



## Scott County Health Department

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### SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

January 19, 2023

### MEETING MINUTES

12:00 p.m.

Meeting Held at: Scott County Administrative Center  
600 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Room 605 Davenport,  
Iowa 52801

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

Members Present: Dr. Hanson, Mr. Robinson, Dr. O'Donnell (12:08 arrival), Dr. Schermer (12:09 arrival)  
Dr. Franzman (12:11 arrival)

Staff Present: Amy Thoreson, Brooke Barnes, Briana Boswell, Nicole Miller, Tiffany Peterson, Lori Steiner, Andrew Swartz, Lenore Alonso, Mariah Bryner, Anna Copp, Carole Ferch, Ellen Gackle, Jodi Jorgensen, Erica Lopez, Krishna Marmé, Christina McDonough, Brenda Schwarz, Tiffany Williams

Others Present: Nicole Mann, Eastern Iowa Decategorization Director, Diane Martens, Scott County Kids Early Childhood Iowa Coordinator, Mikka Mills

The following reports were reviewed and discussed by the Board:

#### A. Director's Report

Amy Thoreson recognized the following employee for his years of service with the department.

- Logan Hildebrant, Environmental Health Specialist 7 years January 11

Mrs. Thoreson recognized new employee, Lydia Amissah-Harris, who has been hired as a Family Health Coordinator. Ms. Amissah-Harris joined the department on December 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Thoreson introduced new employee, Tiffany Williams, who has been hired as a Family Health Nurse. Ms. Williams joined the department on December 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Thoreson shared the departure of Tia Siegwarth, Informing Specialist, effective December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Thoreson shared the resignation of Nicole Miller, Fiscal Manager, effective February 1<sup>st</sup>

Mrs. Thoreson asked Lori Steiner, Clinical Services Manager, to highlight the community outreach events staff have spearheaded in December. Mrs. Steiner shared on December 1<sup>st</sup>, staff assisted in organizing the World AIDS Day Community Health Fair at the Muscatine Center for Social Action (MCSA) in Muscatine County. The event provided an opportunity for staff and other community partners to raise awareness about the testing, treatment, and resources available to fight HIV/AIDS. During the event staff were able to administer 19 HIV tests.

Mrs. Steiner shared on December 5<sup>th</sup> staff assisted in organizing the Winter Wellness Event at the Davenport Public Library's Main Branch. During the event, staff were able to administer 40 HIV tests, 22 influenza vaccinations, and 13 COVID-19 vaccinations which included five primary series doses and eight booster doses.

At both events resources, services, and education were provided to the participants by department staff and partners.

Mrs. Thoreson asked Andy Swartz, Environmental Health Manager, to speak about the Food Safety Task Force meeting. Mr. Swartz explained staff hosted a virtual Food Safety Task Force meeting with local entities on December 29<sup>th</sup>. The meeting included topics on inspection frequencies, Certified Food Protection Manager Certification, employee health illness reporting, and norovirus cleanup procedures. Twenty-five local establishments were able to attend the presentation.

Mrs. Thoreson asked Tiffany Peterson, Community Health Manager, to speak about the EMResource system. Mrs. Peterson shared the EMResource system is a statewide system that tracks health care resources, hospital bed availability, and healthcare provider contact information. The system was a valuable tool used by the state and locally during the COVID-19 pandemic response. The Community Health team has identified an internal process to keep the Scott County healthcare provider contact information current in the system.

Mrs. Thoreson shared the Ebola epidemic in Uganda has been declared over. The State of Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has shared that an additional positive case of mpox has been identified in the state.

Mrs. Thoreson reported, that as of the meeting, HHS reported 55,211 positive COVID-19 tests in Scott County; currently an average of 20 laboratory confirmed cases are being reported per day. Mrs. Thoreson reminded the board that the numbers reported are undercounted due to home test kit results not being reported.

The department continues to manage the vaccine orders for the community. Mrs. Thoreson reported staff continues to meet with Community Health Care, Inc., Genesis Health System, UnityPoint Health, and Scott County EMA every two weeks. Mrs. Thoreson shared COVID-19 comments provided by Dr. Louis Katz, Scott County Health Department Medical Director regarding information being reported about COVID-19 in peer-reviewed literature.

Mrs. Thoreson explained Community Health Care received additional grant funds to support COVID-19 equity efforts. Staff have been sharing information with staff at Community Health Care to avoid duplication of efforts.

