



## Scott County Health Department

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### SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

August 21, 2025

### 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. O'Donnell, Chair of the Scott County Board of Health, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Members Present: Dr. O'Donnell, Mr. Robinson, Dr. Franzman, Dr. Schermer (virtually)

Absent: Dr. Hanson

Staff Present: Amy Thoreson, Brooke Barnes, Briana Boswell, Lashon Moore, Nicki Parmelee, Tiffany Peterson, Parker Prochaska, Mariah Bryner, Anna Copp, Ellen Gackle, Vianka Herrera, LaBridgette Johnosn, Brenda Schwarz

Others: Lori Elam, Penny Vacek

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

Dr. O'Donnell called for a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Robinson moved to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Dr. Franzman. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. O'Donnell moved to Public Comment.

There were no comments.

The following reports were reviewed and discussed by the Board:

#### Director's Report

Mrs. Thoreson welcomed Penny Vacek from Senator Grassley's office. Ms. Vacek has been an active partner with several coalitions and brings extensive experience as a long-time public servant in Senator Grassley's office.

Mrs. Thoreson recognized Dr. Schermer's service to the Board of Health and wished her and her family

well in their relocation from the area at the end of August. Initial notification regarding the need to fill the vacancy created by Dr. Schermer's resignation from the Board of Health have been made to County Administration.

Mrs. Thoreson recognized the following employees for their years of service to the department.

- |   |                         |          |
|---|-------------------------|----------|
| • Sherrie Petersen, Environmental Health Specialist | August 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 2 years  |
| • Staci Nielsen, Public Health Nurse                | August 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 4 years  |
| • Jessica Redden, Child Care Nurse Consultant       | August 27 <sup>th</sup> | 13 years |
| • Brooke Barnes, Deputy Director                    | August 29 <sup>th</sup> | 17 years |
| • Jack Hoskins, Environmental Health Specialist     | August 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 25 years |

Mrs. Thoreson recognized new employees, Beth Ann Liljequist and Shelby Peiffer, who have been hired as per diem dental hygienists. Ms. Liljequist and Ms. Peiffer both joined the department on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Staff have made progress in resolving the licensing issue involving a hotel and pool in LeClaire due to a misunderstanding regarding various regulations and permit types.

The Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing is moving forward with their new food database. The system is projected to launch in the summer of 2026. The database will replace the current U.S. Food Safety System and will change processes as well as cost-sharing arrangements. Updates will be provided as additional information becomes available.

The new electronic health record (EHR) system, Patagonia Health, is live. The transition has been positive, and the vendor has been responsive to needs.

St. Ambrose University will discontinue its Master of Public Health (MPH) program in 2026. The department has benefited from hiring MPH graduates and from collaborative work on community health initiatives.

The Overdose to Action in States (OD2A-S) funding became available in September 2024, local implementation began in January 2025, resulting in unspent funds needing to be allocated before the end of the month. Staff, along with partners at Vera French and Community Services, worked to identify appropriate uses for these funds. Approved activities have included marketing initiatives and funds to offset department program activities.

Mrs. Thoreson reported that back-to-school support is being provided to non-public schools while the department conducts a review of the program and long-term sustainability of the services provided as the number of non-public schools, and their student population grows. Further updates will be shared as the review progresses.

Dr. Franzman noted that there were several sanitation items in the Director's Report; more than routinely are noted. Dr. Franzman also acknowledged the University of Iowa's program to address concerns about water quality of free-standing drinking water kiosks.

Parker Prochaska shared that free-standing water and ice kiosks are not regulated by the department or other entities. The University of Iowa has been evaluating the water quality of these kiosks in the

state and have found unsafe water and ice being dispensed. The University of Iowa is launching a program to address concerns about the water quality. There are three kiosks in Scott County.

Dr. O'Donnell asked how the farmer population was chosen for the seasonal influenza education campaign.

Tiffany Peterson explained that the department received a preparedness grant amendment providing additional funds to educate and vaccinate dairy, poultry, and swine farm workers. Mrs. Peterson noted that states impacted by H5N1 bird flu were awarded these funds to help reduce illness, ease strain on the health system, and support detection of potential H5N1 cases.

