

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE

Monday March 27, 2023 – 12:00 P.M.
Meeting held at Tama County Annex building and via Zoom

Present: Dr. Hineman -via Zoom Chris Behrens – via Zoom
Lori Johnson Jolynn Harger
Curt Hilmer – via Zoom Mick Ferris – via Zoom
Shannon Zoffka Casey Schmidt – via Zoom

Absent: Sally Custer

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

Micki Ferris moved to accept the Agenda as presented. Dr. Hineman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Micki Ferris moved to accept the Minutes of the February 27, 2023 meeting as presented. Dr. Hineman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Environmental Report:

Chris reported that he has 6 septic systems ready to be put in.

He gave an update on the nuisance property at Union Grove Lake. The owner was charged, pled guilty, and fined \$75.00. He is working on getting the property cleaned up. This process has been very long and the people at Union Grove Lake are glad to see something finally happen.

Chris said he heard a rumor that Tama County doesn't allow conventional systems anymore. The fact is that 70-75% of new systems being installed are conventional systems.

Director's Report

Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement (QAPI): The next meeting will be held on March 28th.

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA): Surveys have been tallied, demographic information and County health assets have been identified. The top concerns in Tama County are: obesity, physical activity, elderly wellness, access to healthcare and mental health.

Supporting Kids in Prevention (SKIP): Some upcoming events: Supper with Superheroes on May 18th, and a Family Fishing Event at Cherry Lake on June 2nd. The next meeting is March 30th.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP): Work on the Public Health Emergency Operations Plan has begun. We will also be inventorying all PPE and supplies this Spring, and continuing with social media posts with weather related information. The National Tornado Drill is March 29th. Shannon and Lori took part in the Coalition Radiation Exercise and have information from this training that they will share with the LEPC.

Tama County Public Health was asked to join the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council.

Human Resources: The County is starting a new focus on ergonomics and has introduced a stretching program for office staff.

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

Public Health: The Mobile Food Pantry served 176 households, which included 504 individuals, in February.

In February we had 10 Facebook posts. Topics included: Mobile Food Pantry, American Heart Month, Days til Spring, Winter Weather Updates, Dental Health, Caregiver Support and STI Test Kit Information. The most popular post was the DNR Days til Spring post.

We had 4 Coffee Talks in February with 16 people attending.

Shannon is working on updating the Directors Report so that the format is in line with the 10 Essential Public Health Services Framework, She has included information on the Ten Essential Services Framework in the Board packet. She hopes to have this ready in April or May.

Work on the FY24 Local Public Health Services Grant application has begun. This will be a 3 year contract vs 1 year contract as it had been in the past. The application is due by April 21st, it is not a competitive grant. The format is the same as last year, with population based services (not individual services like homemaking or foot clinics, etc.) being where services should be focused, with leadership and governance, health promotion and strengthening infrastructure being the areas of work in the work plan.

A Benton County BOH member sent an email late Sunday informing that their Public Health is being moved out of the hospital and back to the county, they are looking to see if neighboring counties are interested in subcontracting certain public health services, there will be more information to come on this. Curt asked why it is being moved back to the County. Shannon said that this seems to be the trend. It has happened in Marshall County and in Poweshiek County. It is probably due to the financial side as Public Health is not a big money maker.

As a NEI3A board member, Shannon delivered meals to 6 individuals who receive Meals on Wheels in the Tama-Toledo area in March. Funding for the meal program is insufficient, recipients are unable to receive milk daily with their meals, milk is provided 2 days out of 5. NEI3A has struggled to find homemaking programs in counties throughout the 18 county region we are in. Tama County Public Health is one of the few agencies that has continued to provide this important service. Many agencies have stopped providing homemaking service as they lack support from their county, the need for homemaking services is high. Homemaking provides light cleaning services, laundry, meal planning and prep as well as grocery shopping. This support for the elderly and disabled is just one of the services we provide that helps our residents stay in their homes and is not readily available in other counties.

Home Health:

Client highlight:

Four years ago we admitted a client who had over 17 wounds, with RN care and Aide assistance, all wounds were healed and the client has remained wound free ever since. We have remained in the home providing Aide services such as bathing and hygiene. Due to our home health services, this client remained in the home and has received the education, care and assistance to improve their overall health and well-being.

Maternal Health Program:

Nest class was held March 14th, with guest speaker, Bethany Ferguson, MSN, RD, LD, a Baby Led Weaning Dietitian Expert. She gave education and tips on how to introduce foods to toddlers.