Mrs. Thoreson reported the internal workgroup formed by Scott County Administration, regarding transitioning MEDIC EMS to a department of Scott County, and the consultants from Public Consulting Group (PCG) continue to meet weekly. A task list of items that need to be completed is being developed. One item that has been identified, is that Chapter 28 of the Scott County Code of Ordinances which governs and provides standards for the licensing of ambulance services, will need to be reviewed to ensure the code will be relevant to the newly proposed structure. The workgroup continues to discuss issuing a request for proposal for a search firm to assist with hiring the department director and an operational start date.

Mrs. Thoreson shared David Farmer, a PCG consultant, and she will be meeting with Jacob Dodds, Iowa EMS Field Coordinator, to discuss what will be necessary in terms of state licensing.

Mrs. Thoreson shared she attended a meeting for local public health administrators with HHS staff. Dr. Robert Kruse, HHS Medical Director and HHS staff shared updates on the alignment efforts and the three priorities for the Public Health area. The priorities of Public Health are data modernization, pandemic response after action efforts, and system development reinvestment. HHS is recruiting to fill key open positions. Mrs. Thoreson added she has had initial conversations about a future presentation at the joint BOH/BOS meeting with a member of the HHS staff.

HHS unveiled their combined health and human services website on January 17<sup>th</sup>. The new website may be found at <https://hhs.iowa.gov/>.

Dr. Hanson moved to the election of officers. Dr. Hanson called for a nomination for the Chairman of the Board position.

Dr. O'Donnell moved to retain Dr. Hanson for the position of Chairman of the Board. Motion seconded by Dr. Schermer. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Hanson called for a nomination of the Vice Chairman of the Board position.

Dr. Schermer moved to retain Dr. O'Donnell for the position of Vice Chairman of the Board. Motion seconded by Mr. Robinson. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Hanson noted, at a future meeting, the structure of additional board officer positions should be discussed.

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

Dr. Hanson called for a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. O'Donnell moved to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2022 Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Robinson. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- C. Dr. Hanson moved to the Budget Report for the month of December 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 Board of Health Orientation – Scott County Kids, Nicole Mann and Diane Martens.

Nicole Mann explained Scott County Kids is a community planning and funding agency that seeks to overcome systemic challenges that interrupt the lives of children while increasing access and streamlining resources throughout our area. Scott County Kids is a 28E local government entity that was created in July 1995 by four entities: 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Iowa Department of Human Services, Scott County, and the Scott County Community School Districts (Bettendorf Community School, Davenport Community School, North Scott Community School, and Pleasant Valley Community School).

Mrs. Mann explained, Decategorization of child welfare and juvenile justice funding is an initiative intended to establish systems of delivering human services based upon client needs to replace systems based upon a multitude of categorical funding programs and funding sources, each with different service definitions and eligibility requirements. Decategorization is designed to redirect child welfare and juvenile justice funding to services which are more preventative, family centered, and community-based in order to reduce the use of restrictive approaches that relay on institutional, out-of-home, and out-of-community care.

The development of the Scott County Decategorization Program began in September 1988, when Scott County was selected as one of two counties in Iowa to be pilot counties for a new child welfare service system. The program created a single child welfare fund for Scott County by combining the relevant funding resources of the Iowa Department of Human Services, Scott County, and the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

Scott County Kids was contacted by Cedar County (2002), Muscatine County (2002), Quad County Decategorization (Henry, Lee, Louisa, and Des Moines counties) (2003), Dubuque County (2014), Clinton County (2016), and Jackson County (2016) to provide Decategorization Coordination services. The consolidated ten-county consolidation area is managed by one coordinator with a FY23 budget of \$1.7 million; the FY23 Scott County budget is \$497,497.

Scott County Decategorization funded programs are Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RRED) in Juvenile Justice, The Lisa Project, Scott County Family Advocate, Scott County Restorative Justice Programs, School Based Mental Health Services, Care Coordination, School Based Youth Services, Scott County Girls Group, Community Partnerships Protecting Children (CPPC), Community Based Training, Decategorization Coordination, and On the Way Home.

Diane Martens explained the first two thousand days make up the most critical stage of the

human lifecycle. The first five years of life, impacts a child's chances for success for life. Mrs. Martens explain that Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) is a statewide initiative housed within the Iowa Department of Management. ECI is a partnership between the Department of Education and HHS that unites public and private agencies, organizations, and stakeholders under one common vision, "Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful."

The Scott County ECI funded programs are Bright Beginnings, Child Care Nurse Consultant, Family Connects, Child Care Scholarships, Preschool Scholarships, and the extension of the Head Start day.

