

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE

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

Members Present:	Micki Ferris Lori Johnson Claire Shefchik Karen Murty Laura Wilson – via Zoom	Sherry Parks – via Zoom Jolynn Harger Stacy Koeppen LeeAnna Kriegel Maureen Kratoska – via Zoom	Chris Behrens Richard Arp Curt Hilmer -via Zoom Beth Eberle
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Members Absent: Sherri Vesely Sally Custer

The meeting was called to order by Sherry Parks, Chairman at 12:03 p.m.

Micki Ferris moved to accept the Agenda. Richard Arp seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Micki Ferris moved to accept the minutes of the February 23, 2026 meeting as presented. Richard Arp seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Environmental Report:

Chris shared that business has been slow lately. He has been working through the legal channels regarding the nuisance property at Union Grove Lake.

Report from Clinical Manager:

LeeAnna Kriegel, Clinical Manager, was present to provide an update on changes implemented over the past nine months. She reported that staff have been actively training on new programs and working to resolve payment issues in order to improve reimbursement rates.

LeeAnna noted that the agency’s current quality rating 6 months ago was 91%, which exceeds both state and national averages. She shared that the VBP rating was 59% one year ago, but over the past six months, the quality rating has improved to 92%, and the VBP score has increased to 71%, both way above state and national averages. She also reported that the agency has been able to significantly improve reimbursement levels while continuing to learn and adapt to program requirements.

Additionally, the agency has met the Medicare benchmark of 40 admissions, which is the requirement to stay Medicare Certified. The last Medicare admission of this Agency occurred last Friday.

Due to the anticipated closure of the agency on June 30, LeeAnna expressed concerns from the Meskwaki Tribe and VA regarding the loss of local services for patients. She concluded by expressing appreciation for the opportunity to work for TCPH&HC over the past several years.

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: 0
- Active & Latent TB Cases: 4 latent.
- Animal Bites: 2 dog bites in February.
- Immunizations Given: 4 given for the month of February

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

- Social Media Strategy: Facebook Engagement decreased in February. The most popular post was National Caregivers Day on 02/20/2026. There are 3,062 followers. There were 20 posts in February.
- Coffee Talks: 4 scheduled; 24 attended.

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

- Maternal Health: 6 visits provided in February.
- Maternal & Child Health: February topic was Postpartum Mental Health. 17 attended.
- SKIP: Meeting was cancelled
- NEI3A/COA: Did not meet in February
- Head Start Contract –28 Children seen
- We had two tables at the Meskwaki Health Fair. There was a good turnout.

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

- Maternal Health & Child Wellness classes are now available via Zoom as well as continuing to be in person.
- The Family Cabinet has been getting some donations.

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

- JIS 3/10 was attended by Lori
- CIHCC Meeting on 02/19, Lori attended
- Lori, Stacy & Gloria attended the Public Health Office Hours Zoom Meeting on 3/3.

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

- Foot Clinics: 5 clinics – 22 clients for February.
- Home Health: 32 Referrals, 18 admitted. 56% of referrals were admitted. (2 refused services, 1 no skilled care required, 2 were not able to cover respite, 1 was unable to staff, 2 chose another agency, 3 were placed in the Nursing Home, 1 went to Hospice, and 2 were Hospitalized) for February.
- Stacy, Jolynn, Missy, Lee Anna and Lori met with our Mosai representative and attended a training for software advancements/eFax. We went live with Mosai 3/11.

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

- We've put most of this on hold given the situation with the BOS and budget cuts.

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

- QAPI: Processes are being reviewed with updates to MatrixCare
- Policy updates are on hold.

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

- Gloria and HHA Jennifer have been doing the foot clinics. This service will discontinue effective April 1st.
- Nurse Claire resigned effective 04/03/26.
- Nurses attended SHP trainings to improve reimbursement rates for skilled patients.
- There have been several staff meeting with staff regarding changes implemented by the BOS and their budget cuts/rejection.

Waiver: One patient was served under the Frail and Elderly Waiver in February. There were 6 Maternal Health Home visits in February.

Financial Report:

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

A grant application to the American Legion was submitted. Last year we received a \$1,000 grant.

Micki Ferris moved to approve the Financial Report. Richard Arp seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

A. Discussion/Approval of Home Health Transition Plan

Stacy presented to the Board a proposal to explore purchasing the home health portion of the agency. Richard Arp suggested that the Board of Supervisors consider separating the agency into distinct entities. Discussion followed.

Stacy explained that if a new home health agency were to enter the county, it would initially be limited to serving 10 patients and would be unable to bill Medicare for up to one year. However, under a change of ownership, the agency could continue serving Medicare patients, and current patients would have the option to transition to the new entity.

Lori Johnson inquired whether the new entity could provide Public Health services through a contractual agreement. Curt Hilmer stated that he was unsure of the applicable code requirements but would look into the matter. Stacy added that existing contracts could potentially be transferred to a new owner, which may reduce or eliminate costs to the county.

The Board expressed interest in having Stacy present this information to the Board of Supervisors prior to their next meeting.

The Home Health Transition Plan was tabled at this time. It was noted that while there is a timeline that must be followed, further action cannot be taken until a clear direction is established. The Board of Health plans to meet the Monday following the next Board of Supervisors meeting to discuss their feedback and determine next steps.

B. Discuss having a meeting with Human Resources to review options for employees.
This agenda item was tabled to a later date.

C. Discuss, Draft & Approve a news release for the newspaper and Facebook
This agenda item was tabled to a later date.

D. Discussion/Approval of Contracts Signed

1. Immunization Grant
2. Pumper Contract 2027 – Sherry Parks to sign

Richard Arp moved to formally approve the contracts that had already been signed/that will need signed. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: Richard Arp thanked Curt Hilmer for his assistance and support of the Agency in working with the Board of Supervisors.

Future Meeting Dates: After discussion, the next Board of Health meeting will be held on **Tuesday**, April 28, 2026 at Noon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolynn Harger, Executive/Financial Assistant