

**BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE**

**Monday, April 6, 2026 – 9:02 A.M.
Tama Co. Board of Supervisor Meeting Room**

Present: Sherry Vesely Micki Ferris Richard Arp Sally Custer
 Lori Johnson Stacy Koeppen

Absent: Sherry Parks Jolynn Harger

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:02 a.m. with Board of Supervisors agenda item of Discussion/possible action on Tama County Public Health.

Iowa Code 331.342 prohibits the selling of the Home Health department to someone who is currently an employee of the County. Assets must be determined by a 3rd party, RFP submitted and it takes lots of time to complete this process.

It is hard for people who cannot get home care and the process takes a lot of time.

Stacy shared they have been more meetings and they are presenting a decreased budget for the home health and public health side. Home health asking is decreased by a significant amount. Everyone's wages are decreased. The Board of Health wants to keep the Medicare Certification and are not wanting to go on a year or two probationary period if they decertify. Budgets & revenues are within \$150,000. Restructuring would need to be done.

What was submitted to them on Friday is different than what the Board of Health would like to present today.

The Board of Health held a special meeting this morning at 7 a.m. to focus on staying Medicare certified, being able to provide services to Medicare clients as well as Veterans, Meskwaki population, full fee/private pay, and low-income clients. What is being proposed today would take care of that.

Currently they are looking at 25 clients, which will cost approximately \$200,000 for the low-income clients.

Stacy went over the numbers this weekend.

Home Health budget = \$649,795; Public Health Budget = \$644,013. Total = \$1,293,808

Board of Supervisors suggested an operating loan for the Board of Health to meet their budgeting needs.

The difference is with Medicare and insurance people being added in.

Non-Medicare, VA, NFP/FFP clients would need 3 RN's, 1 HHA, Office 75% for billing, Public Health nurse at 25 hours a week, would require 1 HHA, 1 Home Helper, 1 RN, and Public Health nurse. Director would oversee both departments. Sanitarian would be at current wage.

Revenue submitted was for both departments combined.

Question was asked by Board of Supervisors how accurate the revenue numbers are. Stacy shared that it is a projection/an estimate. Suggestion was made to look at previous year's revenue. With the changes

already implemented they are seeing an increase in revenue, but with not taking referrals for a month, this will have a direct impact on the revenue received.

Richard Arp stated that they need time to work on this and review this information more closely. Appreciate working with the board of Supervisors to continue to care for the people that we are taking care of.

It was noted that the original budget presented was \$1.9 million and this budget combined is \$1.2 million.

Richard added that we can see where we are next year.

Stacy shared that we have stopped taking admissions. We were close to the break-even number with our caseload and referrals. They are seeing an increase from \$1,200 an episode to \$5,000 an episode.

Board of Supervisors stated that they felt Stacy was doing a good job and bringing in more with what she has done versus previous years.

Question was asked regarding guarantees. It was said that people always need help.

Quality of care is why clients choose our services.

They are currently transitioning people and are seeing a decrease in patients. Revenue will be affected by this this year, due to these changes.

Profits should carry no fee patients but cannot guarantee this.

Nurses provide amazing care. They are increasing the revenue and are changing their practices. Best practices were discussed.

Medicare is the bigger payer.

Today's budget shows the home health budget at \$649,795 and public health at \$644,013. Decertified budgets were home health \$597,867; public health \$578,354. The department will need to do some restructuring.

Richard Arp stated, "with this option this am, we can continue to take care of as many clients as possible and receive Medicare reimbursements. Doing what is best for the people and being able to re-evaluate in time for the following fiscal year. Want to work with the Board of Supervisors to continue to provide services."

Discussion was held regarding being transparent and asked questions with no responses back and conflicts. Feel things are on the right track now. Review things in October or November.

Sherry Vesely asked about the raises that were given with cuts to the public health department. It was shared that these are guidance and the department heads can determine if they allocate that raise increase or not. Deputies in departments are tied to their department heads' raises and do receive raises when the department head receives one. Discussion was held that they would like to go to a merit-based raise system.

Curt Hilmer was asked his opinion, as Board of Health liaison, regarding proposal. He said, "the past is in the past." Lack of communication. Revenue comes back and improvements have been made with the

coding. Numbers that were given, \$300,000 levy potential to make more. No one wants to get rid of budget short falls. Can end up in that situation another year. Gotta get better. Six to eight months much better and hold her and people back. Can make it work and trust her. Next year go away if it cannot be done. Positive work going on.

Sally Custer shared “thank you for the Board of Supervisors. Opened everyone’s eyes. Thanks for all Stacy has done and is going in the right direction.”

Cuts that have been done was discussed. Have lost long time staff. They had budgeted \$400,000 to public health. More services with approximately \$1 million in savings.

Try to do the right things.

Mark Doland shared “open communication and coming up with solutions. The best options and good character. Get close to the services. Harder choices next year.”

Suggestion was made that the department pursue a business line of credit before the next budget year. The department would pay the loan and the interest. Juvenile Detention Center does something like this.

Discussion was held regarding income and expenses for the last year, 30-day turn-around time for billing to make loan payments.

If this avenue does not work, then need to come back and explain why it would not work.

New budget numbers will be created to record the two separate budget expenses next fiscal year.

All Board of Supervisors voted in favor of this except for Curt Kupka voted nay.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Johnson, Secretary Pro-tem, Assistant Director/CFO