

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE

Monday February 23, 2026 – 12:00 P.M.
Meeting held at Tama County Annex Building and via Zoom

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Members Present: | Micki Ferris | Sherry Parks – via Zoom | Chris Behrens – via Zoom |
| | Lori Johnson | Jolynn Harger | Richard Arp |
| | Sally Custer | Stacy Koeppen | Mark Doland |
| | Sherri Vesely | Heather Knebel | Curt Kupka |
| | Alex Martinez – via Zoom | Gloria Duggan | Nancy Purk |
| | Charles Betz | Berleen Wobeter | Michelle – via Zoom |
| | Karen Rohrs | | |

Members Absent: Curt Hilmer

The meeting was called to order by Sherry Parks, Chairman at 12:02 p.m.

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

Sally Custer moved to accept the Minutes of the January 26, 2026 meeting as presented. Richard Arp seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Capstone Project Report:

Alex Martinez was present to share his report, Evaluating the Effect of Occupational Therapy and Social Engagement on Loneliness in Older Adults. He reported that the study included six participants from rural communities, all aged 65 and older. The focus of the study was to examine how occupational therapy can support increased social engagement among older adults.

Mr. Martinez provided background information on Tama County and explained his use of the SPARK toolkit with participants. Each participant received two in-person visits and one follow-up phone call. Pre- and post-interviews were conducted to assess changes over time.

All participants reported an increase in social engagement following the intervention.

Environmental Report:

Chris shared that he has been busy attending trainings and meetings. He attended the Radon and Radon Mitigation meetings. He also did inspections for tanning and tattoos. He has been doing septic pumper truck inspections. 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.
 - 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.

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

- Communicable Disease Investigations: 1 Crypto
- Influenza: Dysart-Geneseo Elementary & Middle School have reported greater than 10% absences related to Influenza and Strep in January.
- Active & Latent TB Cases: 2 latent.
- Animal Bites: 0 bites in January.
- Immunizations Given: 1 given for the month of January

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 110% in January. The most popular posts were 1/20/26 Strep Throat Prevention and 1/23/26 shared from Polk County Emergency Management - Carbon Monoxide Safety, Frigid Weather. There are 3,042 followers. There were 29 posts in January.
- Coffee Talks: 4 scheduled. 1 cancelled due to staff shortage.

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

- Maternal Health: 2 visits provided in January.
- Maternal & Child Health: January topic was Family Routines: 10 attended.
- SKIP: 1/22 Lori and Stacy attended.
- NEI3A/COA: Did not meet in January
- EH Webinar: 1/27 – Lori, Chris and Stacy attended.
- Essential Services Advisory Council Meeting 01/22-Lori and Stacy attended.
- Head Start Contract –2 Children seen
- 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 are working on having a mobile Maternal Health and Child Wellness class throughout the county. We are going to trial this at the Traer library after children's story time. We have some more planning to do with this so we're going to try and go live in March.
- Maternal & Child Wellness classes are now available via Zoom as well as continuing to be in person.
- Gloria our public health nurse is going to discuss creating a family closet she will go over this in more detail at the meeting.
- We will be working with the wound care company that will go into people's homes.
- We will be working with the radiology group that will be able to do X-rays in people's homes.

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

- JIS 2/3 was attended by Stacy & Lori
- CIHCC Meeting on 1/15, Stacy and Lori attended
- Lori, Stacy & Gloria attended the Public Health Office Hours Zoom Meeting on 02/03.
- VFC webinar was held on 1/21, Missy and Stacey attended. Afterwards, influenza vaccines for this fall were ordered

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

- Foot Clinics: 7 clinics – 35 clients for January.
- Home Health: 24 Referrals, 14 admitted. 58% of referrals were admitted. (2 refused services, 3 no skilled care required, 1 didn't return calls, and 3 were Hospitalized) for January.
- Stacy, Jolynn, Missy, Leanna, and Lori met with our Mosai representative and attended a demonstration for software advancements on 02/4 and 02/12.