Each participant that attended received a bag with the following items: Silicone Spoon Fork, Hook-on & Booster Seat, 2 Silicone Bibs, First Soft Foods Feeder, 1 dozen eggs, frozen fruits, canned peaches and pears, and a package of mild shredded cheddar cheese.

Waiver: February: Four patients were served under the Frail and Elderly Waiver. There were 14 Maternal Health Home visits in February.

Financial Report:

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

The financial report shows that Chris was paid twice during the last payroll of the month. This will be corrected on next months payroll.

Lori submitted Budget Amendment requests in the amount of \$371,450. This is for grant funds that are not awarded at budget time.

Micki Ferris moved to approve the Financial Report. Dr. Hineman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

- A. Dr. Hineman told the Board that the Sanitarian Committee met on Friday. They did not reach an agreement to propose to the Board. They did have two ideas to present to the Board for them to decide:
1. A policy that would state the County would pay \$7,500 or 50% of the cost, whichever is less, to bring the system up-to-date.
 2. If each failed system should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

They did agree that the time limit to bring up issues should be 5 years.

Discussion was held. Casey said he didn't want any Homeowner that had issues with their system trying to get reimbursement from the County. Chris said that he would have to first inspect the system, and the situation, and find out if it fit in the time frame that the inspections were incorrectly passed by the previous Sanitarian.

Micki said she felt there should be a standard rate of reimbursement so then this issue wouldn't have to be revisited each time there is a claim. She feels we can avoid complaints with someone feeling like others are being treated differently.

Dr. Hineman said that currently there are two cases. One will cost \$15,000 to correct and the other is less than that.

Chris said that Chapter 69 is clear and we need to abide by that, these two Homeowners have been waiting for answers.

Lori said that we have these reimbursements budgeted for in the FY 23-24 Budget. No reimbursements can be made until after July 1st. Dr. Hineman asked if our Budget for 23-24 has been approved by the Board of Supervisors yet. Lori said she wasn't sure if the budget was finalized yet, but it was approved with no changes the day that it was presented to them.

Lori said that we process the claims and they are sent over to the Board of Supervisors to approve them. They could reject them at that point.

Micki Ferris thinks the proposed \$7,500 or 50% of the cost, whichever is less is fair and equitable.

Casey thinks we need to have a policy. Micki thinks that makes sense.

Chris said that he feels comfortable checking to see if systems are up to code, if an issue comes in. The two current cases were easy to determine the issue.

Chris does struggle with the timeframe issue though. When does the clock starting ticking, when the issue occurred or when it is discovered?

Casey says the way he understands it is when the crime/incident is discovered. He asked when systems are being inspected? Chris said that it is during Time of Transfer of the Deed.

Micki asked if we could contact another county to see what they are doing. Chris said that this issue is not happening in other counties.

Sherry Parks said that the bottom line is that people bought the properties with these issues unknown, they should have been brought up to Code.

Dr. Hineman said that maybe we could just deal with these two cases right now, as the Homeowners have been waiting quite a while for an answer.

Chris said that the estimate for the Boley property is \$10,400 and the estimate for the Stevens property is \$15,400.

Dr. Hineman moved to reimburse Boley \$5,200 for repairs to bring his system up to Code. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Hineman moved to reimburse Stevens \$7,500 for repairs to bring her system up to Code. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Micki Ferris moved to Approve and Authorize CEO/Executive Director to be the Board Authorized Signatory for FY 24 Local Public Health Services Grant. Dr. Hineman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Dr. Hineman moved to Approve and Authorize CEO/Executive Director to be the Board of Health Signatory for FY 24 Immunization Grant. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- D. Dr. Hineman moved to Approve and Authorize Assistant Director/CFO to sign Verizon Contract, Verizon Connect Fleet USA LLC, Amendment to the Services Order Form switching tracking devices from monthly to annual billing.
- E. Shannon to the Board that we need to inform them of our plans for the LPHS Grant for next fiscal year. We plan on utilizing the CHA CHIP for activities to bill. Dr. Hineman moved to approve the plan for the FY 24 Local Public Health Services Planning Process. Casey Schmidt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence: None.

Future Meeting Dates: The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Monday, April 24, 2023 at Noon. A hybrid option is still being offered as well as in person meeting at the Public Health office.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolynn Harger, Executive/Financial Assistant