

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE

Monday January 25, 2021 – 12:00 P.M.
Meeting held via Zoom - Tama Co. Annex Building

Due to heightened potential public health risks related to the COVID-19 virus, all Tama County Board of Health meetings will be held electronically through ZOOM or by phone conference until further notice.

Present: Micki Ferris –via Zoom Shannon Zoffka Jolynn Harger –via Zoom
Lori Johnson Dr. Hineman – via Zoom Bill Faircloth – via Zoom
Phyllis Dunlap – via Zoom Duane Backen – via Zoom Sherry Parks, PA-C –via Zoom
Heather Bombei –via Zoom

Absent:

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

Micki Ferris moved to accept the Revised Agenda as presented. Duane Backen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Micki Ferris moved to accept the minutes of the December 28, 2020 meeting as presented. Phyllis Dunlap seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Environmental Report: no report today.

Director’s Report – Shannon Zoffka

Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement (QAPI): No new news.

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA): No new news.

Supporting Kids in Prevention (SKIP): A Zoom meeting is scheduled for Wednesday.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP): Monthly Public Health meetings continue and extra information sharing meetings as well. Most of these are regarding clinics and the vaccine.

Human Resources: Our PRN Aide ad is receiving some response. There hasn’t been time to set up interviews yet.

Communicable Disease: No animal bites in January.

One LTC remains in outbreak status.

We continue to work closely with the school administration and COVID contacts on quarantined staff and kids, and vaccine planning.

Current case count: 2067 (at the last meeting we were at 1908) – it is an average of 46 a week, it is still higher (at least double) than our lowest months this summer. Two additional deaths in our county.

We utilized vaccine provided in Phase 1A to vaccinate healthcare workers and assisted vaccinating LTC staff in several facilities. We redistributed vaccine to Linn County that we could not use and would otherwise expire.

We are working on Phase 1B currently, which includes age 65 and over and a tiered approach to the essential workers identified in that Phase. School employees, daycare workers, and first responders are in the First Tier. We will not receive vaccine to offer everyone in that phase all at once, we will receive weekly shipments and will have to plan clinics around doses of vaccine available. We are using our Volunteer Medical Reserve Corp to assist in our clinics. We have begun distributing the second dose of Phase 1A as of last week.

We are taking the names of people 65 and older to put on a list, this was decided as 50% of the doses allocated to the County need to be distributed to that age group and despite having census data, we need an idea of how many people actually want the shot. We are taking names, birth dates and phone numbers from those interested and will call them back to schedule an appointment when we begin clinics. Not everyone in this age group has internet or knows how to use an online scheduling system.

We will be able to distribute to the pharmacies and clinics if they are interested in receiving and have signed the provider agreement with the State.

We are using the Iowa Juvenile Home as our clinic site. We will have space to vaccinate many more people than in our basement. With the volunteers and the space IJH offers we will be able to schedule according to the number of nurses available. This will also not interrupt regular business, like if it were held at a school gym or community center. We also can set up once and be done versus having to set up every time there is a clinic.

The community support and offers to assist have been outstanding. Shannon is very excited to work with our volunteers to get Tama County vaccinated.

Maternal Health Program: Penny has conducted Facebook Live Nest classes as a safe alternative to in person classes.

We received an email at the beginning of January from our Technical Assistant with LSI, who is our support for the credentialing process. They asked what our plan for credentialing was. Other counties are able to redistribute COVID workloads and focus on credentialing. Shannon explained our department's structure and COVID response, explaining as a Public Health, we have expectations in a global pandemic that are a priority for us and residents of the county. Shannon asked what we could do to extend our timeline for credentialing and still has not received a response.

ECI: We received notice last week that ECI is terminating our contracts, which support our Nest and Maternal Health programs. The ECI Director cited many reasons why we are being terminated including:

Use of Facebook Live classes for Nest, even though we are instructed we cannot have them in person.

Home visits being down. Home visits have been down since COVID began. We were directed to not do visits, and then the State intervened and said with our approach as home health and following the screening and wearing PPE that we could.

DAISEY reporting system. This has been an ongoing struggle as there has been little to no support in what needs to be entered. We had a short training in May during the initial months of COVID. The ECI Director offers little to no guidance as she says she does not use the system other than to get reports.

We have been instructed to do additional screenings for families, but we have not been trained on these screenings. These screenings are provided at doctor's offices for well child checks as well as by MICA with their WIC clinics and home visitation program.

Over the past two years the critique of our programs has been intense from the ECI Director to the point we have been anticipating we will be terminated at some point. The communication has been poor, last minute, and without support from the Director.

Moving forward we plan on utilizing community resources, insurance billing, and donations to support the Nest and Maternal Health programs as they are important to all families in our county no matter socioeconomic status, and this will not be a road block to providing services to those that rely on them. Just today, Ripley Church in Traer contacted us as they want to do another supply drive for the Nest.

Administrative claiming dollars for needed items, LPHS funds can be utilized (has to be payer of last resort) for Home Visits and Nest.

We would like approval to discontinue any and all services and billing to ECI effective 12/31/20 with no further reporting or billing to them. This will be voted on under New Business Item C.

Home Health: Nothing to report.

Waiver: December: Four patients were served under the Frail and Elderly Waiver. There were 2 Early Childhood Home visit in December.

Financial Report:

Lori shared the Financial Reports with the Board. Admissions were down. Skilled Nursing visits decreased from the previous month. Home Health Aide visits and hours were up from the previous month. Revenue decreased from the previous month.

Starting January 1st, we had to use Carebridge software to “check-in” and “check-out” of a visit for Homemaking patients. Our current software does not “talk” to this system yet, so the HCA’s are having to use two systems for now. We also have to do our billing out of this new system.

Phyllis Dunlap moved to approve the Financial Report as presented. Dr, Hineman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

A. Election of Officers: The Board voted to leave Sherry Parks as the Chairman and Dr. Hineman as the Vice-Chairman. Phyllis Dunlap was voted to remain the Secretary. Duane Backen moved to approve the Election of Officers. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

B. Duane Backen moved to Approve the Finance Committee Recommendations. Dr. Hineman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Discussion was held about Early Childhood Iowa and its two programs – Maternal Health and Nest. Dr. Hineman moved to Approve discontinuing services and billing to ECI effective 12/31/20, and switching to Administrative claiming, Insurance billing and LPHS. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Shannon and Lori requested permission from the Board to use VMRC grant funding to purchase water and food for the volunteers and staff that are working the COVID vaccination clinics. Lori referred Board members to the document in their packet provided by our CPA, Beth Miller. After discussions with Beth, she said it is an allowable expense if it fits a public purpose. Discussion was held, with Micki mentioning that there eventually should be some written policies and procedures in place for situations such as this. Phyllis Dunlap moved to allow grant funding to be used to purchase water and food for the COVID clinic workers. Duane Backen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Dr. Hineman moved to Approve Health Education Activities as a billable service to the LPHS Grant, effective 1/1/21. Duane Backen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: Heather Bombei gave a shout out to Shannon and Lori for working with ECI. She appreciated them reaching out to her with questions, and she thank the Board for supporting them.

Future Meeting Dates: The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Monday, February 22, 2021 at Noon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolynn Harger, Executive/Financial Assistant