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. HHA Gayle will be starting them in March.
- New Medication Import in MatrixCare is live. The staff are still getting used to it.
- Lori, Stacy & Lee Anna attended SHP trainings to improve reimbursement rates for skilled patients.
- 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. They are wanting to hold off on everything until April.

Waiver: One patient was served under the Frail and Elderly Waiver in January. There were 0 Maternal Health Home visits in January.

Financial Report:

Admissions decreased for the month of January. Skilled Nurse visits decreased for January. Home Health Aide visits and hours decreased for the month of December. Our revenue decreased for the month of January.

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

New Business

A. Appoint Jim Roan to the Advisory Board

The Board voted to appoint Jim Roan to the Advisory Board to replace Bruce McEtree who recently passed away. Sally Custer moved to appoint Jim Roan to the Advisory Board. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

B. Discussion/Approval of Family Closet Program

Gloria Duggan, Public Health Nurse, was present to discuss her new program, the Family Closet. She reported receiving several referrals from DHS and the community and noted increased enrollment in the Maternal/Child Health program. Gloria shared that many families in the community are in need of essential items. She consulted with the coordinator of the Grinnell Family Closet to gather insight. That program provides items for pregnant and postpartum women, as well as caregivers. Gloria anticipates the Tama County Family Closet will operate on a smaller scale and will be appointment-based, allowing for one-on-one interaction to connect individuals with resources and provide personalized support. She noted strong community interest and enthusiasm for the program. Discussion was held. Motion by Micki Ferris to move forward with implementation of the program. Seconded by Sherri Vesely. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Update Board of Health Delegation of Authority Form

This form, that allows Stacy to sign contracts, needs to be updated annually. Motion by Sally Custer to update this form. Seconded by Micki Ferris. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Discussion of Contracts Signed

1. City Scape for Wound Care Services

Micki Ferris moved to formally approve the contract that had already been signed. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Social Media Misinformation Discussion

Discussion was held among Board of Health members and members of the Board of Supervisors regarding recent social media posts about Tama County Public Health and the home care services provided, as well as the overall cost of operating the agency. Board of Health members expressed concern that underserved and low-income individuals currently receiving services may not be served by private agencies if services are transitioned. It was noted that without these services, many individuals may be unable to remain in their homes and could require nursing home placement. Nursing homes within the county are currently at capacity, and families may need to take time off work to provide care, if family support is available.

Mark Doland stated that he encouraged public discussion from both perspectives, which prompted his social media posts. It was noted that while Stacy has done a commendable job increasing revenue, there are ongoing concerns about whether it is sufficient to offset administrative costs.

Heather Knebel shared that she has been in communication with Iowa Home Care, which has indicated a willingness to accept additional patients from Tama County. However, she expressed concern regarding individuals without insurance coverage and whether those patients would be accepted. Sherry Parks commented that outside agencies may accept a limited number of these patients but may not continue once that threshold is reached.

Nancy Purk noted that outside agencies would likely charge for travel time to provide services in Tama County, whereas TCPH only charges for time spent in the patient's home. Richard Arp questioned how the agency will be able to sustain staffing levels with minimal county funding. Karen Rohrs explained that levy rates have been reduced due to concerns about property tax increases, resulting in the need to lower budgets.

It was noted that other agencies may be deterred from entering the county due to TCPH's established presence, while Charlie Betts stated that the market is competitive and other agencies are not restricted from providing services in the area.

Discussion was also held regarding the potential sale of the RV. Curt Kupka suggested contacting the original seller to determine its current value to establish an appropriate sale price. Stacy asked whether proceeds from the sale could remain within the agency's budget. Mark Doland responded that, as the RV was purchased with ARPA funds, proceeds would likely be reallocated by the county.

Heather Knebel inquired about the possibility of reducing salaries or combining positions to decrease administrative costs.

Members of the Board of Supervisors present indicated they would be willing to consider an amended budget from the Board of Health by Thursday, March 12.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolynn Harger, Executive/Financial Assistant