



Mrs. Thoreson recognized Lashon Moore for being selected, with nine other honorees, to receive the 2022 Quad City Times Nurses-Heart of Health Care Honorees recognition. Mrs. Moore will be featured in the Quad City Times.

Mrs. Thoreson asked Mrs. Moore to report on the rising number of syphilis cases. Mrs. Moore shared the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released their Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance Report for 2020. The data report shows even in the face of a pandemic, 2.4 million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis were reported in the United States in 2020. Mrs. Moore explained gonorrhea cases were up 45%, syphilis cases were up 52%, congenital syphilis were up 235%, and chlamydia cases were down 1.2% from 2016.

Mrs. Moore shared the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) reported syphilis has reached its highest numbers in the state in a generation. IDPH reported there were 554 diagnoses of infectious syphilis reported in 2021 compared to 357 in 2020. In 2021, there were 11 cases of congenital syphilis reported, compared to 1 case in 2020. The 11 cases are more than the last 20 years combined.

In 2020, there were 21 cases of infectious syphilis reported in Scott County. Mrs. Moore noted the 2021 preliminary numbers were not available for Scott County as of this meeting.

Mrs. Moore shared that in response to the data released on the reports, the department released a memo to providers alerting them of the sharp increase in syphilis cases and the importance of screening, testing, and treating.

Dr. Hanson asked if the increase in cases corresponds to the decrease in messaging about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) due to the concentration on the pandemic response.

Mrs. Moore responded that the CDC Surveillance Report shared information on how the pandemic negatively impacted individuals being tested for STIs. Contributing factors noted were decreased clinic testing hours, testing clinics temporarily closing as staff were redirected from routine STI surveillance and control to COVID-19 activities, and individuals being in confinement and not seeking screenings and medical care.

Dr. O'Donnell asked about the demographics of the infected syphilis population and if the department has seen any change from 2016.

Mrs. Moore responded the majority of diagnoses continue to be among men who have sex with men, young individuals, and people of color although the number of syphilis cases diagnosed in women is on the rise.

Dr. Hanson asked if the state will be doing any additional public health initiatives in response to the increased case numbers.

Mrs. Moore responded that IDPH issued a media release to alert the public of the rise in cases and has provided funding to hire disease intervention specialists (DIS) across the state.

Mrs. Thoreson added the increased case numbers are a national trend and there is additional work from the CDC perspective on education and marketing. Mrs. Thoreson anticipates seeing more initiatives from the CDC.

Mr. Robinson asked about the role of a DIS.

Mrs. Moore explained the DIS role is to do contact tracing of individuals who test positive for gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV to have their partners tested and treated.

Mrs. Thoreson asked Brooke Barnes to report on the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) interview regarding the use of geographic information systems (GIS) to address public health topics. Mrs. Barnes shared that throughout the pandemic, staff partnered with Scott County GIS staff to utilize maps to better understand the impact of COVID-19 throughout Scott County. The department was able to look at vaccination and infection rates by zip code to pinpoint where outreach and vaccination clinic efforts needed to be focused, and was able to share infection rates by school boundaries with districts to assist them in their mitigation efforts. Mrs. Barnes shared additional department utilization of GIS maps included identifying lead homes and mapping STIs to target locations for condom distribution. The partnership between the department and Scott County GIS has been invaluable.

Mrs. Thoreson reported, as of this meeting, IDPH reported 45,775 positive tests in Scott County and is continuing to see 3-10 cases daily. The hospital trends are being monitored carefully. At the beginning of April, Genesis stopped testing pre-procedures while UnityPoint continues to test and report their data. Scott County hospitalizations have seen a slight increase, but remain low.

The department continues to offer Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine through a weekday walk-in clinic. The department continues to distribute test kits.

Mrs. Thoreson reported that Dr. Katz and she participated on a call with representatives from the City of Davenport Public Works Department and the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) regarding a pilot project for testing wastewater for the COVID-19 virus. Mrs. Thoreson explained there is a push at the national level to build infrastructure to support wastewater testing. The COVID-19 virus can be detected in wastewater, enabling wastewater surveillance to capture the presence of the virus shed by people with and without symptoms, giving a more accurate picture of how much virus is in the community. The University of Iowa has begun pilot testing wastewater at their dorms and the City of Davenport is excited to partner with SHL on the project. Once the pilot project process is vetted over the summer, SHL plans to approach other communities. The efforts of wastewater testing will benefit the community by monitoring the COVID-19 virus and other illnesses in the future.

