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## Scott County Health Department

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### SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

November 18, 2021

### MEETING MINUTES

12:00 p.m.

Meeting Held at: Scott County Administrative Center  
600 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Board Room  
Davenport, Iowa 52801

Mrs. Coiner, Chair of the Scott County Board of Health, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mrs. Coiner, Dr. Hanson, Dr. Squire

Members Absent: Dr. O'Donnell

Staff Present: Amy Thoreson, Brooke Barnes, Eric Bradley, Tiffany Peterson, Lori Steiner, Briana Boswell, Anna Copp, Christina McDonough, Lashon Moore, Brenda Schwarz, Stuart Scott, Tracy Zeimet

Others Present: Dr. Louis Katz, Scott County Health Department, Medical Director; Nicole Mann, Scott County Kids

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

Mrs. Coiner called for a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. Hanson moved to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2021 Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Dr. Squire. Motion carried unanimously.

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.

- |  |         |             |
|--|---------|-------------|
| • Danielle Freund, Correctional Health Nurse               | 2 years | November 4  |
| • Chris Varnes, Community Health Consultant                | 6 years | November 16 |
| • Anna Copp, Community Tobacco Consultant                  | 7 years | November 10 |
| • LaNae Ramos, Per Diem Nurse                              | 8 years | November 14 |
| • Christina McDonough, Community Transformation Consultant | 8 years | November 25 |

Mrs. Thoreson introduced new employee, Stuart Scott who has been hired as a Community Health Interventionist and Tracy Zeimet who has been hired as a Public Health Nurse.

Mrs. Thoreson shared the resignation of Eric Bradley, Environmental Health Manager effective November 19<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Coiner expressed her appreciation for his 15 years of service to Scott County.

Mrs. Thoreson asked Mrs. Peterson to give a progress update on the Community Health Assessment. Mrs. Peterson shared that a series of stakeholder meetings were held virtually to share the draft report of the Community Health Assessment and the focus group findings in October. Participants had the opportunity to prioritize the top needs identified, as well as prioritize how much impact the community could have on the need. The stakeholders and committee met to discuss the results of the four meetings and to select determinants on which to focus. The group will continue discussions in November.

Dr. Hanson shared she enjoyed participating in the stakeholder meetings and found the input from the variety of attendees interesting.

Mrs. Thoreson reported staff completed the immunization audit process in the public and non-public K-12 schools. The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) moved up the audit due date from December to October.

Mrs. Thoreson provided an overview of COVID-19 cases for Scott County. As of this meeting, IDPH reported a total of 26,304 positive individuals in Scott County. To date, there have been 846 cases in November, compared to a total of 1,252 in October. Scott County's seven-day positivity rate is 10.5% and the fourteen-day positivity rate is 12.0%. The entire state of Iowa remains an area of high transmission.

The department continues to offer Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine through a weekday walk-in clinic. The department partnered with Forward Latino and the League of United American Citizens (LULAC) to provide Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccinations on November 14<sup>th</sup> at the LULAC club. This partnership allowed the department to provide support, education, and access to the vaccine.

Mrs. Thoreson shared COVID-19 vaccine for children 5 to 11 years of age has been approved since the October Board of Health meeting. The initial allocation for Scott County was 5,300 doses. The bulk of the vaccine was shared with various providers: Genesis Health System, UnityPoint Health, Waterford Family Medical Clinic, QC Pediatrics, Main at Locust and Hy-Vee. The department began offering Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to 5 to 11 year olds on November 17<sup>th</sup> during the weekly childhood immunization clinic. The department is preparing a mailing to individuals in the department's immunization home and is exploring hosting special clinics based upon demand.

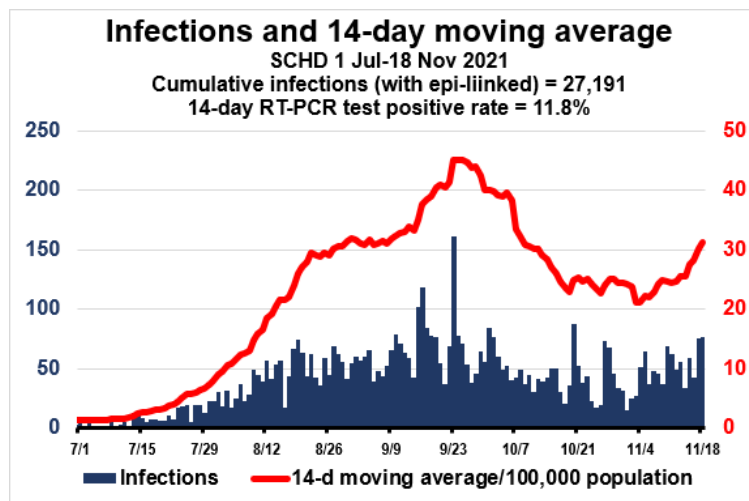
Mrs. Thoreson explained the department continues to be the source for vaccine coming into the community for health care providers, excluding pharmacies that have the opportunity to access the vaccine through the National Pharmacy Partnership. A survey is completed by the providers regarding their needs and then a request is placed with IDPH.

Mrs. Thoreson shared staff are working closely with IDPH, the Scott County jail and Sheriff’s office on a COVID-19 outbreak at the jail. Staff have been very diligent to quarantine inmates for 14 days as they come in and provide testing. The inmates testing positive have been in the facility for several months, which indicates they were likely exposed from someone outside the facility (staff, lawyer, program person). COVID-19 vaccine continues to be offered at the jail.

Mrs. Thoreson gave a breakdown of the vaccine status of Scott County residents.

