

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE

Monday February 22, 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	Warren Dukes,	
		AmeriGroup – via Zoom	

Absent:

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

Duane Backen moved to accept the Agenda as presented. Phyllis Dunlap seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Micki Ferris moved to accept the minutes of the January 25, 2021 meeting, changing from the word “tired” to “tiered” in the first sentence on the last paragraph of the first page. 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): No new news.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP): Monthly Public Health meetings continue and extra information sharing meetings as well. Statewide Exercise COVID-19 Vaccine Point of Distribution (POD) After Action Report (AAR) and Improvement Plan (IPP) is due March 31st. Shannon started working on today.

Human Resources: Three people have applied for the Home Care Aide position. There has not been any time to interview.

Communicable Disease: There was one communicable disease case in January, and one animal bite.

COVID:

No LTC are in outbreak status in Tama County.

We continue to work closely with the school administration and COVID contacts on quarantined staff and kids. We expect to have most of the staff vaccinated by the end of next week.

Current case count: 2164 (at the last meeting we were at 2064) – it is an average of 25 a week. We are only able to do a few of the case investigations a week due to vaccine clinics and planning.

Vaccine: On February 1st, we began Phase 1B, Tier 1 vaccination clinics. We are vaccinating Phase 1A boost doses as well. We have anywhere from 3-5 clinics a week. We vaccinate 120-130 people per clinic. We rely heavily on volunteers to make this happen. We have no scheduling software, so this is all very time consuming and stressful

for staff. We have had over 2000 phone calls, multiple emails, Facebook messages all hours of the day. We have had to build a scheduling process not only for vaccine recipients, but volunteer staff as well. We are utilizing Sign Up Genius, and this has not been without issues.

People show up early for their shots despite being told by staff to not come early to help us with social distancing. Many people think they are eligible for the shot and they are not. We spend hours clarifying this on the phone. We have multiple clinic schedules going at once to schedule prime dose and boost dose in 28 days. We were not assured to a certain amount of vaccine per week, well into February.

We have several entities that are approved vaccine providers in the county, so far we have provided vaccine to NuCara in Traer, Mercy One in Dysart, and Medicap. Each provider is expected to follow the Governor's Shortage Order as well as use all the doses provided within the week, if they do not, this could inhibit us from receiving our regular weekly allotment.

We were told on a webinar last Friday that we are expected to use all of the allotted vaccine that week in that week. So if we receive a shipment at 4 p.m. on a Friday we are expected to have vaccine clinics that weekend to use it. This would be difficult for many reasons. We would need to contact 100's of people Friday night and have staff work those weekends, as well as being able to set up building access to host clinics. The definition of a week was changed from Thursday-Thursday to Sunday-Sunday. Last week we received 0 doses due to the weather in the Southern States, which was not communicated to us. This week we may receive 2 shipments of prime doses and 2 shipments of boost dose. Currently, we have no doses on hand and are waiting for the shipment that was due last week as well as this week's shipment. We are still expected to have all data from each clinic entered into IRIS in 24 hours. To date, Tracy has accomplished this with each clinic.

We have managed to have a 21.2% vaccination rate in the county (21.2% of the eligible population is vaccinated) and receive multiple compliments on how well our clinics are run. This is with a lot of extra hours and little time to do much else. Our regular duties are prioritized as best as we can. We expect to be having clinics through the summer. We are working closely with Iowa Premium so we can get them vaccine to begin Tier 2. We anticipate this happening the first week in March. Linn County is assisting with education of refugee groups in regard to the vaccine. We had a large clinic last Thursday and were able to work with 5 Spanish interpreters to vaccinate our Spanish speaking population. The majority of school staff, daycare, law enforcement and firefighters in the county have been vaccinated.

As one can imagine, this entire process has been stressful for staff at every level in the agency. The phone calls alone prevent people from being able to do their regular job. We do feel the waiting list is a much better plan for our county, as we don't want to do the first come first serve basis others have done. We are thankful for DHS allowing us to use the IJH buildings, the space we have and the ability to remain set up for each clinic is a huge help. Our volunteers are such a valuable part of this process and we could not do this without them.

Maternal Health Program: We have received donations of supplies from area churches for the Nest.

DAISEY reports were updated and submitted to Erin with ECI. We had to call to clarify information in the contract.

Home Health: Numbers remain low. Staff feels stressed. We have had to rely on nurses to help field the phone calls.

Waiver: January: Four patients were served under the Frail and Elderly Waiver. There were 4 Maternal Health Home visits in January.

Financial Report:

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

We have received an additional COVID grant of \$78,130. This can be used for COVID activities.

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

New Business

A. Duane Backen moved to Approve the Finance Committee Recommendations – Sliding Fee and Write-Off's. Phyllis Dunlap seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: Duane Backen asked if any of the vaccine has been wasted. Shannon replied that no, none has been wasted. She said that there is a waiting list of people that they can call, if they happen to draw up an extra dose.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolynn Harger, Executive/Financial Assistant