

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE

Monday September 27, 2021 - 12:00 P.M.
Meeting held via Zoom - Tama Co. Annex Building

Due to heightened potential public health risks related to the COVID-19 virus, all Tama County Board of Health meetings will be held electronically through ZOOM or by phone conference until further notice.

Present:

Micki Ferris –via Zoom	Shannon Zoffka	Jolynn Harger
Lori Johnson	Bill Faircloth – via Zoom	Sherry Parks, PA-C –via Zoom
Erik Day, DNR –via Zoom	Duane Backen – via Zoom	Dr. Polly Hineman, via Zoom
Heather Bombei –via Zoom	Corey Frank, DNR – via Zoom	Mike Marquess – via Zoom
	Zoom	
Chris Behrens	Nancy Kerns – via Zoom	Henry Kerns– via Zoom
Russ Pederson – via Zoom		

Absent: Phyllis Dunlap

The meeting was called to order by Sherry Parks, Chair, at 12:01 p.m.

Sherry Parks read the following statement:

Per Iowa Code, Chapter 21.8, Electronic Meetings, the Tama County Board of Health will conduct meetings via zoom or by phone conference due to circumstances where such a meeting in person is impossible or impractical. With 3 members of the BOH being medical providers and/or EMS providers in the county it is impractical to meet due to heightened potential public health risks related to COVID-19 including continued virus activity in our State, Tama County having only a 47% vaccination rate and inability to comply with mitigation efforts such as spacing in our regular meeting space.

Dr. Hineman moved to accept the Agenda as presented. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Lori pointed out a correction to the minutes from the August 23rd meeting. On the last page, last sentence of the meeting, it says that Corey Frank would call the references for the guy that does perc tests. Lori said that we called the references for him. Micki Ferris moved to accept the Minutes of the August 23rd meeting with the change that Lori pointed out. Duane Backen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Environmental Report:

Chris said that septs have picked up, he has gotten a lot of calls the last few weeks. He is working on a repair permit in the northern part of the county. He has 5 or 6 active demolition cases. There has not been very much progress on these this past month. He has done 1 Well Permit, 2 Well Plugging's, and 1 Water Test this past month.

The issue with the Nuisance at Union Grove Lake will be discussed later on in the meeting.

Director's Report – Shannon Zoffka

Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement (QAPI): Shannon is working on updating QAPI activity.

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA): No new news.

Supporting Kids in Prevention (SKIP): No new news,

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP): Public Health meetings continue biweekly and monthly. Shannon continues to keep the Emergency Management resource up to date. She will be working on a POD standards

workbook for the state to demonstrate how we plan, set up, and organize points of distribution for vaccine or other medical needs in an emergency.

Human Resources: Staff were reminded that they need to be conscientious of hours worked and limit any overtime. They are not to flex hours and to work the agency hours.

Shannon is working on planning a staff training day at Otter Creek to get caught up on all training needs, but also follow the rules for COVID mitigation.

Communicable Disease: There were no communicable disease cases in August, and five animal bites.

COVID:

Current case count: 2732 (at the last meeting we were at 2400). We have been instructed to utilize the CDC data for percent positivity. They report 7 day positivity rates, not 14. We are currently at a 19.51% positivity rate. A month ago we had a 9.5% 14 day positivity rate at our last meeting.

We are unsure of how many Tama County residents are currently hospitalized, through investigation we became aware of hospitalizations, but the state data is inaccurate showing us at 0 since June. Last week we were aware of at least 4 hospitalized individuals, however, we do not have a way to track this information currently. We have two LTC's that are in outbreak status.

Most infections are the Delta Variant. Currently there have not been any updates from IDPH despite the increase in cases statewide. Dr. Caitlin Pedati, State Medical Director, has resigned from her position, we were notified September 22nd.

We are seeing a continued increase in cases in our county, as is the rest of the State.

Vaccine:

Additional shots for immunocompromised people continue. We continue to hold vaccination clinics from the agency location, a couple of times a week.

Only Pfizer has been approved for booster doses in specific populations.

They are:

- People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings.
- People aged 50-64 years with underlying medical conditions.
- People aged 18-49 years with underlying medical conditions may receive a booster shot, based on their individual benefits and risks.
- People aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting.

Home Health: Annette Lee conducted a review in early September. We anticipate DIA conducting a survey early next year.

We continue to work with Millennium Therapy on PDGM needs.

Maternal Health Program: Credentialing work continues.

Waiver: August: Nine patients were served under the Frail and Elderly Waiver. There were 12 Maternal Health Home visits in August.

Financial Report:

For the month of July, Admissions and Skilled Nursing visits were down. Home Health Aide visits and hours were up for the month, our revenue increased from the previous month.

