

# BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

## TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE

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Monday July 22, 2024 – 12:00 P.M.  
Meeting held at Tama County Annex Building and via Zoom

<b>Members Present:</b>	Sally Custer Lori Johnson	Micki Ferris Jolynn Harger	Sherry Parks, PA-C – via Zoom Dr. Hineman – via Zoom
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**Members Absent:** Curt Hilmer Chris Behrens Shannon Zoffka Casey Schmidt

The meeting was called to order by Sherry Parks, Chairman at 12:06 p.m.

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

Micki Ferris moved to accept the Minutes of the June 24, 2024 meeting as presented. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Reports:**

#### **Environmental Report:**

Chris was not present at today's meeting, but his report was included in the packet. Also included in the packet was the Quarterly Summary of Activities that is submitted with the billing.

Micki Ferris mentioned that Chris Behrens has not attended the last 3 Board meetings. She wondered if there needed to be a discussion about this. Dr. Hineman thought it would be a good idea if he could at least attend quarterly. Sherry Parks agreed. The Board asked that Shannon talk to Chris about this, as the Board doesn't want to get into the same situation as before with the previous Sanitarian. Sherry Parks felt that the expectation of Chris attending quarterly was not unreasonable. Dr. Hineman said she felt if he attended by Zoom that would be okay.

#### **Director's Report - 10 Essential Public Health Services Framework – Lori Johnson gave in Shannon's absence**

- Assess and Monitor population health status, factors that influence health and community needs and assets*
  - Food Pantry: 154 Households served, 430 Individuals, 19 New Households for June
- Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population*
  - Communicable Disease Investigations Started in June: 1
  - Active & Latent TB Cases: 8 current latent cases
  - Animal Bites: 3 (all dogs)
  - Immunizations Given: 3 in June
- Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it*
  - Social Media Strategy: Emergency Preparedness, Grill Safety, Alert Iowa, Child Passenger Safety, Mosquito Bites/Illnesses, Heat Safety
  - Posts: 24
  - Coffee Talks: 5 held with 46 attendees
- Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health*
  - Maternal Health: 2 Facebook posts. No new news.
  - Nest: 10 attendees, topic covered Water Safety, Sun Safety, First Aid
  - SKIP: No new news. Next meeting is in August. 15 Facebook posts

- NEI3A/COA: No new news
5. *Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health*
    - Attended Iowa Home Health Care Association June information call. Reviewed survey readiness, and payment changes on the horizon.
  6. *Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health*
    - PHEP: continue to attend meetings for communication strategies, Public Health specific preparedness and coalition preparedness. Contacted the EMA regarding cooling stations in extreme heat, he did not have any criteria or information and was going to reach out to communities and get back to me. We hadn't heard anything so we reached out to all city clerks and so far have only heard from Gladbrook who does not have cooling stations or plans to begin.
  7. *Assure and effective system that enables access to the individual services and care need to be health*
    - Foot Clinics continue monthly (Traer Library, Westbrook Assisted Living, Bickford)
    - Blood Pressure checks on hold as the Senior Center is having staffing changes.
    - Home Health: 56% of referrals were admitted in June.
  8. *Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce*
    - Nurse Aide meeting in June covered bed bugs in homes, County ID's, and sharing of concerns.
  9. *Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research and continuous quality improvement.*
    - QAPI: no new news
  10. *Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.*
    - Work on year-end reports began

Dr. Hineman asked about the status of cooling stations requests to cities in Tama County. Lori said that only one city responded to Shannon's emails. Discussion was held. Dr. Hineman said that Heather Bombei had sent out what Polk County does for cooling stations. They go by ambient temperature and the heat index. She wondered if Shannon could contact Heather Bombei and get those numbers. She feels we should be prepared to have cooling stations. She said the Toledo Ambulance meeting room and the Tama Civic Center would be good options of places to host a cooling station. Micki Ferris said she knows some places like the Reinig Center have generators. The comment was made that if we know where cooling stations are available that we should put on our Facebook page and website so people can see. Dr. Hineman said that we should contact cities to see if they have any place they would be willing to open. It was suggested that the BOH can make recommendations and send it to all towns in the County. Micki Ferris thought that it would be good to have warming stations set up for winter, as well. Sherry Parks suggested that Shannon get numbers and bring them back to the BOH to make recommendations.

**Waiver:** June: Three patients were served under the Frail and Elderly Waiver. There were 2 Maternal Health Home visits in June.

**Financial Report:**

Admissions increased for the month of June. Skilled Nurse visits increased for June. Health Aide visits and hours decreased for the month of June. Our revenue increased for the month of June.

Lori gave a brief overview of end of fiscal year financial reports. In FY 24 our Medicare admissions were 56, in FY 23 they were 48.

In 2025, Medicare is proposing a 1.5675% payment decrease. This will be approximately \$2,918 for our Agency.

Surveys were sent to 8 counties regarding online permitting. We found out that there is a \$60,000 up front fee and then \$16,000 annually for this system. Most of the respondents said that they don't do enough permits to warrant paying for online permitting.

We used the CrowdStrike Internet Outage as a PHEP drill. All of our clinical software is cloud based, so we learned a lot of lessons in how to be better prepared and have forms on paper as backup.

Micki Ferris had questions about the Homemaker/Home Health Aide visit numbers and hours consistently being lower and wondered if we needed as many staff to provide these services. Lori said that we have lost a few patients these past few months due to patients going into the nursing home.

Micki Ferris moved to approve the Financial Report. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

**Correspondence:** The 2024 LPHS End of Year Progress Report was sent in the Board packets as information only.

**Public Comment:** Micki Ferris asked if there was any feedback on the Time Clock issue. Lori said that nothing further has been said.

**Future Meeting Dates:** The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Monday, August 26, 2024 at Noon. A hybrid option is still being offered as well as in-person meeting at the Public Health office.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolynn Harger, Executive/Financial Assistant

***The full Zoom recording is available. It is available by request.***