

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE

Monday October 25, 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
Phyllis Dunlap	Duane Backen – via Zoom	Tony Vodochodsky –via Zoom
Heather Bombei –via Zoom	Mike Marquess – via Zoom	
Chris Behrens	Nancy Kerns – via Zoom	
Russ Pederson – via Zoom	Dr. Polly Hineman, via Zoom	

Absent:

The meeting was called to order by Sherry Parks, Chair, at 12:03 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. Duane Backen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Hineman moved to accept the Minutes of the September 27, 2021 meeting. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Environmental Report:

Chris said that Tony Vodochodsky was present at today's meeting and he will speak later.

Chris said he did two septic installations in September, he is working on 4 projects right now. He does have a person that wants to sign a future demo agreement. The person owns 3 properties and wants to do all of them at the same time. There have been 2 Well Plugging's and 3 Water Tests so far in October.

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): No new news.

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 via Zoom. She has been 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. It is close to completion. It shows how we would be able to provide medication during an anthrax attack.

Human Resources: The County is looking at how to meet the vaccine mandate for employers with over 100 people, as Federal funding can be eliminated if there is not a vaccine or testing procedure in place, which affects Medicare reimbursement amongst other funding for our Agency. Currently the County is looking at offering a testing option for unvaccinated employees, where they will be tested weekly. TCPH can provide testing for unvaccinated employees weekly, as long as supplies are available.

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

Animal bites have routinely become more involved as owners of pets are not answering our calls or returning our calls and we have to rely on police support to get information on the animal's health and condition during the 10 day quarantine. We have recently had to track down an animal in another county with the help of their police department.

COVID:

Current case count: 2891 (at the last meeting we were at 2732). We are currently at an 8.82% positivity rate. We had a 19.51% 7 day positivity rate at our last meeting. We have one long term care that is outbreak status, as of today.

Vaccine:

Pfizer is approved for an additional dose and a booster dose. It is pending approval for pediatric doses. We were contacted by the state directly and strongly encouraged to Pfizer doses for pediatric vaccination.

Moderna was approved for an additional dose and now the booster dose as of 10/22. The booster dose is to be given 6 months or more after initial series completion for eligible people. Our first booster clinic will be held this Friday.

Johnson & Johnson is approved for a booster dose at least 2 months after the primary dose, for anyone 18 or older.

Sherry Parks asked about mixing doses of vaccine for the booster. Shannon says that she will be reading up on that today. She has not received very much guidance regarding that. She does know the booster dose for Moderna is half a dose if they had Moderna before.

Home Health: IDPH has proposed changes to the Local Public Health Services funding. We will learn more about this on Friday at our regional meeting. IDPH will propose changes to Chapter 80 and the contract structure. More information will be provided in November. We may have to look at department restructuring with the possibility of adding new staff positions.

We are having a hard time getting anyone hired for the open PRN Aide/Homemaker positions. We have conducted seven interviews and have only been able to hire 1 person. The PRN positions historically do not provide the guaranteed hours to retain the PRN staff.

All of the nurses are at an OASIS training today and tomorrow.

Maternal Health Program: We have withdrawn from the credentialing process as we do not have the time or staff to commit to this process and give it the attention it needs, we will consider and reapply in 1 year.

Waiver: September: Eight patients were served under the Frail and Elderly Waiver. There were 3 Maternal Health Home visits in September.

Financial Report:

For the month of September, Admissions and Skilled Nursing visits were up. Home Health Aide visits were up and hours were down for the month. Our revenue decreased from the previous month.

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

Old Business – Union Grove Lake Committee Report

Bill Faircloth, Mike Marquess, Russ Pederson, and Chris Behrens met to discuss nuisance abatement for Union Grove Lake. They propose that any cost that occurs due to a nuisance abatement should not be billed to the citizens of the Lake District, but to the property owner. This was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Lori said that we don't have approval to do that yet from the County Attorney and the Treasurer's office. We need to have an approval from them before the Board of Health can approve that.

Russ Pederson asked if the nuisance abatement would cover the removal of snow and mowing of grass as well. It does not, it only covers just weeds. Grass and snow removal are not covered under nuisance abatement.

New Business

A. Micki Ferris moved to Approve & Authorize CEO/Executive Director and Assistant Director to sign Iowa Family Support Credential Program Withdrawal Request. Phyllis Dunlap seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Micki Ferris moved to Approve & Authorize CEO/Executive Director to sign Tama County Nature Center Event Room Rental Agreement Form for Contractor's Meeting (04/26/22) and Staff Meeting (11/10/21). Phyllis Dunlap seconded. Motion carried unanimously

