

# BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

## TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE

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Monday November 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  
Lori Johnson                      Bill Faircloth – via Zoom                      Sherry Parks, PA-C –via Zoom  
Phyllis Dunlap                      Duane Backen – via Zoom                      Dr. Polly Hineman, via Zoom  
Heather Bombei –via Zoom                      Nancy Kerns – via Zoom

**Absent:** Chris Behrens

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

Sherry Parks read the following statement:

Per Iowa Code, Chapter 21.8, Electronic Meetings, the Tama County Board of Health will conduct meetings via zoom or by phone conference due to circumstances where such a meeting in person is impossible or impractical. With 3 members of the BOH being medical providers and/or EMS providers in the county it is impractical to meet due to heightened potential public health risks related to COVID-19 including continued virus activity in our State, Tama County having only a 47% vaccination rate and inability to comply with mitigation efforts such as spacing in our regular meeting space.

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

Lori Johnson pointed out that on page 3, paragraph 3 of the October minutes, when discussing nuisance abatements; Chris said that he thought the nuisance abatement would cover the removal of snow and mowing of grass. That was incorrect, it only covers removal of weeds. Sherry thought that we should add that grass and snow removal are not covered under nuisance abatement. Duane Backen moved to accept the amended Minutes of the October 25, 2021 meeting. Phyllis Dunlap seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### Reports:

#### **Environmental Report:**

In Chris's absence, Shannon gave his report. He wanted her to tell the Board that he is thankful for their support. He feels the new rules that were adopted have helped out a lot.

An update in regards to Union Grove Lake issues: there were three issues with the property of Mr. Vodohodsky; weeds, junk cars, and wildlife. Chris has a status update on each.

The weeds are no longer our jurisdiction, it is under the Board of Supervisors and there are presently no weeds on the property right now.

Chris has been by the house twice in the last month and has not seen the presence of raccoons. It appears the traps have been working. Raccoons leave trails and there are none leading up to the house. He has documented and taken pictures. There were trails in the spring when he was initially at the property.

With the junk cars, there were two to start with and now one is gone. Chris spoke to Tony by phone last week and told him if the remaining car has been registered and has had the tires filled up, it no longer makes it a junk vehicle. He also told him it would be a good idea to fill the hole in the soffit, so the raccoons no longer have a way to get in the house. Tony thought this was doable.

#### **Director's Report – Shannon Zoffka**

*Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement (QAPI):* The overall approach to QAPI compliance has been looked at, and we have made changes after consulting with Annette Lee in exactly what this program should entail and how we should move forward. We have a plan in place and will begin meeting monthly to organize and reshape our QA and QAPI program.

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

*Supporting Kids in Prevention (SKIP):* No new news,

*Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP):* No new news, meetings continue via Zoom.

*Human Resources:* No new news on the OSHA vaccine mandate for the County as an employer, however, Home Health has a mandate issued via CMS. The Iowa Health Care Association has provided guidance to home health agencies on how to interpret and meet the needs of the CMS Mandate. We have utilized their templates to develop policy that is in line with the CMS expectations for Home Health. As of today, the CMS mandate, which is a separate mandate from the OSHA mandate, has not been suppressed.

I worked with HR to conduct an investigation into an employee complaint. As a result of this investigation and consulting with HR, extra duties were unassigned from one staff member and assigned to another, along with this reassignment, the extra pay provided for these duties was also removed from one and applied to the employee who took over the responsibilities. The staff member who had the duties removed has filed a grievance, however, in the grievance it is stated that she does not want the extra duties back, but would like to retain the pay. The next steps could be that this issue will come to the Board of Health.

*Communicable Disease:* There were no communicable disease cases or animal bites in October.

Our first STI Clinic will take place today beginning at 1 P.M. with Linn County.

*COVID:*

Current case count: 3034 (at the last meeting we were at 2891). We are currently at a 16.8% positivity rate. A month ago we had an 8% 7 day positivity rate at our last meeting. No long term care facilities in the county are in outbreak status, as of today.

*Vaccine:*

We have received Pfizer pediatric doses, we are working on a plan for clinics. There are a lot of things to iron out. We would not want to have these clinics at the same time as the 18 and up clinics, and we need to make sure we have enough volunteers willing and able to assist with providing pediatric immunizations. We are unsure when exactly would be the best time to host clinics for families with kids in school and parents at work. So far Mercy One in Dysart and Gladbrook have accepted doses to distribute.

