



Scott County Health Department

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SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH APRIL 16, 2026 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: Ms. Flaherty, Dr. Franzman, Dr. Hanson, Dr. O'Donnell

Absent: Mr. Robinson

Staff Present: Amy Thoreson, Lashon Moore, Nicki Parmelee, Tiffany Peterson, Mariah Benson, Anna Copp, Valerie Davidson, Michelle Fitzjarrell, Ellen Gackle, Vianka Herrera, Amy Long, Christina McDonough, Ray Miller, Brenda Schwarz

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

Dr. O'Donnell called for a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. Hanson moved to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Flaherty. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. O'Donnell moved to Public Comment.

There were no public comments.

The following reports were reviewed and discussed by the Board:

Director's Report

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

- Valerie Davidson, Office Assistant 1 year April 28
- Ellen Gackle, Community Health Consultant 4 years April 29
- Julia Lotta, Correctional Health Nurse 6 years April 27
- Kershanna Harris, Correctional Health Nurse 7 years April 23
- Briana Boswell, Family Health Manager 18 years April 9
- Jackie Hall, Environmental Health Specialist 50 years April 5

Ms. Thoreson shared the departure of Shelby Peiffer, Per Diem Dental Hygienist, effective March 12th.

Ms. Thoreson acknowledged the position change of Lorna Bimm from Public Health Nurse to Child Care Nurse Consultant, effective March 26th.

Ms. Thoreson shared that the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has resumed public health alignment discussions as movement on Iowa Senate File 2432 has slowed. The bill has been narrowed in scope and was designated as unfinished business in the House, which means it remains eligible for debate.

HHS held a webinar at the end of March to provide an overview of alignment efforts and foundational public health services. HHS district sessions are being scheduled statewide. Ms. Thoreson and Ms. Barnes will attend an upcoming session in Cedar Rapids. The state indicated these sessions are intended to gather input and discuss potential timelines and future alignment efforts.

Staff completed the required kindergarten and ninth-grade dental screening audits for all public and non-public schools. The results will be reported at the June Board of Health (BOH) meeting.

A Resource Guide was shared with non-public schools, along with an offer of one-on-one transition meetings between each school and department staff. Transition support will be available through the summer and upon request at the start of the new school year.

The state has asked the department to submit two budget scenarios for the Syndemic Prevention Outreach and Testing Services (SPOTS) program for the period of April 1st through December 31st, reflecting potential decreases in program income of 10% and 20%. For the department, this equates to \$8,000 to \$16,000.

Staff are reviewing the work plan to identify potential reductions in response to the request. Additional guidance from the state is expected in the coming weeks.

Dr. O'Donnell moved to the Public Health Activity Report for the month of March 2026.

Dr. O'Donnell moved to the Budget Report for the month of March 2026.

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

Dr. O'Donnell moved to the Board of Health Orientation: Data to Action: Tracking Overdose Trends in Scott County, Ellen Gackle, Community Health Consultant, Scott County Health Department

Ellen Gackle provided an overview of opioid-related initiatives and overdose prevention efforts in Scott County.

Ms. Gackle shared that in 2023, Scott County began receiving opioid settlement funds, which supported a strategic planning process to identify priority areas. Initial priorities included prevention efforts and establishing "warm handoffs" to connect individuals to treatment and recovery resources.

During this same timeframe, Scott County partnered with HHS to participate in the Overdose to Action (OD2A) grant, funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This grant aligns with local priorities and supports multiple strategies including enhanced overdose surveillance and coordinated community response.

As part of this work, a Public Health and Safety Team (PHAST) was established to strengthen collaboration among public health, emergency medical services, law enforcement, and community partners. The team meets monthly to review data, share information, and coordinate resources. Outcomes to date include increased awareness of available resources, improved collaboration among partners, and expanded access to services such as naloxone distribution, training opportunities, and care coordination.

Ms. Gackle also reviewed the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP), a real-time surveillance tool used to track suspected fatal and non-fatal overdoses. Scott County data is currently reported primarily by Medic EMS of Scott County.

The data is used to monitor trends, identify potential overdose spikes, and guide both immediate and long-term strategies, including targeted outreach and resource allocation.

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

Dr. O'Donnell moved to Unfinished Business.

Ms. Thoreson shared information on key bills relevant to public health, including those regarding immunization policy, Early Childhood Iowa, and public health authority.

Dr. O'Donnell moved to New Business.

Following discussion, Ms. Flaherty moved to approve and authorize the director to sign the following memorandum of understanding listed below. Motion seconded by Dr. Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

- HIV Medications with The Project of the Quad Cities

Following discussion, Dr. Franzman moved to approve and authorize the director to submit and sign the following grant items listed below. Motion seconded by Dr. Franzman. Motion carried unanimously.

- Care for Yourself (CFY): application, contract, subcontract, subsequent amendments
- Community Based Program Maternal Health: grant components, contract, and subsequent amendments
- Community Based Program Child and Adolescent Health and Oral Health Programs: grant components, contract, subcontract, and subsequent amendments
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program: grant components, contract, and subsequent amendments

Following discussion, Dr. Hanson moved to approve and authorize the Staff Education Request. Motion seconded by Ms. Flaherty. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Thoreson shared a letter received from a citizen, along with a response for Board review. Several concerns raised in the letter are outside the scope of the Board of Health and have been reviewed in consultation with the County Attorney's Office. The response acknowledges the concerns raised, clarifies the Board's role, and notes broader healthcare challenges related to access to care.

The next meeting will be held on May 21, 2026, at the Scott County Administration Center, 1st Floor Board Room. There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Schwarz
Recording Secretary