

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE

Monday January 26, 2026 – 12:00 P.M.
Meeting held at Tama County Annex Building and via Zoom

Members Present:	Micki Ferris Lori Johnson Sally Custer Heather Bombei	Sherry Parks – via Zoom Jolynn Harger Stacy Koeppen	Chris Behrens Richard Arp Curt Hilmer
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Members Absent: Sherri Vesely

The meeting was called to order by Sherry Parks, Chairman at 12:00 p.m.

Micki Ferris moved to accept the Agenda. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Lori Johnson pointed out a correction that needs to be made on page 3 of the minutes. Under Item #10, it should read, “Lori accepted several quilt donations” instead of “a quilt donation.” Micki Ferris moved to accept the revised Minutes of the December 8, 2025 meeting. Sally Custer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Environmental Report:

Chris shared that he has been busy attending trainings and meetings. He attended the IOWWA Conference and will be attending the IWWA Conference on Friday. His report was included in the board packet.

Director’s Report - 10 Essential Public Health Services Framework – Stacy Koeppen

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

- A continued issue in Tama County is food insecurity.
 - i. Food Pantry: Mobile food pantry continues monthly in Tama.
 - ii. 5 Loaves Community Meal is held every Thursday at the Tama Civic Center from 4:30 – 6 p.m. The highest night so far was when they served 316 meals.
 - iii. South Tama County Food Pantry continues to serve the area.
 - iv. North Tama Food Pantry and Chrisitan Hands Across Traer (CHAT) serves Traer area.
 - v. Northwest Tama County Food Pantry serves Gladbrook.
 - vi. Meskwaki Senior Food Pantry serves Meskwaki.
- Tama County Meeting for the 99 Counties Project was on 01/08.

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

- Communicable Disease Investigations: 0
- Influenza: STC High School, Junior High, Dysart-Geneseo Elementary School, and Meskwaki have all reported greater than 10% absences related to Influenzas and Strep in January.
- Active & Latent TB Cases: 2 latent.
- Animal Bites: 2 dog bites in December.
- Immunizations Given: 4 given for the month of December
- Stacy has the final draft of Tama County PHERP that needs approval

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

- Social Media Strategy: Facebook Engagement increased 128% in December and January. The most popular post in December was on 12/31 about RSV and Influenza, 1/1/26 shared from Poweshiek

County Public Health “Is it Allergies, Cold, Flu, COVID-19, or RSV?” There are 3,028 followers. There were 34 posts in December.

- Coffee Talks: In December 5 scheduled; 24 attended. 1 cancelled due to staff shortage.

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

- Maternal Health: 4 visits provided in December.
- Maternal & Child Health: December topic was Gift Giving; 13 attended.
- SKIP: Did not meet in December
- NEI3A/COA: Did not meet in December
- EH Webinar: Chris & Stacy attended on 11/20.
- Essential Services Advisory Council Meeting 12/18-Lori and Stacy attended.
- Head Start Contract –1 Child seen
- Gloria and Stacy attended Central Iowa Maternal Health Coalition on 12/10
- Stacy joined the Tama County Employee Appreciation Committee. They met twice in December. Stacy and Dirk presented to the BOS in January.

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

- We’ve been accepting walk-ins for flu shots.
- We are working on having a mobile Maternal Health & Child Wellness class throughout the county. We are going to trial this at the Traer Library in February or March after children’s story time.
- Maternal & Child Wellness classes are now available via Zoom as well as continuing to be in person.

6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect public’s health.

- JIS 12/2 was attended by Stacy & Lori
- CIHCC Meetings on 12/18 & 1/15, Stacy and Lori attended
- Lori and Stacy attended Healthy Hometowns: Overview of Iowa’s Rural Health Transformation Plan on 12/04
- Lori, Stacy & Gloria attended the Public Health Office Hours Zoom Meeting on 12/2 & 1/6.
- Stacy update the EMReosource to current information on 12/31.

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

- Foot Clinics: 3 clinics – 18 clients for December.
- Home Health: 22 Referrals, 11 admitted. 50% of referrals were admitted. (3 refused services, 1 placed in nursing home, 1 lived outside Tama County, 1 did not turn in financial information, 1 chose another agency, 3 we were not able to locate, and 1 was Hospitalized) for November. December 33 Referrals, 23 admitted. 70% of referrals were admitted. (4 refused services, 1 placed in nursing home, 1 lived outside Tama County, 1 passed away, 1 was admitted to Hospice, and 2 we were not able to locate).
- Stacy and Lori met with our MatrixCare representative and later attended a demonstration for software advancements on 11/25.
- We’re advertising in the Farm Bureau Spokesman with funding from the Avian Flu Grant.

8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce.

- Applied for the More Options for Maternal Support (MOMs) grant for adding more options for services to the Maternal Child program we currently have.
- Gloria is attending the grant funded 17-week Public Health Essentials Training Course through Cornell University.
- We’re working on getting more staff members trained to be instructors for STB and CPR.
- We had a meeting on 12/5 to review our intake process and ways to improve the steps.

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

- QAPI: Processes are being reviewed. Lori and Stacy met with MatrixCare (our documentation company) and are looking into adding a software for Quality Improvement approximately in July 2026.
- Policies are being updated. Will be scheduling an Advisory Board meeting soon.

10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.

