



## Scott County Health Department

600 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street | Davenport, IA 52801-1030 | P. 563-326-8618 | F. 563-326-8774  
health@scottcountyiowa.gov | www.scottcountyiowa.gov/health

### SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH October 19, 2023 MEETING MINUTES 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Held at: Scott Emergency Operations Center  
1110 East 46<sup>th</sup> Street  
Davenport, Iowa 52807

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

Absent: Dr. Schermer

Staff Present: Amy Thoreson, Brooke Barnes, Briana Boswell, Lashon Moore, Nicholette Parmelee, Tiffany Peterson, Lorna Bimm, Mariah Bryner, Anna Copp, Alicia Coppedge, Carole Ferch, Michelle Fitzjarrell, Ellen Gackle, Jodi Jorgensen, Krishna Marmé, Christina McDonough, Brittany Sandlin, Brenda Schwarz, Alison Struck, Andy Swartz

Others Present: Ken Beck, Jean Dickson, David Farmer, Dr. Louis Katz, Dr. Robert Kruse, Diane Martens, John Maxwell, Ross Paustian, Brian Payne, Maddy Ranshaw, Rita Rawson, Mahesh Sharma, Ken Sharp, Vanessa Wierman

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

Dr. Hanson called for a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. O'Donnell moved to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2023 Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Robinson. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Hanson noted that the meeting was the annual joint meeting of the Board of Health (BOH) and Board of Supervisors (BOS) and thanked the supervisors for their continued support.

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.

• Jodi Jorgensen, Community Dental Consultant	1 year	October 3 <sup>rd</sup>
• Krishna Marmé, Community Tobacco Consultant	1 year	October 31 <sup>st</sup>
• Roma Taylor, Per Diem Nurse	2 years	October 20 <sup>th</sup>
• Jane Morehouse, Per Diem Nurse	3 years	October 1 <sup>st</sup>
• Monica Nickels, Laboratory Technician	5 years	October 22 <sup>nd</sup>
• Katie DeLaRosa, Disease Intervention Specialist	7 years	October 3 <sup>rd</sup>
• Carole Ferch, Community Dental Consultant	7 years	October 31 <sup>st</sup>
• Michelle Fitzjarrell, Senior Office Assistant	10 years	October 28 <sup>th</sup>
• Brenda Schwarz, Senior Administrative Assistant	15 years	October 20 <sup>th</sup>
• Tammy Loussaert, Environmental Health Specialist	33 years	October 1 <sup>st</sup>

Mrs. Thoreson shared Stuart Scott received the Metrocom NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) of Davenport Health Image Award.

Mrs. Thoreson shared that the Scott County High Utilizer group has recently had conversations with legislators, the attorney general, and county attorney about the need for additional long-term placement for individuals with severe mental illness in the community. The initiative is in its initial stages and is being led by the Davenport Police Department with representatives from other law enforcement agencies, health care providers and other community entities.

Mrs. Thoreson noted that on September 28, 2023 the BOS and the MEDIC EMS Board signed the Memorandum of Understanding which formalizes the agreement for Scott County to assume assets and operations of MEDIC EMS as of January 1, 2024.

Dr. Hanson thanked those who have served on committees and workgroups to complete the EMS Transition Study and those that continue to provide support to complete the transition of MEDIC EMS into an operating department of Scott County.

B. Dr. Hanson moved to the Public Health Activity Report for the month of September 2023.

C. Dr. Hanson moved to the Budget Report for the month of September 2023.

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

D. Dr. Hanson moved to the Board of Health Orientation – Iowa Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health: Dr. Robert Kruse, Medical Director; Ken Sharp, Operations Deputy Director

Dr. Kruse explained that the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Department of Human Services (DHS) are now one single department. IDPH and DHS transitioned into the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on July 1, 2023. Dr. Kruse reviewed the HHS table of organization that implements an integrated organizational structure bringing like functions and services together. The ten vertical divisions of HHS are Administration, Compliance, Strategic Operations, Medicaid, State-Operated Facilities, Behavioral Health, Public Health, Community Access, Family Well-Being and Protection, and Aging and Disability Services.