Mrs. Thoreson added that reducing seasonal flu infections also lowers the already rare risk of co-infection with both a seasonal and an avian virus.

Dr. O'Donnell moved to the Public Health Activity Report for the month of July 2025.

Dr. O'Donnell moved to the Budget Report for the month of July 2025.

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

Dr. O'Donnell moved to the Board of Health Orientation: Scott County Community Services – After the Mental Health Era, Lori Elam, Director

Lori Elam provided an overview of statewide changes following the passage of House File 2673 in May 2024. The legislation combined funding for mental health and substance use disorder services, with the goal of streamlining access, reducing duplication, and improving coordination across prevention, early intervention, treatment, recovery, and crisis services statewide.

As a result, the state's Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) regions officially ended on June 30, 2025. The regional 28E agreements will be dissolved December 31, 2025, with final financial reconciliation due January 15, 2026.

The new system consolidates services into seven Behavioral Health Districts overseen by the Iowa Primary Care Association (PCA). District 7, which includes Scott County, is the largest by population and includes five of Iowa's eight urban areas. The new district model is designed to provide clearer access points, reduce administrative barriers, and strengthen coordination to prevent individuals from cycling between jails, hospitals, and shelters without connecting to effective services.

Mrs. Elam noted that while the overall system has shifted, no changes have been made to the mental health or substance use civil commitment codes. Future legislative sessions may include code updates.

Under the new model, service navigators play a central role by quickly connecting uninsured or underinsured individuals, often high utilizers of crisis services, to appropriate providers. The navigators assist with tasks such as scheduling appointments, arranging transportation, helping complete Medicaid applications, and providing follow-up to ensure connection to services. The

navigators do not conduct assessments or provide direct treatment. Currently, 32 navigators have been hired statewide, with funding up to 50. Recruitment is underway to hire a navigator in Scott County.

Mrs. Elam explained that legislation transferred the coordination of disability services from the MHDS Regions to Disability Access Points (DAPs) who are now part of the state's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Network. DAPs focus on individuals of all ages with intellectual disabilities, brain injuries, developmental disabilities, or any other condition that falls under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). DAPs can fund short-term services and long-term support to individuals without Medicaid; once the individual qualifies for Medicaid, the services shift to Medicaid funding.

Locally, services for Scott County are provided by the Eastern Iowa Disability Alliance. Staff can meet directly with individuals and families, explain available services, and help with warm handoffs to providers. Two individuals support Scott County and have office space within Scott County Community Services.

Iowa Health and Human Services was awarded a demonstration grant as part of a federal initiative to support the design and implementation of an Iowa Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) program. CCBHCs are outpatient clinics that provide a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use services. CCBHCs serve anyone who walks through their doors, regardless of age, diagnosis or insurance status. CCBHCs must meet certification criteria and provide or coordinate services including crisis support, outpatient screening and assessment, case management, peer and family support, psychiatric rehabilitation, mobile crisis services, services for veterans, and medical screening and monitoring. CCBHCs partner with providers to deliver the services, and providers receive an enhanced Medicaid reimbursement rate.

Other states that have adopted the CCBHC model have seen reduced hospitalizations, shorter inpatient stays, fewer emergency department visits, lower insurance costs, decreased individuals entering the justice system, and improvements in physical health, such as reduced cholesterol and blood pressure levels. Locally, the Robert Young Center in Rock Island was awarded the grant to serve Cedar, Clinton, Jackson, Muscatine and Scott Counties.

Dr. O'Donnell asked if there is a connection with Community Health Care, Inc. (CHC).

Mrs. Elam explained that the Iowa PCA serves as the umbrella for the Community Health Centers across the state. Iowa PCA, has contracted with CHC to provide mental health services in the Scott County Jail; Scott County facilitated this process in response to the previous mental health provider ending its contract for services.

Dr. Franzman noted that the system navigators appear to play a critical role in the systems' success.