C. Duane Backen moved to Approve & Authorize Assistant Director/CFO to apply for HRSA Provider Relief Fund – Phase 4 and American Rescue Plan Rural Distribution Revenue. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Shannon shared that Linn County has offered to come to Tama County quarterly and hold an STI testing clinic. They would do the testing, we would just provide the space. We could also see if we would like to offer this service in the future. The treatment of positive cases will be done in Linn County. Motion by Dr. Hineman, seconded by Micki Ferris to allow Linn County to hold an STI Clinic in Tama County utilizing space provided by TCPH. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Shannon shared that the we are not able to fill our open PRN position. We have several patients needing Respite services, the HCA Supervisor is seeing patients 5 days/week, and Tracy cannot fill in due to COVID Clinics. At this time Shannon feels there is a need to hire a full time Home Care Aide. We have the ability to provide more hours, but we don't have the staff to provide the needed services. Discussion was held. Micki Ferris wanted to know how many hours we budgeted for PRN staff. She also wanted to know if we budgeted for Health Insurance for this position. Sherry Parks said we could do a Budget Amendment. Micki Ferris asked if we could hire someone for 20-25 hours week. Shannon said part time guaranteed hours is not as hard to fill as PRN, but she prefers full time.

Dr. Hineman moved to Approve CEO/Executive Director to hire a full time HHA or a Homemaker. Micki Ferris seconded.

Correspondence: None.

Public Comment: Tony Vodochodsky was present to address the Board regarding his nuisance property at Union Grove Lake. He apologized for how bad he had let the property become. His mother had a stroke and he was away taking care of her for an extended period of time. He has been working on cleaning up the property. He has removed one junk vehicle and he will be working on getting the other two vehicles removed. He has someone coming to help him with the raccoon problem.

Nancy Kerns asked how Tony plans to get rid of the raccoons. Tony said that he plans to board up the house and kill them on the inside.

Nancy said the raccoons are not just a nuisance, that they are a danger to the children that live across the street. She said she thinks the Lake District has waited long enough and this problem did not happen overnight.

Chris wanted some guidance on a time frame to give Tony to get his property cleaned up by. He made a recommendation of January 1st, 2022.

Russ Pederson said that this has been going on for three years. The only thing that has happened in three years is that a truck was moved. There has been broken window for two years, he wants to know how long they are supposed to wait.

Tony said that a timeframe of another 30-60 days would be great.

Russ Pederson said that someone has been mowing the property for Tony for 12 years and has never been paid. Micki Ferris said that is not an issue for the Board, it is an issue between Tony and the party that has been mowing for him.

Nancy Kerns wants Tony to have everything done by December 1st. She said this has been going on too long.

Chris asked if the Board if they could give Tony a timeframe for abatement. Sherry asked if that is something the Board would do or if it would be the Sanitarians job.

Lori Johnson said that we don't have the policies in place at this time to enforce any of the penalties. Right now the Ordinance is in a Zoning ordinance that the Board of Health did not vote on.

Micki Ferris said that even if the Board gave a timeframe for completion, since there is not policy in place there is no way to enforce and if we did adopt something it probably wouldn't be in place by December 1st.

Russ Pederson said that they did go to the Board of Supervisors who sent them to the Board of Health. He wonders where they are supposed to go.

Nancy Kerns asked if Chris was in a position to take care of this issue and enforce the deadline.

Bill Faircloth did confirm that this issue was for the Board of Health to take care of. Chris said that the Zoning Ordinance, which was not seen by the Board of Health before it was passed, said that the Board of Health shall review the matter to see if it constitutes a nuisance and it should go as a tax assessment to the property owner.

Sherry Parks asked who made that Ordinance. Chris says he believes it was made by Todd Apfel and passed by the Tama County Board of Supervisors.

Sherry Parks asked if the Board of the Health has the right to make ordinances. Lori said that yes they can, but normally it goes to the Advisory Board first for approval and then the Board of Health.

Nancy Kerns said that the Zoning Ordinance says that the Board of Health shall review the matter to see if it constitutes a nuisance. That is all the Board of Health is supposed to do. If it is declared a nuisance it goes to the tax assessment.

Lori said that we cannot go through the processes on that as it has not been established. We don't follow Zoning ordinances, that is under the Zoning Board.

Nancy Kerns asked if we do anything with animal infestation at all. Lori replied that yes we do, and Chris made a recommendation of January 1st as the date it should be taken care of.

Russ Pederson said he thought the deadline to get it taken care of was in November. Chris said that yes, originally it was, but he is giving him an extension after hearing his personal issues and having face to face contact.

Duane Backen says he thinks we should go with Chris' recommendation since he is the one that saw and knows what is going on with this situation. But he does agree it needs to be done by the first of January.

Russ Pederson asked who the junk vehicles and mowing falls under. Sherry Parks said that is not the Board of Health's jurisdiction. Russ wants to know where they are supposed to take those issues. He says this should be taken care of the by County. That is what they pay their taxes for.

Bill Faircloth said that the weeds and mowing issues would be the Weed Commissioner duty. Nancy Kerns said the Ordinance says the Tama County Board of Supervisors would be in charge.

Russ Pederson asked if they had a mowing problem who they should turn in to. Sherry Parks said turn it into the Board of Supervisors.

Chris said that we are headed in the right direction with the property and just give it a little more time.

Future Meeting Dates: The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Monday, November 22, 2021 at Noon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolynn Harger, Executive/Financial Assistant