for a motion to accept the corrected minutes. Dr. Hanson moved to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2021 Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Dr. Sandeman. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Hanson moved to accept the recommendation of the search committee to appointment Amy Thoreson as Health Director of the Scott County Health Department. Motion seconded by Dr. Sandeman. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Thoreson expressed her appreciation for the opportunity and shared how blessed she is to work with such a wonderful group of people. She appreciates the community support and looks forward to serving the residents of Scott County.

The following reports were reviewed and discussed by the Board:

A. Director's Report

Amy Thoreson recognized the following employees for their years of service with the department.

- Julia Lotta, Public Health Nurse 1 year April 27
- Kershanna Harris, Correctional Health Nurse 2 years April 23
- Briana Boswell, Community Health Consultant 13 years April 9
- Jackie Hall, Environmental Health Consultant 45 years April 5

Mrs. Thoreson introduced two new employees. Monica Perryman started on March 17th as a Correctional Health Nurse (PRN) and Lori Steiner started on March 29th as the Clinical Services Manager.

Mrs. Thoreson asked Anna Copp to update the Board regarding efforts to collect feedback on various program materials that are being used by the department for the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) programs and services. Mrs. Copp explained staff wanted to assure that program information is resonating among the clients assuring that information is inclusive and reflecting of people of different cultures, ethnicities, genders, ages, sexual orientations, and is linguistically appropriate. Materials have been translated to multiple languages and are health literacy level appropriate so they are at the correct reading level. Staff sought feedback from youth at the Safer Foundation, members of the Davenport National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Quad Citizens Affirming Diversity (QCAD), a traditionally LGBTQI+ serving agency.

Dr. Hanson asked if the materials were available in Spanish. Mrs. Copp shared they are available in Spanish and Vietnamese.

Mrs. Thoreson asked Roma Taylor to share the experience of the Immunization Audits this year during the pandemic. Mrs. Taylor explained the audits had to be conducted differently this year due to COVID. She received approval from the superintendents to allow our staff to conduct the audits at their administrative centers rather than going out to each school. Three nurses were sent to conduct the audits and they were able to complete the audits within two days for each district.

The School Nurse Consultant contacted each of the non-public schools and those records were brought to the Health Department for the audit and then returned to the schools. This system worked out very well. Even though the kids were not in person learning full time, the parents were still required to have the records on file. There were not a lot of changes in the Scott County percentages this year.

Dr. Sandeman questioned if the COVID vaccine would be added to the required immunization category for school aged children in the future. Mrs. Taylor shared that this has not been discussed. Amy Thoreson explained currently the vaccine has not been approved for anyone under the age of 16. Dr. Katz shared the vaccine is only emergency approved so it would not even be a consideration until it has been formally approved which is months away.

Mrs. Thoreson asked Eric Bradley to report on a discovery at a facility using reduced oxygen packaging (ROP) without a hazard analysis critical control point (HACCP) plan or a variance approved by DIA. Fifty-six frozen bags of product was discarded since it had not been prepared under a HACCP plan and/or variance and could result in botulism. The facility is working on a HACCP plan to submit for approval.

Mrs. Coiner was surprised that this was an issue since private individuals are able to purchase this type of equipment. Dr. Sandeman commented that he felt vacuum sealing, then freezing the product, was a pretty low risk procedure. Mr. Bradley explained that there are safety measures that are required when using this process for a food service establishment. If the proper procedure is not followed, there could be concerns with different anaerobic pathogens.

Mrs. Thoreson provided an overview of COVID-19 cases for Scott County. As of the meeting, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) reported a total of 20,289 positive tests in Scott County. That number represents 18,920 individuals. So far in April there had been 746 cases compared to a total of 1062 in March. Scott County's seven-day positivity rate was 10.9% and the fourteen-day positivity rate was 10.6%. Scott County had been below 5% previously. In addition to the rise in positivity, there had also been an increase in hospitalizations. The average age of cases has been on the decline possibly due to more older adults being vaccinated and additional activities in community. The department continues to advocate for individuals to wear masks, social/physical distance, avoid large groups, hand washing, and staying at home when sick.

Mrs. Thoreson reported there have been 107,876 doses of COVID-19 vaccine given by Scott County vaccine providers. Based on the CDC website, 44,656 Scott County residents have been fully vaccinated. This data is used because when the data goes to CDC they are able to capture residents of Scott County that may have been vaccinated in other states. The data on [Coronavirus.iowa.gov](https://www.coronavirus.iowa.gov) is based on the information that is entered into the state's immunization registry so it only tracks individuals vaccinated in Iowa. The 44,656 represents 25.8% of the total population of Scott County. Of those 18 years and older, 33.7% have been fully vaccinated and 71% of the 65 and older has been fully vaccinated. Another 23,204 Scott County residents have initiated the first dose of a two-dose series.

Mrs. Thoreson shared vaccine eligibility expanded to anyone 16 and older for the Pfizer and anyone 18 and older for Moderna and Johnson & Johnson on April 5th. The department received one shipment of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and hosted one clinic; 560 individuals were vaccinated. Additional clinics had been planned, but were put on hold based upon the CDC and FDA recommendations to pause the use of Johnson & Johnson vaccine while the issue of blood clots was investigated. The department continues to share vaccine with health care providers and pharmacies. All pharmacies signed up with the federal retail pharmacy program have started to receive vaccine, with many of them receiving Johnson & Johnson. Community Health Care, Inc. continues to receive vaccine through the Federally Qualified Health Center program. Efforts are focused on how promoting vaccine, encouraging individuals to get vaccinated, and advising that vaccine is available.

