



Scott County Health Department

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SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH NOVEMBER 20, 2025 MEETING MINUTES 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Held at: Scott County Administrative Center
600 West 4th Street – 1st 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. Hanson, Ms. Flaherty, Dr. Franzman, Dr. O'Donnell, Mr. Robinson

Staff Present: Amy Thoreson, Brooke Barnes, Briana Boswell, Lashon Moore, Nicki Parmelee, Tiffany Peterson, Lenore Alonso, Lorna Bimm, Mariah Benson, Anna Copp, Ellen Gackle, Vianka Herrera, LaBridgette Johnson, Jodi Jorgensen, Amy Long, Christina McDonough, Bailey Schneden, Brenda Schwarz

Others: Dr. Louis Katz, Jennifer Parsons

Dr. O'Donnell called for a motion to accept the agenda. Dr. Hanson 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 October 16, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Dr. Hanson. 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 recognized the following employees for their years of service to the department.

- Tracy Zeimet, Correctional Health Per Diem Nurse 4 years November 8th
- Danielle Cool, Correctional Health Per Diem Nurse 6 years November 4th
- Anna Copp, Community Health Consultant 11 years November 10th

- LaNae Ramos, Per Diem Nurse 12 years November 14th
- Christina McDonough, Community Transformation Consultant 12 years November 25th

Mrs. Thoreson introduced Jennifer Parsons, a student in the LPN to BSN program at St. Ambrose University. Ms. Parsons is spending the day in the department to learn more about Public Health work.

Mrs. Thoreson recognized new employee, Bailey Schneden, who has been hired as a Public Health Nurse. Ms. Schneden joined the department on November 5th.

Mrs. Thoreson congratulated Lydia Amissah-Harris for being selected as a St. Ambrose University 2025 Alumni Awards-College of Health and Human Services Emerging Leaders.

In early November staff met with school representatives to begin drafting an annual report regarding their use of Opioid Settlement Dollars to support the evidence-based prevention curriculum, Character Strong. School personnel reported positive feedback from faculty, staff, and students already for this school year. An annual report will capture statistical information as well as success stories and will be completed at the conclusion of the school year.

Mrs. Thoreson shared that after discussion, staff determined that vacation and guest home rentals previously licensed as hotels did not align with the hotel code criteria. The rentals that were licensed as hotels have been refunded the \$50 fee and removed from the inspection list. The hotel program is operated through a contract with the Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing.

Senator Mike Zimmer met with the Public Health Policy Committee to discuss upcoming legislative priorities and events, including the December Iowa Public Health Association legislative forum, where he will be a speaker. Senator Zimmer also took the opportunity to meet with staff and share some reflections from his first year in the Senate.

Mrs. Thoreson shared she invited Representative Gary Moore to the department for a visit ahead of the legislative session. Representative Moore toured the department, engaged with staff, and gained a deeper understanding of the department's work. Discussions were held regarding anticipated topics and priorities for the 2026 Iowa Legislative Session.

Dr. O'Donnell noted that it was great to see staff collaborating with the Quad City Initiative regarding efforts related to the Community Health Improvement Plan priorities, noting that such collaboration helps identify opportunities to work together rather than duplicate efforts.

Mrs. Thoreson shared that the Quad City Initiative participates in the community health assessment planning group. As an independent agency, they are not required to create a community health improvement plan and instead look for opportunities to align their work with others.

Dr. O'Donnell congratulated the clinical services team on completing the Syndemic Prevention Outreach and Testing Services (SPOTS) program site visit evaluation with no noted deficiencies.

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

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

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

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

Dr. O'Donnell moved to Unfinished Business.

Mrs. Thoreson shared that the Public Health Policy Committee is continuing to monitor developments related to public health alignment. A copy of the Iowa Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) report was provided to the Board of Health (BOH) prior to the meeting.

Governor Reynolds met with Mahesh Sharma, David Farmer, the Board of Supervisors' Chair and Vice Chair, and local city and school officials. The focus of the meeting was on property taxes, revenue diversification, and reducing dependence on property taxes.

At the federal level, with the government reopening, regular communication is returning, and the committee is monitoring developments as they arise.

Dr. O'Donnell moved to New Business.

Dr. Louis Katz, MD, Scott County Health Department Medical Director, gave the presentation *Vaccine Recommendation Process: Prior and Current*.

Dr. Katz reflected on his nearly 50 years in infectious disease and expressed concern about recent challenges within public health, particularly in vaccine policy. Dr. Katz described how, historically, local health departments primarily provided guidance aligned with federal recommendations. Over time, that approach has become more complicated as scientific information, public expectations, and national procedures have evolved. Dr. Katz emphasized that his comments represented his medical opinion rather than department policy and noted that his views continue to change as new evidence emerges.

Dr. Katz reviewed the longstanding value of vaccines, referencing decades of data demonstrating substantial reductions in illness, hospitalizations, and death from vaccine-preventable diseases. He discussed the importance of community immunity and explained how declining vaccination rates for preventable diseases such as measles and pertussis contribute to outbreaks. Dr. Katz shared how national advisory processes have historically used structured, evidence-based methods to ensure consistent vaccine recommendations, and expressed concern that recent changes in these processes have contributed to public confusion. Dr. Katz reviewed common questions and misconceptions. Dr. Katz concluded by outlining several recommendations he believes would support clear and consistent public health messaging, including relying on major professional medical societies for guidance, maintaining strong evidence-based vaccination policies, and ensuring that individuals who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons are protected through broader community immunity.

Following the presentation, Board members discussed the need to update the current BOH Position Statement on School and Child Care Vaccination Requirements. The discussion highlighted the importance of community trust, engagement, and providing credible resources for individuals seeking additional information. No decisions were made during the meeting, and work on the Position Statement will continue, with further discussion planned for the December meeting.

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

- Oklahoma City University Kramer School of Nursing Affiliation Agreement for Master of Science in Nursing Practicum Experience

Due to time constraints, Agenda Item 6D, the Review of Fiscal Year 2026 – 1st Quarter Performance Measurers/Budgeting for Outcomes (BFOs), was deferred to the December meeting.

The next meeting will be held on December 18, 2025, at the Scott County Administration Center, 1st Floor Board Room. There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Schwarz
Recording Secretary