



Scott County Health Department

600 W. 4th Street | Davenport, IA 52801-1003 | P. 563-326-8618 | F. 563-326-8774
 health@scottcountyiowa.gov | www.scottcountyiowa.gov/health

Director's Report to the Board of Health January 9, 2026

Director's Attended External Meetings –

- Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) Public Health Office Hours
- Live Lead Free Quad Cities
- Melissa Sharer, St. Ambrose University MPH Program Director
- Scott County HIPAA Risk Analysis with Mullen Coughlin LLC

Recognition of Years of Service with the Department:

Vianka Herrera, Community Tobacco Consultant 2 years January 22nd

Introduction of new employee:

Rosí Monzon, Public Health Nurse Start Date December 29th

Temporary Departure from Department

Parker Prochaska, Environmental Health Manager January 12th
 (Joined the U.S. Army Reserves: Anticipated Return Late June/Early July 2026)

Assessment

Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets

Collaboration with University of Iowa Students on Community Health Assessment Project

The department, along with five other county public health departments (Black Hawk, Grundy, Jefferson, Marshall, and Wapello), are working with Kanika Arora, a professor at the University of Iowa. She teaches the public health course *Methods for Program Implementation and Evaluation*. Student groups will review county Community Health Assessments and other related data to identify needs of their assigned county. They will then select a health problem in the county and present a proposed program plan to address the problem, followed by an evaluation proposal for the program they developed, to the local health department.

Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population

Communicable Disease Program

Sixty-seven confirmed communicable diseases were reported during December. They included two E. coli infections, 59 cases of pertussis, four cases of campylobacteriosis, and one report of alpha-gal syndrome (AGS). AGS is a serious, delayed allergic reaction to a sugar molecule

(alpha-gal) found in red meat and other mammalian products, often triggered by a tick bite, that sensitizes the immune symptom. In addition, 42 epi-link cases of pertussis were interviewed; these individuals were symptomatic close contacts to positive pertussis cases.

Animal Bite Program

In December, 11 individuals required rabies risk assessments after exposure to six dogs, four cats, and one bat. Five victims were recommended for rabies prevention treatment for a high-risk exposure or bite above the shoulders, and three victims started treatment.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Program

Forty-six individuals received sexual health services at the department during December. Two clients tested positive for chlamydia and one client tested positive for gonorrhea at the department's sexual health clinic. An additional four clients tested positive for chlamydia in the department's express clinic. In total, 50 cases of chlamydia, 26 cases of gonorrhea, four cases of syphilis, and one HIV case were reported in Scott County during the month. There were 14 additional syphilis cases and two additional HIV cases investigated and determined to be out of jurisdiction, not identified as a case, or had a pending result. These cases were closed, referred, or remained open pending additional results.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

In December, there were 16 lead poisoned children on the department's caseload. Three cases met closure criteria. The remaining 13 children will continue to receive public health nursing services until two consecutive blood lead levels equal to or below 10 ug/dL are obtained. Of these 13 children, three had blood lead levels between 15-19 ug/dL, five had blood lead levels between 10-14 ug/dL, and five had blood lead levels less than 10 ug/dL.

One child utilizing the department's immunization clinic accepted lead testing services at their December appointment; testing did not result in identification of lead poisoning.

Policy Development

Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health factors that influence it, and how to improve it

Education at the Safer Foundation

Staff provided education at the Safer Foundation to three students and three staff members on tobacco, vaping, and the harms of using these products. Students were provided with resources for My Life My Quit. Staff also gave a presentation to seven students in the Safer Foundation's Youth Empowerment Program on adolescent health and hand hygiene.

HEARTSafe Coalition Education

The Quad Cities HEARTSafe Coalition (QCHC) continues to provide free Hands-Only CPR and AED training. In December, QCHC partnered with MEDIC EMS of Scott County to train individuals at the Davenport schools, Wood Middle and Hayes Elementary, on how to help save a life with Hands-Only CPR & AEDs. The two schools, along with many in the Davenport Community School District, are working towards a Project ADAM Heart Safe School designation.

Cavity Free Iowa Training

Staff completed Cavity Free Iowa trainings at the University of Iowa clinic locations in Tipton and West Branch to promote dental screenings and fluoride applications during well child visits.

Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities, and partnerships to improve health

PHAST Team Receives Training on Stigma Associated with Substance Use Disorders

The Scott County Public Health and Safety Team (PHAST) received training from Center for Alcohol & Drug Services (CADS) staff about the stigma associated with substance use disorders. One of the foundational tasks of PHAST is to establish a shared understanding on multiple topics related to substance use, including stigma and appropriate language to use. The training covered the following objectives: 1) Recognizing the three types of stigma about people that have a substance use disorder; 2) Identifying the way people see things, what they think, and how they act that can be stigmatizing or promote stigma; 3) Describing the problems and consequences caused by stigma; and 4) Identifying ways that we can promote recovery. PHAST is part of the Overdose Data to Action in States (OD2A-S) grant work.

Tour of Tapestry Farms for Food Rescue Partnership

The Food Rescue Partnership toured the Tapestry Farms office. The non-profit organization is often known for growing fresh produce and flowers using the expertise of refugees and volunteers. The urban farm system is designed as part of their primary work in supporting refugees in the Quad Cities.

Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health

Support Regarding Child Care Center Best Practices

Staff met with a child care center director to review cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting practices related to bloodborne pathogens. They reviewed the safety data sheets, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registration documents, and manufacturer instructions for the products currently used. Staff provided a best practice resource guide for cleaning up bodily fluids in early care and education programs.

Staff also met with a childcare center director to review medications and care plans for children with special health needs. Upon the director's request, staff created and provided a sample tracking form that was filled out with the director to identify when updates to forms or medications are needed. Follow-up with the center is ongoing.

Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health

Verified Food Service Complaints

Facility	Reason	Complaint Status
Marco's Pizza, Division Street, Davenport	Pest control	Resolved
Central Standard, Falcon Avenue, Bettendorf	No hot water	Resolved

Hi Ho Mongolian Grill, East Kimberly Road, Davenport	General facility sanitation	Resolved
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Food Service Program Closures

Facility	Reason	Status
Central Standard, Falcon Avenue, Bettendorf	No hot water	Resolved
Toppings & More by Dulzura	Operating without valid licensure	Resolved
State 18	Operating without valid licensure	Resolved

Food Program

Staff held a ServSafe testing session for seven individuals who needed to retake a previously failed exam or earn a recertification. Three of the seven individuals passed the exam, allowing them to earn their Certified Food Protection Manager certification.

Assurance

Assure an effective system that enables access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy

Care for Yourself Program Coordinators Share Successes

The quarterly Care for Yourself meeting focused on reaching rural populations. Program coordinators from various counties participated in a discussion panel to highlight successful initiatives to reach the Amish, Native American, and Mennonite communities in their counties. They also discussed the importance of connecting with individuals outside of traditional work hours, such as visiting second and third shift workers at factories with populations that may be eligible for the program. The Board of Health subcontracts the Care for Yourself Program with MercyOne Genesis Cancer Center.

Winter Wellness Event

On December 1st, World AIDS Day, the department co-hosted the Third Annual Winter Wellness Event in partnership with Community Health Care, Molina, and Iowa Total Care at St. Anthony’s Church. The event focused on serving unhoused individuals in the community and brought together approximately ten community vendors. Approximately, 125 participants received essential resources (including information on the services provided by the department), influenza vaccinations, blood pressure checks, winter outerwear, personal hygiene items, bus tokens, and laundry supplies. Twenty-nine HIV tests were administered during the event.

Child Health/I-Smile Programs in Action

During an informing call to newly eligible Medicaid families, staff contacted a parent that happened to be on their lunch break as a Salvation bell ringer. The parent was extremely grateful for the call and stated that staff provided their first contact regarding Medicaid approval or any other services. The parent was unaware of the Medicaid application approval because there was an incorrect address on file and the written notification was not received.

Staff shared information on housing services based upon the parent's request. All the information was much appreciated by the parent.

Staff assisted a parent whose child has a severe eye condition and needed Medicaid coverage to address the medical condition. During the discussion, staff learned the youth did not have an established medical, dental and vision home so therefore assisted them with a list of providers within Clinton/Jackson counties that accept Medicaid coverage.

Staff toured Crescent Community Health Care facility in Dubuque to learn about the dental clinic and what services are available to better serve families living in Jackson County, a neighboring county to Dubuque County.

Community Outreach Testing

Staff provided testing and education services at Scott County's Youth Justice & Rehabilitation Center (YJRC) and conducted outreach and testing at CADS and the Scott County Jail. During these events, 55 clients were tested for HIV, hepatitis C, and/or sexually transmitted infections. Any clients who tested positive were either treated on-site or referred to follow-up care and treatment as appropriate.

Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce

Healthy Child Care Iowa Required Training Completed

Staff completed the Essentials Child Care Preservice series as required by Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI). This twelve-hour course provides useful information for creating safe and healthy childcare environments through ten self-paced modules. Updated in 2025, the series is required within the first three months of employment for childcare center staff and prior to registration for home providers. HCCI wanted all child care nurse consultants to be familiar with the updates and resources available from this training.

CBSS and STI Program Update

Staff attended the 2025 Community-Based Screening Services (CBSS) and Sexually Transmitted Infections Program Update. The information presented included, 2024 statewide STI surveillance data trends, CBSS Program 2024 data trends, information on usage of Bicillin® L-A for treating syphilis cases during the current shortage of the medication, congenital syphilis statewide and national data trends, and the HHS STI Program response to rising syphilis rates.

Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement

Child and Adolescent Health Quarterly Meeting

Family Health staff met with several HHS consultants for the quarterly Child and Adolescent Health (CAH) meeting which is held in lieu of a quarterly report to update HHS consultants about progress with grant activities and provide time for technical assistance. Fiscal year 2026 activities are on track. Staff shared details about the successful November Family Engagement session where participants at the Friendly House evaluated program materials and referral resources related to mental health and food insecurity.

Third Quarter CBSS Quality Assurance Report

The department received the 2025 Third Quarter CBSS Quality Assurance Report. There was a 0.5 percent decrease in testing (7,795) among the CBSS test sites in the third quarter of 2025 compared to the third quarter of 2024 (7,834). The positivity rate for both chlamydia and gonorrhea decreased in the third quarter of 2025. The positivity rate for chlamydia in the third quarter of 2025 was 5.8 percent, compared to 6.1 percent in the third quarter of 2024. The positivity rate for gonorrhea in the third quarter of 2025 was 2.7 percent compared to 2.5 percent in the third quarter of 2024.

Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

Department Infrastructure Teams

Health Equity Committee

The Health Equity Committee facilitated the department's application to be recognized as an inclusive business in the Quad Citians Affirming Diversity Inclusive Business Directory. In support of this action, the department more broadly posted its non-discrimination policy in the clinic waiting room and on the department's website. Additionally, the committee reaffirmed its commitment to hosting Brave Conversation sessions again for calendar year 2026 after completing three sessions in 2025.

Health Promotion Team

The Health Promotion Team continues work on the Oral Health Promotion Strategy. The team identified the need for a health promotion strategy focused on preparedness and the youth population; work will start on this in January 2026. The team made plans to conduct an inventory and survey of department promotional materials.

Public Health Policy Committee

The Public Health Policy Committee continues its work to finalize one-page program stories that highlight the work of the department in the community. Once finalized, these stories will be shared in a variety of ways to bring public health work "to life". Work to prepare for the 2026 Iowa legislative session is underway including revisions to the document used by the committee to track the status of proposed legislation.

Five members of the committee participated in the 20th Annual Iowa Public Health Association (IPHA) Legislative Forum. The event offered the opportunity to connect with other public health professionals (and others whose work aligns with public health) from across the state and hear about their efforts and legislative priorities. Many shared that they were monitoring the same policy areas: public health authority, immunizations, fluoride, property tax reform, opioid funds, and tobacco tax. Attendees could also participate in topic-focused discussion sessions.

There were two discussion panels, one featuring public health professionals: Dr. Robert Kruse from Iowa HHS, Dr. Mary Charlton from the Iowa Cancer Registry, and Kady Reese from For People, LLC and the other panel featuring state Senators Kara Warme (R) and Mike Zimmer (D) and state Representatives Austin Harris (R) and Heather Matson (D). The legislators discussed

some of the public health legislative priorities and shared suggestions as to how to best connect with them both during and outside of the legislative session.

Quality Improvement Council

The Quality Improvement (QI) Council has two QI projects underway – one focused on interns/students and the other on events. A third project identified regarding immunization audits is currently on hold as there has been a change in staff. The Maternal Health Program has designed a customer satisfaction survey and has plans to implement it and the Tobacco Program is currently brainstorming on potential ideas to survey. The team developed a plan to recognize performance on QI project teams and as identified through quarterly review of performance indicators. The team is working on identification of a speaker to train staff on QI.

