

# BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

## TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE

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Monday February 27, 2023 – 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:** Sally Custer – via Zoom                      Chris Behrens                      Dr. Hineman – via Zoom  
Lori Johnson    Jolynn Harger  
Curt Hilmer – via Zoom                              Mick Ferris – via Zoom  
Shannon Zoffka    Heather Bombei – via Zoom

**Absent:** Sherry Parks, PA-C    Casey Schmidt

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Hineman, Vice-Chair at 12:07 p.m.

Dr. Hineman 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.

Shannon Zoffka added a Sanitarian Special Committee Report to the Agenda today under New Business. Sally Custer moved to accept the Revised Agenda with addition of the Sanitarian Special Committee Report. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Hineman pointed out a change to the minutes from the January 23, 2023 meeting, she said the words “via Zoom” needed to be added behind her name under the Present section on the first page. Lori pointed out the incorrect spelling of the word “counties” on the third page. Micki Ferris moved to accept the Minutes of the January 23, 2023 meeting with the changes presented. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Reports:**

#### **Environmental Report:**

Chris reported that he has completed the 8 hour Pumper Training and can now do septic pumper truck inspections.

Chris has learned of another grant application for a septic system that was awarded to a Tama County resident. This makes two applications that were awarded grants. 12 applications were sent in.

#### **Director’s Report**

*Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement (QAPI):* The January meeting was cancelled. We will try to look for dates in March to hold a meeting.

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

*Supporting Kids in Prevention (SKIP):* Some upcoming events: Burgers with Police on May 18<sup>th</sup>, and a Family Fishing Event at Cherry Lake on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP):* Public Health workgroup meetings, coalition service area and communication meetings continue. The focus has been on inventory of PPE, and severe weather and the impact on electricity dependent medical devices.

*Human Resources:* Kathi Fehr, HCA Supervisor gave her resignation on 02/24, with her last day being 02/28.

*Communicable Disease:* There were no communicable disease cases in January. There was 1 animal bite in January.

*Public Health:* The Mobile Food Pantry served 176 households, which included 531 individuals, in January.

Shannon continues to work on Succession Planning, updating her Directors Report to reflect the 10 Essential Public Health Functions, and creating a social media communication plan.

Shannon was asked to be a guest speaker, along with Meskwaki Health Clinic Nurse Manager Sara Augspurger in a Vaccine Confidence Webinar Series for Nurses. Their presentation was "The Power of Storytelling: How to Use Narratives to Talk to Patients About Vaccines." This was hosted by the University of Iowa Prevention Research Center for Rural Health.

*COVID:* Tama County moved to a high transmission rate again in early February, we are currently in substantial transmission rate and must stay there for 2 full weeks before we are able to take the masks off again.

*Maternal Health Program:*

Nest Class was held on February 7th. The topics were Oral Health in Children and During Pregnancy. 9 families were in attendance.

*Home Health:*

We have had an increase in visits recently and are on track to meet our Medicare admission goal for the year. Some hiccups have been in the discharge process from the hospital, where things are not going as smoothly as in the past. It is also becoming more difficult to get reports on our hospitalized patients.

We had a visit from a Home Health Specialist from Care Well Home Health in Hiawatha. She wanted to know what territory we cover and what services we provide. Care Well covers 8 counties to the East of us and 10 to the West of us.

**Waiver:** January: Four patients were served under the Frail and Elderly Waiver. There were 0 Maternal Health Home visits in January.

**Financial Report:**

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

The two cars that were discussed as potential purchases at the last meeting have both fell through.

Micki Ferris moved to approve the Financial Report. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

A. Micki Ferris moved to Approve & Authorize CEO/Executive Director to be Board of Health Signatory for FY 24 Public Health 6 Year Emergency Response Grant. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Chris gave the Board members a status update about the Sanitarian Committee. They met before this meeting and decided to meet again next month after getting more information from both Homeowners about what the anticipated costs might be to fix the septic systems on their properties. Chris will contact both of the Homeowners to request this information.

**Public Comment:** Micki Ferris asked when we will be talking about the job sharing of the Environmental Health position with Marshall County. Dr. Hineman says we will stay with the status quo until there are changes. Micki asked if the position will continue on as it is currently? Dr. Hineman said yes, that is her understanding.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Future Meeting Dates:** The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Monday, March 27, 2023 at Noon. A hybrid meeting option will be offered, as long as Tama County stays out of a high transmission rate.

The meeting adjourned at 12:31 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolynn Harger, Executive/Financial Assistant