Micki Ferris moved to approve the Financial Report. Duane Backen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

A. Micki Ferris moved to Approve & Authorize CEO/Executive Director to sign Homelink Home Health Credentialing Application for Re-Credentialing. Duane Backen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Duane Backen moved to Approve & Authorize BOH Chair to sign Iowa DNR Agreement ID 21ESDWQBEDAY0001 Intergovernmental (28E) Agreement Between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Tama County, Iowa designating County Private Water Well Permitting entity be the Board of Health. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously

C. Micki Ferris moved to Approve the 2019-2020 Agency Annual Report. Duane Backen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Gladbrook Lake & Holding Contract (Union Grove Lake): Nancy Kerns and Russ Pederson, Lake Board President, were present from Union Grove Lake to talk about the Nuisance Contract that was sent to them by the BOH for services performed at the lake. They informed the Board that the lake area is an unincorporated township, it is not a Homeowners Association. There are no fees collected from residents, and there would be no money to pay for nuisance issues.

They would like the contract to be abandoned. Shannon said the contract had been created due to a request for Chris to deal with nuisance issues at the lake.

In a Zoning Ordinance passed by the Board of Supervisors under direction from the Zoning Administrator, it states that the Environmental Health Officer would enforce nuisance issues at the lake. This was never taken to the Board of Health. An issue like this should be under the Board of Health and Environmental Health Officer.

Mike Marquess is an Attorney who used to live at the lake, and has assisted with legal matters regarding the lake. He said that some of the properties at the lake were in bad repair and the issue was brought up with the County on who would enforce that. He was told that the County did not have a nuisance abatement and was told the County did not want to start one.

He was told that a Residential Lake falls under Zoning, and that maybe a Zoning ordinance could help with nuisances at the lake. The lake is not a Homeowners Association. There is no dues, the homeowners own their own homes and the tax money goes to the County. The DNR owns the lake and some property out there. He said that the Board of Supervisors approved the ordinance that the previous Environmental Health Officer drafted.

From a legal standpoint – the lake is unincorporated, there is no power to tax, and no revenue to pay the bill. The charges could potentially be taken out of tax revenue on the property.

Russ Pederson said that they cannot accept the contract. It is full of errors. The lake is not called “Gladbrook Lake”, also the lake is owned by the DNR. The Board of Supervisors asked them to try dealing with nuisances on their own. They came up with a complaint form. There are two properties with problems right now that they contacted Chris to deal with.

Russ stated that he cannot sign the contract that was sent. He would have to show to his Board, and the Agenda for the upcoming meeting has been set. He hopes that we can find common ground to work together and have good communication. He did contact the Board of Supervisors and they did say that the charges could be assessed on the Homeowners taxes. He thanked Chris for all of his hard work on the two nuisance properties.

Dr. Hineman asked who wrote the contract.

Lori Johnson said that Public Health wrote it modeled after the Iowa County contract. She has since talked to Iowa County and she said that the contract would not work since it is not a Homeowners Association.

Sherry Parks said that we need to go back and look at the contract again. We don't do nuisances in rural areas. She doesn't know why the Ordinance went through Zoning without our knowledge.

Nancy Kerns said she got a copy of Iowa Code off of our website that says that we investigate nuisances in unincorporated areas. She asked if Chris still follows Iowa Code 137 & 657. Chris said that he has no idea what those codes are.

Nancy Kerns said that she had a document called Lake District Article 9 Lake Ordinance given to her by Roy Silhanek, a previous Sanitarian.

Mike Marquess said he was sorry if they truly need to work with the Board of Health and did not. He was told it was done as a Zoning ordinance so it would exempt the agricultural areas. Their motivation was to resolve years of neglect on a couple of properties.

Mike said this is not a legal contract at this point.

Dr. Hineman said we need to come up with a different agreement.

Russ Pederson said that they first try to deal with nuisances on their own. These two issues needed more help. It is rare that they need county help.

Chris said that he has not spent a huge amount of time, and at this time it has not been a financial burden on the County.

Mike Marquess said that Union Grove Lake is an active engaged community that helps when they can. They have mowed and cleaned up properties.

Sherry Parks said that a committee should be formed to come up with a different contract.

Micki Ferris asked what procedures that Chris is to follow. Mike Marquess said the procedures were written by the EHO.

Mike Marquess said that UGL doesn't have regulations or covenants so there is no ability to enforce anything, which is why they are asking the county.

Sherry Parks said that we would have to go back to legal counsel. Ours previously had told us that this could be charged for.

Mike Marquess said that a fee can be charged for licensure, but that enforcement of laws cannot be charged. There is no place to charge.

Sherry Parks says that we will have to table this issue and form a committee to restructure.

Duane Backen thought that Chris, Russ Pederson, and Mike Marquess should get together to work out a solution and bring it back to the Board of Health. Sherry Parks thought we needed a Supervisor on the committee as well. Bill Faircloth said he could be on the committee.

Correspondence: None.

Public Comment: Russ Pederson thanked the Board for allowing them to come to the meeting today and thanked them for serving Tama County.

Future Meeting Dates: The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Monday, October 25, 2021 at Noon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolynn Harger, Executive/Financial Assistant