We are still on an every two week ordering cycle with the State for all vaccine. However, the last 2 ordering cycles we have not received the amount we have asked for as the CDC has changed the allotments available to the State.

Moderna and Pfizer booster doses are approved for anyone 18 and up, as of today. We continue to host booster shot clinics at IJH two days a week.

*Home Health:* IDPH has proposed changes to the Local Public Health Services funding, information was provided in the BOH packets this month. IDPH has also begun providing information on the alignment of IDPH and DHS, which is a separate issue from the proposed changes to local public health grant changes. Heather Bombei is here today and can assist with answering any questions, as Shannon doesn't feel she has a great understanding of all points in the changes coming up.

We have received two applicants for the FT aide position and will schedule interviews soon. We still have not been able to fill the PRN aide position we have open. As we work short, we have to focus on making sure we provide ordered Aide services for the patients. These are given priority over Homemaking services. This is upsetting to quite a few of our patients that receive Homemaking services. We have had phone calls with complaints that they have not received the homemaking hours that they are supposed to receive. We have also

seen an increase in respite services hours that we are unable to assist with as well. Out of 8 interviews for the PRN Home Health Aide/Homemakers we have been able to hire 1 individual, despite offering the PRN hours to 5 others, they all declined as they were able to get full time hours elsewhere.

We expect that we will have a DIA survey in early 2022. We have begun preparing for this, it will be our first survey since COVID started and since we began using the new EHR system. Annette Lee came to the agency last Thursday to help with the prep work and to review current DIA survey processes with us. During the review last week, we discovered areas that need extra attention. We will be having some extra work sessions with the staff who was assigned the extra duties and Annette to have a closer look at compliance and concerns.

Home Health that receives CMS reimbursement must comply with the CMS mandate on vaccination, or we could lose funding or be placed in jeopardy. Medical and religious exemptions are allowed.

*Maternal Health Program:* Penny participated in a community baby shower in Dysart recently.

**Waiver:** October: Nine patients were served under the Frail and Elderly Waiver. There were 3 Maternal Health Home visits in October.

### **Financial Report:**

For the month of October, Admissions and Skilled Nursing visits were down. Home Health Aide visits were up and hours were down for the month. Our revenue decreased from the previous month.

Duane Backen moved to approve the Financial Report. Phyllis Dunlap seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

A. Dr. Hineman moved to Approve & Authorize CEO/Executive Director to sign COVID Vaccination Status Attestation for workers of our organization doing business with Common Spirit Health (Mercy One Home Infusion Pharmacy in Urbandale, IA). Phyllis Dunlap seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Duane Backen moved to Approve & Authorize CEO/Executive Director to sign Contract # 3709511 with Lamar for Billboard Advertising for COVID Equity Grant. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Micki Ferris moved to Approve & Authorize CEO/Executive Director to sign CMS Cost Report. Dr. Hineman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Micki Ferris moved to Approve & Authorize CEO/Executive Director, Advisory Board Chair, and Board of Health Chair to sign Emergency Action Plan. Duane Backen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Dr. Hineman moved to Approve & Authorize CEO/Executive Director to hire a full time Homemaker or second CNA. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

F. IDPH will be changing the LPHS contract to focus on a larger population of Public Health. The funding formula will not change, but we will not be receiving money for individual care. We will instead receive money for support salaries. Heather Bombei said that the State has been looking at this for several years. The trend in funding is going down, and is more public health based. They had been spending a lot of money on a small amount of people, it really should be on the entire county instead of a small group of consumers. This agenda item was just for information today. No action taken.

G. Dr. Hineman moved to approve the Tama County Public Health & Home Care Mandatory COVID Vaccination Policy and the Required Employee Immunization (COVID) Policy. Much discussion was held. Duane Backen wanted to be put on record as being opposed to these policies. Shannon said that if we didn't have such policies that CMS could withhold our funding. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried with majority of members.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Public Comment:** Heather Bombei stated that IDPH and DHS were moving forward with the alignment between the two agencies. She encouraged people to visit the Public Feedback Portal to provide public comment/feedback on the changes.

Nancy Kerns asked what the delay was on the Union Grove Lake issues. She wondered if Lori had an answer from the County Attorney regarding nuisance abatement. Lori said that she has looked at the articles in regards to nuisance abatement and has started drafting up a policy in regards to this. She has not yet heard back from Brent Heeren. If fees are assessed that will be the Board of Health's decision.

**Future Meeting Dates:** The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Monday, December 20, 2021 at Noon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolynn Harger, Executive/Financial Assistant