



## Scott County Health Department

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### SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

July 21, 2022

### 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

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

Members Present: Dr. Hanson, Dr. O'Donnell, Dr. Franzman, Mr. Robinson, Dr. Schermer

Staff Present: Amy Thoreson, Brooke Barnes, Briana Boswell, Nicole Miller, Andrew Swartz, Lenore Alonso, Mariah Bryner, Ellen Gackle, Christina McDonough, Lashon Moore, Brenda Schwarz, Pam Thomas, Dr. Jamie Christophersen, University of Iowa College of Public Health MPH Student Intern

Others Present: Nicole Mann, Eastern Iowa Decategorization Director

Dr. Hanson called for a motion to accept the agenda. Dr. Franzman moved to accept the agenda. Motion seconded by Dr. O'Donnell. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Hanson called for a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. O'Donnell moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2022 Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Dr. Franzman. 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.

- LaBridgette Tensley, Maternal and Child Health Consultant 1 year July 12
- Melissa Thomas, Correctional Health Per Diem Nurse 2 years July 14
- Cindi Levetzow, Office Assistant 14 years July 30
- Trish Beckman, Medical Assistant 17 years July 18

Mrs. Thoreson introduced new employee, Pam Thomas who has been hired as the Clinical Services Medical Assistant. Ms. Thomas joined the department on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Thoreson shared Anna Copp has transferred from the Community Tobacco Consultant position to a Community Health Consultant. Mrs. Copp started her new role on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mrs. Thoreson introduced University of Iowa College of Public Health intern, Dr. Jamie Christophersen. Dr. Christophersen is working to assess health equity within the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) program for her internship project.

Mrs. Thoreson reported, that as of the meeting, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) reported 49,534 positive COVID-19 tests in Scott County; the county has seen an average of 40 cases per day for the month of July. Mrs. Thoreson reminded the board that the numbers reported are undercounted due to home test kit results not being reported.

The Scott County Health Department (SCHD) is able to offer vaccine for all ages six months through adult. The department is not carrying every vaccine type, but due to the role the department has in vaccine management, staff are able to make referrals to providers that carry a specific vaccine an individual is seeking.

The department continues to distribute Test Iowa test kits, but the courier service to the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) ended as of June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Thoreson reported the SCHD partnered with Community Health Care, Inc. (CHC) and Healthy Trucking of America at the Walcott Truckers Jamboree on July 14-16 to provide COVID-19 education and vaccinations. In addition, staff provided HIV and sexual health education.

Mrs. Thoreson reported Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is the fourth vaccine approved to be used as a primary series option. The Novavax vaccine uses a more familiar vaccine technology, having been used for more than 30 years, beginning with the first hepatitis B vaccine. As of this meeting, the vaccine is currently in limited supply.

Mrs. Thoreson asked Andy Swartz to speak about Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). Mr. Swartz explained PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries for many years. PFAS, or so-called "Forever Chemicals" can be found in surface water, groundwater, soil, and air. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an interim drinking water health advisory for PFAS in mid-June. The state of Illinois has filed a lawsuit against 3M over alleged PFAS contamination at its Cordova operations along the Mississippi River, citing violations of various laws, including the Federal Clean Water Act and the Illinois Environmental Protection Act by leaking PFAS into the river and soil. The advisory impacts Scott County due to the county being located along the Mississippi River. The 3M Corporation has sent letters to private well owners that are in a three-mile radius of the Cordova 3M facility, which includes a portion of northeast Scott County, recommending owners test their well for PFAS.

Dr. O'Donnell asked what the effects of PFAS are.

Mr. Swartz responded the EPA warns that PFAS can potentially cause negative effects on fertility and developmental issues in children. The research is ongoing to determine how various levels of exposure to different PFAS can lead to a variety of adverse health effects.

Dr. Schermer asked if PFAS have been banned in Europe and the United Kingdom (UK).

Mr. Swartz did not have any knowledge that they have been banned in Europe or the UK, but will follow up with additional information after the meeting.

Mrs. Thoreson reported staff are continuing to review information for the diagnosis, management, prevention, and counseling of monkeypox. Staff are assisting area providers with information sharing and verifying health partners have the education to diagnosis and resources to test. Currently, authorization is needed for testing an individual by IDPH. A daily email summary regarding testing authorization of Scott County residents is provided. The state does have vaccine available for contacts.