Dr. Kruse shared HHS has engaged with the consulting firm, Health Management Associates (HMA), to study the delivery of health and human service programs in Iowa. HMA is studying why the current systems are structured the way they are, and the historical context of such decisions. The goal of the assessment is to examine existing operational capabilities and gaps as well as funding and resource models that drive the current system and make recommendations for more efficient operations. The assessment will give HHS a clearer understanding of the linkages that currently exist between systems and current Medicaid programs, the primary beneficiaries of programs, decision makers involved in each system are, and how to better connect services. The programs/systems being reviewed are: Local Governmental Public Health; Environmental Health; I-Smile™, WIC, Maternal and Child Health; Family Planning; Tobacco Community Partnerships; Community Partnership for Protecting Children; Decategorization; Family Development and Self Sufficiency; Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers; Mental Health Delivery Regions; Integrated Provider Network; Aging and Disability Regional Centers; Area Agencies on Aging, Early Childhood Iowa; Emergency Preparedness Regions; local public health delivered Medicaid services; and Community Action Agencies.

Ken Sharp explained the COVID-19 pandemic emphasized the critical importance of a robust public health system and created challenges to the public health infrastructure. The State of Iowa has received non-categorical funding from the Center for Diseases Control (CDC) to help meet critical infrastructure and workforce needs to make strategic investments that will have lasting effects on public health. The three strategies of this five-year grant period are workforce, foundational capabilities, and data modernization with a requirement that 40 percent of the funds be used to support local public health infrastructure.

The workforce strategy is to recruit, retain, support, and train the public health workforce with a short-term outcome of increased hiring of a diverse public health staff and long-term outcome of increasing the size of the public health workforce.

The foundational capabilities strategy is to strengthen systems, processes, and policies with a short-term outcome of improving organizational systems and processes and a long-term outcome of a system with stronger public health foundational capabilities (assessment & surveillance, community partnership development, equity, organizational competencies, policy development & support, accountability & performance management, emergency preparedness & response, communications).

The data modernization strategy is to deploy scalable, flexible, and sustainable technologies with a short-term outcome of more modern and efficient data infrastructure and increased data interoperability and long-term outcome of an increased availability and use of public health data.

Supervisor Rita Rawson asked for clarification on how much money the CDC grant awarded the State of Iowa.

Mr. Sharp explained that there are three pots of money from the award. The State was awarded approximately \$35 million.

Dr. Hanson noted that as an organization creates new divisions, it can also create new silos.

Dr. Hanson asked how the state envisions encouraging communication and collaboration between

the divisions.

Mr. Sharp shared since establishing the newly formed organization, there have been specific situations where data sharing has influenced a positive health outcome where previously there was apprehensive whether the data could be shared between the two organizations. Mr. Sharp anticipates that communication and collaboration between divisions will continue to strengthen, but also realizes there will be learning curves along the way.

Dr. Hanson encouraged the state to have a feedback loop where the locals could provide input on challenges and successes they are facing at the local level.

Dr. Hanson asked if there is a focus on the social determinants of health.

Dr. Kruse shared there is a focus in every division to think upstream as they realize the social determinants/drivers of health are the greatest influence on health outcomes.

Dr. Hanson noted that she would like to see transparency in data management as public health data belongs to everyone.

Dr. O'Donnell inquired if the local agencies could lose funding for direct services that are currently being provided at the local level due to the investment being made in infrastructure at the state level.

Mr. Sharp explained that the grant received from the CDC does not have a direct impact on any other funding sources. The grant funds received from the CDC are above and beyond other grants or funds from the state general fund. Mr. Sharp shared he does not feel there is a direct intent to eliminate direct services but there will be intentional conversations on where the direct services are best provided and how to best invest funds to make an impact upstream.

Dr. Hanson called for a motion to accept the reports. Mr. Robinson moved to approve the reports. Motion seconded by Dr. O'Donnell. 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 agreements listed below. Motion seconded by Mr. Robinson. Motion carried.

- All Our Kids Early Childhood Network
- Radio Maintenance Agreement with RACOM

Dr. Hanson moved to Staff Education Requests.

There were no staff education requests.

The next meeting will be held on November 16, 2023, in the Boardroom on the first floor of the Scott County Administration Center. There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Schwarz  
Recording Secretary