

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE

Monday March 25, 2024 – 12:00 P.M.
Meeting held at Tama County Annex Building and via Zoom

Members Present:	Sally Custer	Micki Ferris	Shannon Zoffka
	Lori Johnson	Jolynn Harger	
	Chris Behrens	Sherry Parks – via Zoom	
	Curt Hilmer	Dr. Hineman – via Zoom	

Members Absent: Casey Schmidt

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Hineman, Vice-Chairman at 12:04 p.m.

Micki Ferris moved to accept the Agenda as presented. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Micki Ferris moved to accept the Minutes of the February 26, 2024 meeting as presented. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Sherry Parks, Chairman, joined and took over the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Reports:

Environmental Report:

Chris was present to discuss his Environmental Report with the Board. It was brought up that on his report two of the wells had the same number. Chris confirmed that he did do three well pluggings, but mistakenly put the same number for two of them. He completed a two septic pumper inspections, one tattoo inspection, and one tanning bed inspection this past month. He also attended a Certified Pool Operator training and a Chapter 69 Course.

Director's Report - 10 Essential Public Health Services Framework – Shannon Zoffka

- Assess and Monitor population health status, factors that influence health and community needs and assets*
 - Food Pantry: February: Households 176, Individuals 544. 30 New Households.
 - The State held a Measles 2024 Update Webinar on March 21st.
- Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population*
 - Communicable Disease Investigations Started in February: 0
 - Active & Latent TB Cases: 2 current cases
 - Animal Bites: February – 2 Dog Bites Followed
 - Immunizations Given: 4
- Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it*
 - Social Media Strategy: Happiness Calendar, American Heart Month, Sleep Quality, Listeria, Norovirus, Measles, Cancer in Iowa Report, 211 Info and Preparedness Posts
 - Posts: 24
 - Coffee Talks: 40 individuals attended Coffee Talks in February
- Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health*
 - Maternal Health: no new news
 - Nest: February topic, Dental Health, toothbrushes, floss, fluoride rinse and a dental care book were given out; 7 attendees
 - SKIP: Meeting February 22nd, continued planning for Movie nights and other activities, Make the Right Call Cards and magnets were created: they have a QR code

for the Resource Guide for Tama County, increased interest in SKIP was noted recently, there were some issues with getting new people in the distribution list due to technical difficulties with their email, we have had some members of SKIP require further education on what the committee is and does and that we do not receive funding

- NEI3A/COA: Shannon attended the Board of Director's meeting and Finance Committee meeting
- Upcoming Health Fairs: Meskwaki Health Fair in April and Iowa Premium in June
- A letter of support was written for Mercy Medical Center's (MMC) application for community project funding for FY25. The Cancer and Heart Health Access and Rural Monitoring (CHARM) Project aims to introduce enhanced healthcare services in rural East Central Iowa, with a primary emphasis on the early detection of cancer and heart disease as well as cancer treatment.
- The Iowa Cancer Registry's annual 2024 Cancer in Iowa report was released, Iowa continues to have the 2nd highest and fastest growing rate of new cancers in the U.S.
- One modifiable risk factor where Iowans stand out, and that may be contributing to higher cancer rates, is alcohol consumption. Tama County is estimated to have 130 new cancer cases in 2024 and 40 anticipated deaths from cancer

5. *Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health*

- Lori attended a Visioning Committee Meeting, there may be interest in collaborating with to promote physical activity in the County.

6. *Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health*

- PHEP: we had concerns brought to us about the sharing of weather related emails in our LEPC group, the current EMA felt we were sharing Black Hawk County information with our LEPC and he sends weather info out as well. We are not included on his distribution list and Lori is the LEPC secretary and has always shared preparedness information with the LEPC. She had signed up for weather emails via the NWS after the new EMA began and had the Sheriff voice concern about sharing Black Hawk info (we are all in the same NWS so it is the same information) the previous EMA kept us on a distribution list for information sharing as there was a time when there was not an EMA in the County, we have been careful not to share Black Hawk weather emails with the LEPC. The accusation was then made that Lori shared information on Facebook in January from the Black Hawk EMA. I contacted HR about the concern and it was reviewed and noted that Lori shared information on her personal Facebook profile about the weather in January and had tagged Mindy Benson in the post, which is her personal page, no mention of the County, EMA or TCPH&HC was made in the post. I explained the LEPC history and our emergency preparedness needs for public health to the current EMA and hope this issue is resolved. We are encouraged to share information amongst ourselves from reputable sources and other counties. We belong to a Joint Information Sharing Committee that was developed during COVID as the awareness for timely and accurate information sharing became very evident, whether it was via email to local partners or on social media.
- We received an email from Windstream in our general health email stating that we owed over \$5K for use at our Church Street address. We are working to find out what this bill is for and are assuming it is due to the free internet Windstream provided at COVID Vaccine Clinics. There was no account or billing set up, they provided the internet for free to support the cause. There were no phone lines at the IJH campus, we used cell phones. The account number on the communication is not ours, nor is the address. We are working to get this resolved.
- Home Health: 55% of referrals were admitted in January.

7. *Assure and effective system that enables access to the individual services and care need to be health*
 - Foot Clinics were provided
 - Blood Pressure Checks provided at the Senior Center
8. *Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce*
 - Shannon attended a webinar series about Disparities in Maternal Health
 - Open FT Home Health Aide position was posted, applications were accepted through March 15, we had 12 applicants and will begin to schedule interviews.
9. *Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research and continuous quality improvement*
 - QAPI: preparing for a new calendar year and working to have a meeting in April.
10. *Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health*
 - Working on the I4 RFP has begun, this is for Immunization Funds
 - Began gathering information for Strategic Planning

Waiver: February: Three patients were served under the Frail and Elderly Waiver. There was 1 Maternal Health Home visit in February.

Financial Report:

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

Dr. Hineman thanked Lori for putting the financial information on the screen to make it easier to follow.

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

New Business

- A. Micki Ferris moved to Approve the Finance Committee recommendation to leave the wage scales/steps as they are. Discussion was held. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Micki Ferris moved to Approve & Authorize CEO/Executive Director to sign TriWest Health Care Alliance Provider Contract. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Sally Custer moved to Approve & Authorize CEO/Executive Director to be Board Signatory for Board of Health for Immunization Services FY 25 Application and Grant Contract.

Public Comment: Curt Hilmer let Shannon and Lori know that the Board of Supervisors would like to meet with them sometime this week to discuss the Budget.

Future Meeting Dates: Discussion was held as a couple of Board members would be unable to attend the April meeting on the normal date. It was decided to change the meeting date of the April meeting to April 29, 2024 at Noon. A hybrid option is still being offered as well as in-person meeting at the Public Health office.

The meeting adjourned at 12:43 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolynn Harger, Executive/Financial Assistant

The full Zoom recording is available. It is available by request.