Dr. Katz listened to the FDA's Vaccine and Related Biologics Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices call regarding second boosters. With the current low positivity rate, at this time, Dr. Katz is strongly considering the fourth dose for

himself in the fall when he receives his influenza shot, but feels it is a personal preference and those at higher risk should consult with their physicians.

Mrs. Thoreson reported she has attended multiple meetings with county administration regarding MEDIC Emergency Medical Service (EMS). Mrs. Thoreson explained the Scott County Board of Supervisors (BOS) has a long-standing contractual relationship with MEDIC EMS. Previously, the hospital systems were a part of the contract, but Scott County has been the only partner for the last ten years. Scott County has agreed to reimburse MEDIC EMS up to \$200,000 per year as the result of an operating loss. Scott County also provides funds to Durant, Bennett, and Wheatland ambulances to serve the northwest part of Scott County.

Mrs. Thoreson shared Scott County, the Scott County Board of Health (BOH), and the Scott County Health Department (SCHD) have a long history of assuring high-quality, efficient EMS services for the residents of Scott County. There have been numerous studies over the years funded by the County, the County Administrator serves on the MEDIC EMS Board, members of the BOH, and SCHD staff have at times met with the MEDIC EMS Board to discuss recommendations to assure a strong EMS infrastructure.

These discussions are starting to increase as concerns about the long-term stability of MEDIC EMS as a non-profit entity come to the forefront again. There are several reasons including increasing costs of labor, increasing cost of supplies, and changes in the payor mix with more transports being paid for by Medicaid/Medicare. There are several programs to help offset costs, but those are not available to MEDIC EMS in its current operational format.

The financial stability of MEDIC EMS is a BOS strategic plan priority. On April 12<sup>th</sup>, Linda Frederiksen, Director of MEDIC EMS, presented to the BOS at its Committee of the Whole Meeting. Dr. Hanson attended the Committee of the Whole meeting. The tentative plan is to have Mrs. Frederiksen present at the May 19<sup>th</sup> BOH meeting. Mrs. Thoreson anticipates that County Administration will be present as part of that discussion.

Mrs. Thoreson shared the other area where SCHD becomes involved in the EMS system is through licensing. Scott County Code Chapter 28, Emergency Medical Services, is a local code that outlines the expectations and requirements for operating an EMS in Scott County. It also designates a geographic area assigned to an EMS provider in which that provider performs all calls for service.

Mrs. Thoreson explained MEDIC EMS is assigned primary responsibility for all of Scott County except for two areas served by volunteer services with MEDIC EMS being the back-up for those areas. The sustainability of a strong, efficient EMS system is important to the health of the community.

Dr. Franzman asked if MEDIC EMS has been in Scott County for decades, or if there have been any other previous nonprofit providers.

Mrs. Thoreson shared MEDIC EMS was collaboratively organized in 1982 by Scott County, St. Luke's, and Mercy Hospitals (precursors to Genesis Health System).

Dr. O'Donnell asked if Mrs. Frederiksen felt they were losing any market share.

Mrs. Thoreson shared Mrs. Frederiksen noted increasing costs of labor to compete with the competitive healthcare labor market and low reimbursement rates paid by Medicaid/Medicare have been challenging.

Dr. Hanson added Mrs. Frederiksen explained as the Medicaid population grows, and with the low Medicaid reimbursement rates, Medicaid has been a significant challenge to their operation.

Dr. O'Donnell shared the shortage in healthcare staffing continues to grow and predictions are the education system will not be able to produce enough qualified healthcare professionals to keep up with retirements and staff leaving the field in the next three to five years.

Dr. Hanson shared Scott County has benefited from an incredibly high functioning EMS service with high-level response times to all parts of the county including rural areas. As costs rise and revenues stagnate, county and city officials will be discussing how to keep the ambulance service sustainable for the long term with the same high level of care for the entire county.

B. Dr. Hanson moved to the Public Health Activity Report for the month of March 2022.

C. Dr. Hanson moved to the Budget Report for the month of March 2022.

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

D. Dr. Hanson moved to the Scott County Kids Report.

Diane Martens, Scott County Kids reported the Tall Cop Says Stop educational training will be offered on April 12<sup>th</sup> and participants will be able to learn and identify substance abuse trends.