Dr. O'Donnell asked about the qualifications to be hired as a service navigator.

Mrs. Elam shared that the qualifications are an associate or bachelor's degree in social work, counseling, psychology, nursing or a related behavioral health field; experience may be

substituted. Iowa PCA is encouraging individuals with lived experience and peer support experience to apply.

Dr. Franzman asked if the system navigators will be establishing intentional relationships with providers.

Mrs. Elam shared that as part of their role, they will be building and maintaining relationships with providers.

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

Dr. O'Donnell moved to Unfinished Business.

Mrs. Thoreson reported that staff continue to look for opportunities to connect with elected officials.

A statewide initiative called Cancer in Iowa: 99 Counties Project is bringing county-specific cancer information and community conversations to all 99 counties. Scott County's session will be held virtually on October 13<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Flyers will be distributed once they become available.

Dr. O'Donnell moved to New Business.

Brooke Barnes provided an overview of the FY'25 accomplishments and FY'26 workplans for the SCHD infrastructure teams.

In FY'25, the Health Equity Committee hosted a department-wide Health Equity training series in partnership with the University of Iowa College of Public Health and implemented a health equity framework to guide how equity is applied in practice. In FY'26, the committee will determine the next steps for an annual health equity assessment, partner with other teams to evaluate departmental partnerships, and solicit nominations for a new health equity in action project.

The Health Promotion Team efforts in FY'25, included completing health promotion strategies focused on vaccination and vaping, revising the SCHD branding guidelines, and developing a department promotional video. In FY'26, the team will complete the FY'25 annual report, implement oral health promotion strategies, and maintain updated content on the SCHD's website and social media platforms.

In FY'25, the Public Health Policy Committee tracked state legislation relevant to public health, engaged legislators on public health bills, and shared position statements and updates with partners and stakeholders. In FY'26, the committee will establish a plan to guide work, host a meeting with state elected officials to strengthen relationships, support policy items on community meeting agendas, and apply SCHD's policy review tool to ensure community and stakeholder engagement.

The Quality Improvement (QI) Council revised customer satisfaction survey questions, reviewed performance management data to identify opportunities, and facilitated two QI projects in FY'25. In FY'26, the Council will explore ways to simplify the QI project process, create a QI Champion Award,

facilitate QI projects, and promote QI project outcomes across the department.

In FY'25, the Workforce Development Committee made progress on the new employee onboarding procedure and completed a department-wide workforce development assessment. During FY'26, the Committee will finalize and implement the new onboarding procedure, be part of a QI project on internships and student learning opportunities, and collaborate with other teams on partnership/sector assessment.

During FY'25 the Workplace Culture Committee facilitated staff participation in the PHWINS survey (Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey by the de Beaumont Foundation), introduced the DISC assessment for new staff, and implemented department-wide participation in the Cloverleaf Platform. In FY'26, the Committee will continue to develop a workplace culture plan, utilize the Cloverleaf Platform to support team collaboration, and develop a policy review tool to capture culture-related impacts.

Following discussion, Mr. Robinson moved to approve and authorize the FY'26 Infrastructure Team Workplans. Motion seconded by Dr. Franzman. Motion carried unanimously.

Following discussion, Dr. Franzman moved to approve and authorize the signature of the agreement item listed below. Motion seconded by Mr. Robinson. Motion carried.

- Educational Affiliation Agreement with Southern Illinois University

Following discussion, Mr. Robinson moved to approve and authorize the signature of the agreement item listed below. Motion seconded by Dr. Franzman. Motion carried.

- PrEP Care Coordination with University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinic/Iowa Department of Health and Human Services

Following discussion, Dr. Franzman moved to approve and authorize the signature of the grant amendment item:

- Fiscal Year 2026 Overdose Data to Action in States (OD2A-S) amendment and subcontracts

Following discussion, Dr. Franzman moved to approve and authorize the Staff Education Request. Motion seconded by Mr. Robinson. Motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on September 18, 2025, at the Scott County Administration Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Board Room. There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Schwarz  
Recording Secretary