Workplace Culture Committee

The Workplace Culture Committee continued to support staff completion of Cloverleaf Surveys in December. A couple of Correctional Health Staff have been unable to complete all the surveys, but the rest of the department is complete. Daily coaching information is received by users supporting personal learning as well as team learning. Planning is underway for department-wide training in February 2026.

Workforce Development Committee

The Workforce Development Committee continues to work with the QI project team on reviewing and revising the department's internship/student procedure. Progress continues with a vision established and the types of student experiences defined.

Meetings Attended by Staff

Aaron Randolph, Factor Technology Solutions
Adam Reimer, National Wildlife Foundation
Be Healthy QC Annual State Update
Brianna Sink, Iowa Healthiest State Initiative
Care for Yourself Contractors
Cedar County Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC)
Davenport Trails Committee
Food Rescue Partnership
Healthy Child Care Iowa Regional Partners
Iowa HHS Child and Adolescent Health Consultant
Iowa HHS Rural Health Transformation Plan: Healthy Hometowns
IPHA Social Media Community of Practice
Kevin Hopkins, Bettendorf Police Department
Leslie Klipsch, Tapestry Farms
Low Birth Weight Task Force
Maternal Health Contractors with HHS
OD2A-S Academic Detailing Community of Practice
OD2A-S Capacity Coordinator Community of Practice
OD2A-S Peer Recovery Coach Community of Practice
OD2A-S Public Health and Safety Team (PHAST) Community of Practice
Oral Health Iowa Veterans Oral Health Committee

Physical Activity Policy Research and Evaluation Network Workplace Workgroup
Public Health Conference of Iowa 2026 Planning Committee
Quad Cities Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Disaster Planning Committee
Quad Cities Housing Cluster
Quad Cities Regional Disaster Conference Planning Committee
Quad Cities Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
Quad Cities Youth Conference Planning Committee
Region 5 Communication and Vulnerable Populations Subcommittee
Region 5 Local Public Health Plan Discussion
Rodney Tatum, Central High School
Scott County Kids School Health Committee
Scott County PHAST
Tobacco Prevention and Control Grantee Check-in
University of Iowa College of Public Health Partner Discussion
YMCA of the Iowa Mississippi Valley Child Care and Family Services Board

Attachment 1: Reports from our database on education the department provided to the community, education the department provided to service providers, media inquiries and press releases/conferences



Education provided between December 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025

<i>Education To:</i>	<i>Presentation Date</i>	<i>Total Audience</i>	<i>Requesting Organization</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>Community</i>				
	12/1/2025	5	St. Joseph Catholic Preschool	Oral Health Education
	12/2/2025	6	Safer Foundation	Tobacco and Vaping
	12/3/2025	7	Safer Foundation	Adolescent Health Services
	12/9/2025	12	Wee School for Little People	Oral Health Education
	12/16/2025	9	Andrew Preschool	Oral Health Education
	12/17/2025	22	St. Joseph's Preschool (Marquette)	Oral Health Education
	12/17/2025	7	Wood Middle School	Hands-Only CPR & AED

<i>Education To:</i>	<i>Presentation Date</i>	<i>Total Audience</i>	<i>Requesting Organization</i>	<i>Description</i>
	12/19/2025	11	Hayes Elementary School	Hands-Only CPR & AED
<i>Service Providers</i>				
	12/3/2025	9	MercyOne Genesis	Prevention of Non-ventilator Hospital Acquired Pneumonia through Oral Care
	12/4/2025	9	Hand in Hand	Medication Administration
	12/9/2025	13	MercyOne Genesis	Prevention of Non-ventilator Hospital Acquired Pneumonia through Oral Care
	12/15/2025	5	University of Iowa Family Health Clinics	Cavity Free Iowa
	12/16/2025	6	University of Iowa Family Health Clinics	Cavity Free Iowa



Media Inquiries between December 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025

<i>Request Date</i>	<i>Nature of Request</i>	<i>Request From</i>	<i>Newspaper</i>	<i>Radio</i>	<i>Television</i>
12/4/2025	Influenza	Newspaper	Quad City Times		
12/9/2025	Food Deserts	Television			KWQC-TV6
12/10/2025	Other	Television			WHBF-TV4
12/12/2025	Pertussis	Television			WQAD-TV8
12/15/2025	Pertussis	Newspaper	North Scott Press		
12/15/2025	Pertussis	Television			WHBF-TV4