Mrs. Martens shared the Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) Board members continue to find the services provided by the Childcare Nurse Consultant (CCNC) to be a positive service.

Dr. Hanson asked Mrs. Martens to explain the Handle with Care Program.

Mrs. Martens explained that when law enforcement officers identify children at the scene of a traumatic event, the child's name is shared with the school district in a confidential notice before the start of school. No information is shared except for the child's name and "Handle with Care". This allows school staff to be more sensitive to the child's behavior and needs.

E. Dr. Hanson moved to the Title V, Local Public Health Services, and Tobacco Use Prevention Program Report.

Briana Boswell reported work continues on the FY'23 Maternal Health application and Child and Adolescent Health application. In the upcoming fiscal year, both grants will cover Cedar, Clinton, Jackson, and Scott counties for Collaborative Service Area 14.

Tiffany Peterson reported the Local Public Health Services application for FY'23 will be submitted on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mrs. Peterson shared Anna Copp is continuing to receive requests regarding vaping education for students. Mrs. Copp took two students and an instructor from Central High School to participate in the Iowa Students for Tobacco Education and Prevention (ISTEP) summit on April 19<sup>th</sup> in Des Moines.

F. Dr. Hanson moved to the Board of Health Orientation – Local Board of Health Member Orientation

Mrs. Nowachek, IDPH Region 6 Community Health Consultant, shared Local Board of Health (LBOH) members are appointed for three-year terms by the BOS. The BOS has authority over the LBOH in three areas: appointment of BOH members, approval of adopted rules and regulations of the BOH, and appropriation of county tax funds the BOH use for its operations.

The LBOH must have at least five members, including one licensed physician, PA, ARNP, or APRN. The board must meet six times per year, report membership and officers to IDPH, submit meeting minutes to IDPH, follow public meeting laws, individualize public health services to meet the needs of their county, and serve as Contractor for many IDPH grants.

Mrs. Nowachek emphasized that public health is a partnership of local public health, IDPH, non-profit organizations, health care providers, policymakers, businesses, and many others working together to protect and improve the health of their communities and Iowans.

Mrs. Nowachek gave the jurisdiction definition of the LBOH according to §137.103 (2), “A county board shall have jurisdiction over public health matters within the county.”

Mrs. Nowachek described the three core functions of the LBOH are to safeguard the community's health by assessment, policy development, and assurance. The required public health services are to impose and enforce quarantine and isolation, furnish supplies and services/care during quarantine and isolation, communicable disease investigation and follow-up (includes assurance of STD/STI examination and treatment), immunization and dental audits for schools, immunizations to children if not provided elsewhere, assure enforcement of animal control (infectious and contagious diseases/rabies investigation and quarantine), private sewage disposal systems (Time of Transfer Inspections), and assure completion of the Community Health Needs Assessment on a five-year basis.

Mrs. Nowachek thanked the Scott County BOH members for their service and commitment to public health.

Dr. Hanson called for a motion to accept the reports. Mr. Robinson moved to approve the reports. Motion seconded by Dr. Schermer. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Hanson moved to Public Comment.

There were no comments.

Dr. Hanson moved to Unfinished Business.

There were no items for Unfinished Business.

Dr. Hanson moved to New Business.

Following discussion, Dr. O'Donnell moved to approve and authorize the signature of the Care for Yourself Grant Application, Contract, Subcontract and Subsequent Amendments. Motion seconded by Mr. Robinson. Motion carried.

Following discussion, Dr. O'Donnell moved to approve and authorize the signature of the Immunization Services Grant Application, Contract, Subcontract and Subsequent Amendments. Motion seconded by Dr. Schermer. Motion carried.

Following discussion, Dr. Franzman moved to approve the FY22 Spring Budget Amendment. Motion seconded by Dr. Schermer. Motion carried.

Following discussion, Dr. O'Donnell moved to approve and authorize the Signature of the Internship Affiliation Agreement with Augustana College. Motion seconded by Dr. Schermer. Motion carried.

Following discussion, Dr. O'Donnell moved to approve and authorize the signature of the Internship Affiliation Agreement with the University of Iowa College Public Health. Motion seconded by Dr. Franzman. Motion carried.

Following discussion, Dr. Franzman moved to approve and authorize the Staff Education Requests. Motion seconded by Dr. Schermer. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on May 19, 2022, in the Boardroom on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Schwarz  
Recording Secretary