- Gloria and HHA Jennifer have been doing the foot clinics.
- The new phone system has most of its' kinks worked out.
- Stacy attended HPAI Read: Local PH & IPC Coordination Webinar on 12/10.
- Nursing Staff, Jolynn, Missy, Lori & Stacy attended training for New Medication Import in MatrixCare.
- Lori, Stacy & Lee Anna attended SHP trainings to improve reimbursement rates for skilled patients.
- Lori, Stacy & Lee Anna have attended or watched the recording of Annette Lee's last 2 webinars with changes/updates in 2026.
- Gloria, Missy & Stacy attended Americares training on 01/12.
- Stacy met with a therapy company to use as a second option. We've had some delays in starting clients from our current company's lack of availability. This would eliminate these delays in care.

Discussion was held regarding the PRN Home Care Aide changing to a full-time position following the termination of the previous full-time Home Care Aide. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the position must be advertised/posted for 10 days in accordance with Veterans Preference laws.

Waiver: One patient was served under the Frail and Elderly Waiver in November and December. There were 2 Maternal Health Home visits in November and 3 in December.

Financial Report:

Admissions decreased for the month of November and increased for the month of December. Skilled Nurse visits decreased for November, but increased for December. Home Health Aide visits and hours decreased for the month of November, but increased for the month of December. Our revenue increased for the month of November, but decreased for December.

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

Stacy introduced new Board of Health member Richard Arp to the rest of the Board.

Richard stated that he believed Item #4 under New Business should read "Discussion/Approval of Contracts Signed." It was discussed that the agenda should be revised to reflect this change. Micki Ferris made a motion to change Item #4 under New Business to read "Discussion/Approval of Contracts Signed." Richard Arp seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

A. Election of Officers

The Board voted to leave Sherry Parks as the Chairman and Micki Ferris as the Vice-Chairman. Sally Custer moved to approve the Election of Officers. Richard Arp seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

B. Conflict of Interest Statement

Board members reviewed and signed their annual Conflict of Interest statements. The completed forms will be kept on file.

C. Confidentiality HIPPA Compliance Statement

Board members reviewed and signed their annual Confidentiality HIPPA Compliance statements. The completed forms will be kept on file.

D. Discussion/Approval of Contracts Signed

1. TriWest/Wellmark Contract (signed 12/16/25)
2. The Shredder/Medshred (signed 12/09/25)
3. Verizon Wireless (viewed 12/11/25)

4. MatrixCare – Software Updates (signed 12/15/25)
 5. Forcura (signed 12/17/25)
 6. Community Foundation of NE Iowa (signed 12/22/25)
- Micki Ferris moved to formally approve the contracts that had already been signed. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Healthy Hometown Grants Discussion

Stacy shared with the Board that she and Lori had discussed applying for this grant; however, after reviewing the guidelines, they determined that the agency does not qualify. Grant requirements included having a hospital, the ability to provide statewide coverage, and the purchase of specific items that would require upfront payment. All requirements would need to be completed within six months, and the agency does not have sufficient staff to meet these expectations. Stacy noted that she had been asked by the Board of Supervisors whether the agency planned to apply and wanted the Board of Health to be aware of this information in case questions arose as to why an application was not submitted.

F. Vaccination Recommendation Updates

Stacy shared that the CDC has changed its vaccination recommendations and that fewer vaccinations are now recommended. However, the State of Iowa has not changed its vaccination schedule for school requirements. She noted that she has been receiving many questions from the community regarding the CDC recommendations and wants to ensure she is providing messaging consistent with the Board of Health's direction. Discussion was held. The consensus of the Board of Health was to follow the guidance the State is using for vaccination recommendations.

G. Discussion Regarding Additional Services for Home Health Patient with Extenuating Circumstances

Stacy requested discussion regarding a current Home Health patient who is receiving Home Health Aide (HHA) services and a request to add Homemaker services. This patient had previously been brought before the Board of Health prior to initiating HHA services due to immigration status.

Stacy shared that several family members reside in the home; however, the patient's mother is feeling overwhelmed with the level of care required. Home Health Aides have reported that the home environment is unclean. The patient is bedbound and remains in the bedroom. Services requested would be limited to cleaning the patient's room and completing the patient's laundry.

Discussion was held. Sherry Parks noted that similar situations have been brought to the Board on a case-by-case basis in the past. She stated her opinion that medical services should continue, but Homemaker services should not be added. Curt Hilmer agreed, stating that services should remain medical in nature, as expanding services could set a precedent. Micki Ferris commented that the patient has family members in the home who could assist with Homemaker tasks. Richard Arp stated that family members should be providing those services and expressed concern about taxpayer funds being used for non-medical services in this situation.

The question was raised whether a formal policy should be established or if requests should continue to be handled on a case-by-case basis. The consensus of the Board was to continue addressing these situations on a case-by-case basis.

H. Proposed New Agency Logo

Stacy presented a proposed new agency logo to the Board, noting that the current logo is outdated and the new design better reflects TCPH&HC, especially as the agency celebrates 60 years this year. Sherry Parks expressed concern about potential costs. Stacy explained that existing printed materials with the old logo would be used up, there would be no cost for in-house items, and likely none for items from the Meskwaki Print Shop. Richard Arp made a motion to approve the new logo, seconded by Micki Ferris. The motion carried unanimously.

I. Approve Tama County Public Health & Home Care Emergency Response Plan (PHERP)

Stacy presented the updated PHERP to the Board of Health, noting that the numerous attachments were not printed but could be emailed upon request. She explained that approval was not required today and the Board could choose to table it. After discussion, the Board decided to table the PHERP for a future meeting.

J. Approve Finance Committee Recommendations

Discussion was held. The direction from the Board of Supervisors was 0 Cost of Living Increase due to the County financial status. Motion by Micki Ferris to approve the Finance Committee Recommendations. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Future Meeting Dates: The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Monday, February 23, 2026 at Noon.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolynn Harger, Executive/Financial Assistant