	At Least One Dose		Fully Vaccinated	
	Scott County	US	Scott County	US
% of Population	61.5%	68.7%	54.4%	58.9%
% Population greater than 12	72%	79.8%	64.3%	68.9%
% Population greater than 18	74.2%	81.7%	66.3%	70.7%
% Population greater than 65	96.5%	99.5%	89.2%	86.2%

Mrs. Thoreson invited Dr. Katz to give an update on the current epidemic curve.



Dr. Katz explained the chart is showing the delta variant surge. Dr. Katz explained that the positive cases were coming down nicely, but with schools reopening and weather cooling off, the county hit a plateau and now positive cases are climbing quickly. Dr. Katz pointed out the spike last year compared to the spike this year is much smaller due to vaccination and prior infections. The national data is showing 1 in 10 children age 5 to 11 years of age have received a dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Dr. Katz shared the curve in the hospitals is similar to the above chart with approximately 70% of their cases being unvaccinated. The number of COVID-19 deaths have decreased compared

to the same time last fall which can be attributed to the penetration of immunization. Available vaccines are highly effective in preventing death and hospitalization.

Dr. Katz shared researchers are testing two different antiviral oral medication and an anti-depressant that may reduce symptoms, shorten the length of illness, and decrease the need for hospitalization.

Mrs. Thoreson added as more home tests become available, the positive case numbers become more unreliable. While the department continues to monitor these numbers, hospitalization data will be more reliable regarding the burden of illness within the community.

Dr. Hanson asked about the availability of tests kits. Mrs. Thoreson shared tests kits are available at the Scott County Administration Center. A courier picks up the completed kits (Monday thru Friday) and transports them to the State Hygienic Laboratory. The tests kits are also available at the Center for Active Seniors, Inc. (CASI), Blue Grass City Hall, and Riverdale City Hall. Local pharmacies have kits available to purchase and providers are continuing to do testing.

Mrs. Coiner asked if the positive home tests kits results were reported to IDPH. Mrs. Thoreson explained if the home tests kits were purchased by the individual for self-administration, they are not reported to the state.

Mrs. Coiner asked if antibody testing is being encouraged. Dr. Katz responded the obstacle with antibody testing is there is no data to indicate protection based upon the results.

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

Following discussion, Dr. Squire moved to approve the claims. Motion seconded by Dr. Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Nicole Mann, Eastern Iowa Decategorization Director shared they appreciate the guidance and support the department has given throughout the pandemic.

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

Mrs. Peterson reported the Local Public Health Services program is proposing to switch to a focus on population health beginning in FY'23. It is proposed to move away from a fee-for-service model to a direct expense reimbursement model. The required areas of work will include leadership and governance; health promotion; and strengthening local public health infrastructure. Optional areas of work will include investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population; resource referral; and direct services. A tiered approach is being planned for FY'23 which will allow time to plan for the provision of basic

public health services. Discussions on the impact of the change in funding focus has occurred with subcontractor, Genesis Visiting Nurses Association (VNA). Mrs. Peterson shared Genesis VNA is supportive of the change and recognizes public health infrastructure work is important.

F. Mrs. Coiner moved to the Board of Health Orientation – Food System Assessment.

Christina McDonough, Community Transformation Consultant shared that in 2013, the department had a full-time intern that completed a food system assessment. The assessment included data on 124 food system indicators. The food system includes all steps in feeding a population which includes how many farms are in Scott County, number of acres and what crops or livestock that farm is producing, how many fast food restaurants are in Scott County, percent of youth and adults consuming fruits and vegetables daily, farmers markets, and how much food waste is created residentially and commercially. Once the food system assessment was completed, the department invited community stakeholders to help narrow the food system focus to address one indicator through a community improvement action plan which led them to the Food Rescue Partnership.

Mrs. McDonough explained food insecurity is defined as the state of being without reliable access to sufficient, affordable, nutritious food. Augustana College students created a map showing a one-mile radius from a grocery store and/or convenience store with accessible food. Anything outside of the grid is considered a food dessert. In 2010, 4,760 children lived in a food dessert with the number increasing to over 11,000 children in 2020. This increase can be attributed to grocery stores closing, or families moving to rural Scott County.

Mrs. McDonough shared that Scott County saw an increase in food pantries, summer food programs, senior food programs, and number of meals distributed by food pantries in 2020. With the initial COVID-19 proclamation of restaurant closures, there were a great number of partnerships formed rescuing and distributing the unused food from the restaurants to these programs, resulting in over 4,000 pounds of food rescued the first week of the closures.

Dr. Squire applauded the great deal of work and effort that went into rescuing the food after the restaurant closures due to the proclamation.

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

Mrs. Coiner moved to Public Comment.

There were no comments.

Mrs. Coiner moved to Unfinished Business.

There were no items for Unfinished Business

Mrs. Coiner moved to New Business.

Mrs. Barnes provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2022 - 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Performance Measures/Budgeting for Outcomes (BFO's). Mrs. Barnes reported:

- The number of reportable communicable diseases does not include COVID-19 investigations. New clinical staff are currently being cross trained on the investigation protocols.
- The number of immunizations has increased the first quarter of FY'22 compared to the first quarter in FY'21. This is a welcomed increase as many routine doctor visits and vaccinations were deferred or avoided due to COVID-19 during FY'21.
- Nuisance complaints continue to be investigated by staff, but the report may not show resolution of the complaints due to the department not having authority over the situation, the complaint being deferred to the proper agency, or the timeline of the report being put together before the nuisance complaint has been fully resolved.

Mrs. Barnes shared as the year unfolds, the performance measurements will be used to identify quality improvement projects.

The next meeting will be held on December 16, 2021, in the Boardroom on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Schwarz  
Recording Secretary