Mrs. Mann added Scott County Kids oversees Mental Health First Aid, Handle with Care, Apartment in a Suitcase, Youth Suicide Task Force, and Flex Spending.

Dr. O'Donnell asked how many lives have been touched in the ten counties with the \$1.7 million.

Mrs. Mann estimated 15,000 lives in the ten-county area have been touched based on initiatives and programs.

Dr. Hanson inquired if Scott County Decategorization supports an at-risk boys group.

Mrs. Mann shared the at-risk girls group was created with the assistance of the school liaison officers and juvenile court system that were finding a gap in the community to support at-risk girls.

Mrs. Mann stated that funding for Decategorization is based on population and funding for ECI is based on population and poverty levels. Mrs. Mann stressed it is important the community completes their census forms.

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.

Mrs. Thoreson shared there are no updates to the FY23 Scott County Budget Amendment or FY24 Scott County Health Department Budget. The recommended County budget will be presented to the BOS on January 24<sup>th</sup>. The BOS adoption of the budget will take place at the March 16<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting and must be filed with the State by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mrs. Thoreson explained the Legislative Committee developed an Inventory of Local Board of Health Position Statements by searching other county websites.

The Legislative Committee provided copies of the updated draft position statements on the

Iowa Natural Resource Trust Fund, Water Fluoridation, Syringe Services Programs (SSPs), Sale of Raw Milk, and created a position statement on School and Child Care Vaccination Requirements in their monthly packets.

Mrs. Thoreson thanked the Board for being a part of the beginning process to formalize the legislative structure of the department and board.

Following discussion, Dr. O'Donnell moved to approve the Position Statement on Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) as presented. Motion seconded by Dr. Schermer. Motion carried.

Following discussion, Dr. O'Donnell moved to approve the Position Statement on the Iowa Natural Resource Trust Fund as presented. Motion seconded by Dr. Schermer. Motion carried.

Following discussion, Dr. O'Donnell moved to approve the Position Statement on the Sale of Raw Milk to the Public as presented. Motion seconded by Dr. Schermer. Motion carried.

After discussion, the board came to the consensus to table the Position Statements on Water Fluoridation and School and Child Care Vaccination Requirements until the February meeting.

Mrs. Thoreson asked Christina McDonough to update the board on House File 3 bill that is proposing changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Mrs. McDonough explained that House File 3 is a proposed bill that would change who qualifies for SNAP assistance and what items can be purchased. As introduced, House File 3 would add new requirements for Iowans applying for assistance benefits, such as requiring that HHS conduct an asset test on all members of the household before awarding SNAP benefits. Households would face a limit of \$2,750 in assets, or \$4,250 in assets if at least one member of the household is age 60 or older or is disabled. Mrs. McDonough explained that the state would take note of property, including vehicles, while approving or denying benefits.

The proposed bill would restrict SNAP users to only allowed food items on the approved Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) approved list.

Other requirements would be monthly and quarterly verification checks, participation in the Employment and Training Program, and the requirement of custodial parents to cooperate with the child support recovery unit or risk the loss of SNAP benefits.

Mrs. McDonough reported, as of November 2022 Scott County data shows 20,925 individuals participated in the SNAP program. On average, that is 10,545 households with an average household size of 1.98 individuals. The average monthly benefit is \$178.36 per individual with an average meal benefit per benefited individual of \$1.98.

Dr. Hanson asked if restricting food choices to those that are currently on the approved WIC list is supportive of nutritional needs of people of all ages.

Mrs. McDonough responded that SNAP recipients would no longer be able to purchase meat,

other than certain varieties of canned tuna and salmon. Other foods that would be restricted from SNAP purchases make up a lengthy list including frozen prepared foods, butter, flour, cooking oil, herbs, spices, coffee and tea, cottage cheese, snack foods, nuts and seeds, white rice, rice noodles, jam, canned fruits and vegetables, soup, condiments, white bread, meal kits, bottled water, sliced cheese, crackers, and more.

Dr. O'Donnell asked if Mrs. McDonough knew what was prompting the restrictions.

Mrs. McDonough responded she did not know but noted this is an example of why it is important to educate lawmakers of what is specifically in House File 3 and the effects it would have if passed.

Mrs. Thoreson added as the department and board begin formalizing a legislative structure, it will be important to set a criteria of which items the board will want to be alerted on and at what point.

Dr. Hanson moved to New Business.

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

The next meeting will be held on February 16, 2023, in the Boardroom on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Schwarz  
Recording Secretary