Mrs. Thoreson invited Dr. Katz to share his knowledge and provide information on the pause of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Dr. Katz shared a diagram of the Epi Curve which indicated the test positive rate and the rate of new cases per day had more than tripled since the beginning of March. Most of the increase occurred in late March. Scott County's current rate of 35 cases per 100,000 population per day would be classified by the CDC as a community with a high level of community transmission. While difficult to say as definite, it is suspected that the spread is due to pandemic fatigue-the public being tired of following the

recommendations of masking, distancing, etc. The average age of the cases has fallen; Scott County has seen increased hospitalizations even with the younger cases.

In Iowa, as in the rest of the country, the UK variant B.1.1.7 has become predominant in the infection. This strain is at least one and a half times as transmissible and one and a half times as deadly. Fortunately, neither the Brazilian nor the South African variants have been identified at this time. The vaccines are slightly less effective against these variants. Additional variants from California and New York have been identified in other locations, but have not yet been in Iowa.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine pause was issued based upon six cases of an unusual clotting disorder called vaccine-induced thrombosis thrombocytopenia (VITT). These six cases were identified out of over 7 million doses administered. The CDC and FDA recommended the pause in order to:

- Let clinicians know about the situation and how to evaluate and manage it.
- Let the public know what to look for if they received the vaccine and when to contact their health care provider.
- Review and collect data for the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to evaluate and issue a recommendation.

Dr. Katz described in detail the medical treatment reasons for the pause and provided an overview of what is being seen with similar types of vaccine in other locations. He described statistics contrasting the rate of this rare occurrence with the rate of intensive care unit admissions due to COVID-19. Finally, he discussed the public health challenges of not having a one-dose vaccine in light of this rare occurrence and the risk benefit analysis of its continued use.

Dr. Hanson questioned whether as more of the population is immunized, will the virus likely mutate to clinical disease in children since they are the only available hosts. Dr. Katz stated this is unknown at this point.

Mrs. Coiner inquired if the vaccine being administered is covering the UK variant. Dr. Katz shared that all three of the vaccines are effective against the UK variant, but they are less effective against the South African variant that is still very rare in the United States.

- B. Mrs. Coiner moved to the Public Health Activity Report for the month of March 2021.
- C. Mrs. Coiner moved to the Budget Report for the month of March 2021.

Following discussion, Dr. Sandeman moved to approve the claims. Motion seconded by Dr. O'Donnell. Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Mrs. Coiner moved to the Scott County Kids Report.

Nicole Mann shared that Scott County Kids is currently hosting several free trainings throughout the community. They are also surveying the schools currently on wellness policies.

- E. Mrs. Coiner moved to the Title V, Local Public Health Services and Tobacco Use Prevention Program Report.

Tiffany Peterson provided an update on the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Grant. Staff has been in communication with Community Health Care, Inc. (CHC) regarding renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) allowing Health Department staff to provide in-person direct care services at CHC locations. Staff can provide maternal health and oral health services.

Mrs. Peterson reported the Community Tobacco Consultant position is vacant due to the resignation of Kim Mills. Mrs. Coiner expressed her appreciation for Ms. Mills' efforts and Mrs. Peterson echoed the compliment.

Mrs. Coiner called for a motion to accept the reports. Dr. Hanson moved to approve the reports. Motion seconded by Dr. Sandeman. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Coiner moved to Public Comment.

Supervisor Brinson Kinzer expressed his appreciation and offered his support to the Board of Health and Health Department. He also congratulated Amy Thoreson on her new appointment as Director of the Health Department and is looking forward to working with her.

Mrs. Coiner moved to Unfinished Business.

Mrs. Coiner moved to New Business.

Following discussion, Dr. Sandeman moved to approve and authorize the signature of the MCNA Delta Plans Screening Center, Maternal Health Center, and Public Health Agency Agreement. Motion seconded by Dr. Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

Following discussion, Dr. Hanson moved to approve and authorize the Scott County Kids Early Childhood Iowa Grant submitted application, contract, and any subsequent amendments. Motion seconded by Dr. Sandeman. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Coiner opened a discussion regarding compensation for exempt employees for the extra hours that had been put in during the pandemic. Dr. Hanson asked if there had been any feedback from the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on this topic. Mary Thee explained that a policy was presented to the BOS in January 2020 to address overtime for potential FEMA qualifying emergency events for exempt employees, but the policy was not approved at that time. There were some informal conversations regarding this subject last fall due to the amount of additional hours worked due to the pandemic. It was decided at that time not to place it on the Board of Supervisors agenda. The Health Department has five exempt employees and their efforts are much appreciated.

Dr. Hanson stated this has been going on for an extended period of time and could have an impact on staff. Dr. Sandeman shared that while the Board wants to recognize employees for their efforts, the process to determine what could happen could be very challenging. He feels, without minimizing it, a salaried employee knows this is the expectation when accepting the position. Dr. O'Donnell agreed with Dr. Sandeman. She stated it would be very difficult to rectify for the past, but a plan could be developed to compensate employees for future events that would require extended hours due to unusual circumstances. She also shared that some employees have been asked to take a cut in pay due to the pandemic, so there may be some

public opposition. Dr. Hanson discussed having this topic be a part of the after action report discussion. This subject was tabled.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2021.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Arnold
Recording Secretary