Mrs. Thoreson shared that the state is hosting a Town Hall meeting with local public health administrators to share the Iowa Health and Human Services table of organization (down to the bureau level), unveiling their new branding, mission, vision, and guiding principles.

Staff participated in the Constellation Radiologic Exercise on July 12<sup>th</sup>. The group received positive feedback from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) evaluators.

Mrs. Thoreson reported staff from the City of Bettendorf, City of Davenport, Scott County and MEDIC EMS will be meeting the week of July 25<sup>th</sup> to talk through a financial analysis and operational questions that exist should there be a dual model of EMS delivery in the future.

Dr. Hanson commented that there are several organizations that are involved in the Maternal, Child, Health and Adolescent activities in different ways. Dr. Hanson asked how well each organization is aware of the others activities and efforts.

Briana Boswell shared that agencies, such as Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), have a coordinated intake process where the intake professionals are educated on community organizations and programs. During the intake process, the professional staff reviews the family's needs versus the various program requirements to best align them with services.

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

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

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

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

Nicole Mann reported a drive-thru Community Baby Shower and Resource Event will take place on Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Modern Woodman Park north

parking lot. Several community agencies will be providing birthing families and parents of infants information and resources at the event.

E. Dr. Hanson moved to the Board of Health Orientation – Public Health Policy Advocacy and Impact, Deborah Thompson, DHT Consulting & Training

Deborah Thompson shared, the public health community is typically quiet. When public health is working, food is safe to eat, water is safe to drink, injuries are prevented, diseases are prevented, and people are healthier. However, Ms. Thompson explained as educated and experienced public health professionals, that use data collection and analysis to understand the health of the entire population, it is the responsibility of the public health community to speak on its behalf to protect the community's health and achieve equitable health outcomes.

Ms. Thompson described public health advocacy, as *public* support for, or recommendation of, a particular cause or policy. Advocacy is not expressly defined in Iowa Code. Ms. Thompson described lobbying as to seek to *influence* a politician or public official on an issue. According to the Iowa Ethics Laws in Iowa Code 68B, an individual is not a lobbyist if acting or performing the duties and responsibilities of their office. Ms. Thompson noted that the 10 Essential Public Health Services provide a framework for public health to protect and promote health of all people in all communities and include the responsibility to create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health.

Ms. Thompson explained that as members of the Board, or a governmental health professional, it is legal to advocate and/or lobby, which are both actions intended to influence policy. Public health policy includes laws, regulations, actions, and decisions implemented within society in order to promote wellness and ensure that specific health goals are met.

Ms. Thompson explained as part of Iowa Code 68A.505 it states that government resources may not be used for expressly political purposes. This state law prohibits the board from developing opinions and buying billboards or running a Political Action Committee (PAC) about ballot initiatives.

Ms. Thompson shared there are no laws that prohibit government employees from:

- volunteering for political campaigns
- attending fundraisers, forums and debates
- attending association lobbying events
- donate to political campaigns
- publicly expressing support for candidates

Ms. Thompson explained the Board and staff will need to work together to shape their advocacy course of action moving forward and policies defining the organization's culture and limitations. Ms. Thompson thanked the Board for their service and recognizing the need for advocacy in public health.

Mrs. Thoreson added the department Legislative Committee has met and will be looking to begin building relationships and open communication with policy-makers as a first step to positively impact the health of the community.

Dr. Hanson called for a motion to accept the reports. Dr. O'Donnell moved to approve the reports. Motion seconded by Mr. Robinson. 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 28E Agreement between Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Scott County Board of Health (SCBOH), delegating inspections and enforcement authority to the Board of Health with respect to swimming pools/spas and tattoo establishments and any subsequent amendments. Motion seconded by Mr. Robinson. Motion carried.

Following discussion, Dr. O'Donnell moved to approve and authorize the signature of the Affiliation Agreement for Clinical Experience for Nursing Students with The University of Iowa. Motion seconded by Dr. Schermer. Motion carried.

Following discussion, Dr. Franzman moved to approve and authorize the signature of the Grants to Counties contract and any subsequent amendments. Motion seconded by Dr. O'Donnell. Motion carried.

Following discussion, Dr. O'Donnell moved to approve and authorize the signature of the WISEWOMAN application, contract, subcontract, and any subsequent amendments. Motion seconded by Mr. Robinson. Motion carried.

Following discussion, Dr. O'Donnell moved to approve and authorize the Staff Education Requests. Motion seconded by Dr. Schermer. Motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on September 15, 2022, in the Boardroom on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Schwarz  
Recording Secretary