

# BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

## TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE

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**Monday October 27, 2025 – 12:00 P.M.**

**Meeting held at Tama County Annex Building and via Zoom**

**Members  
Present:**

Micki Ferris  
Lori Johnson  
Sally Custer

Sherry Parks – via Zoom  
Jolynn Harger  
Stacy Koeppen

Chris Behrens  
Sherri Vesely

**Members Absent:** Casey Schmidt Curt Hilmer

### **Pre-Meeting Discussion**

Before the meeting officially began, Stacy informed the Board members that the RNs are currently not covered under any professional liability insurance by the county. HR reported that the County's insurance provider does not offer medical liability coverage. It was noted that, in the past, the previous Insurance Administrator had indicated that such coverage was in place.

Stacy is actively pursuing this issue and wanted the Board to be aware of the situation.

The meeting was called to order by Sherry Parks, Chairman at 12:09 p.m.

Lori added Wellmark Recredentialing as Item E, and MOM's Grant as Item F to the Agenda for today's meeting. Micki Ferris moved to accept the Revised Agenda. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Micki Ferris moved to accept the Minutes of the September 22, 2025 meeting as presented. Sally Custer seconded, Motion carried unanimously.

### **Reports:**

#### **Environmental Report:**

Chris informed the Board that contractors have been taking advantage of the favorable weather, and he anticipates having approximately a dozen septic systems to inspect before snowfall. He reported that he has also been busy with water testing, shock chlorination, and well pluggings.

#### **Director's Report - 10 Essential Public Health Services Framework – Stacy Koeppen**

**1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health and community needs and assets.**

- A continued issue in Tama County is food insecurity.
  - i. Food Pantry: Mobile food pantry continues monthly in Tama.
  - ii. 5 Loaves Community Meal is held every Thursday at the Tama Civic Center from 4:30 – 6 p.m. The highest night so far was when they served 265 meals.
  - iii. South Tama County Food Pantry continues to serve the area.
  - iv. North Tama Food Pantry and Chrisitan Hands Across Traer (CHAT) serves Traer area.
  - v. Northwest Tama County Food Pantry serves Gladbrook.
  - vi. Meskwaki Senior Food Pantry serves Meskwaki.
- We have 2 flu shot clinics scheduled throughout the county in October that we'll be utilizing the RV for to provide easier access to care.
- We've been working with 3 Stitch & Go Quilt Club Members to provide Quilts of Valor to help our patients that are Veterans be recognized for their service in November.

**2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population.**

- Communicable Disease Investigations: 2 Legionnaire's Disease, 2 West Nile Virus, 1 E. Coli
- Active & Latent TB Cases: 3 latent.

- Animal Bites: 4 dog bites in September.
- Immunizations Given: 0 total for the month of September
- Gloria has started Immunization training.
- Ordered vaccinations for adults through the Vaccine for Adult program. 2 Flu shots given so far.

**3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it and how to improve it.**

- Social Media Strategy: Facebook Engagement decreased 51% in September. The most popular post was 9/5 with 1,614 views about Legionnaires' Disease. There are 2,997 followers. 30 Posts with the following Topics: Urgent Scam Alert, Be Aware, Legionnaires' Disease-multiple posts, BOS Public Forum, Meskwaki Suicide Prevention Awareness Glow Walk Run, Clover Kids, Medicare Scam Prevention, IA 8 closure, World Suicide Prevention Day, Boost Your Health, Bat Bites, Think at the Sink, Protect It and Inspect It, Birkwood Village Coffee Talk, Sepsis Awareness, 988Lifeline, Child Passenger Safety Week, Warning Signs of Suicide, Seasons of Eating, End of Season Garden Tips, Acetaminophen Use During Pregnancy, West Nile Virus, Protect Yourself This Flu Season, Iowa Concern Hotline
- Coffee Talks: 6 scheduled. 26 attended. 1 was rescheduled to October 9th.

**4. Strengthen, support and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health.**

- Maternal Health: 1 visit provided.
- Maternal & Child Health: September topic was Choking; 15 attended.
- SKIP: Met 9/25/25
- NEI3A/COA: Met 9/16/25-Lori attended
- Fall Fest at Otter Creek Lake & Park were attended by Gayle, Lori, & Stacy 10/5
- Essential Services Advisory Council Meeting 10/16-Lori and Stacy attended.
- Head Start Contract – Gloria is trained for this contracted service and has met with MICA
- Gloria and Stacy met with CAPS
- Central Iowa Maternal Health Coalition 10/8-Gloria and Stacy attended.
- Prairie Ridge Mental Health met with Lori, Gloria, and Stacy on 10/9.

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

- 3 Flu Shot clinics scheduled for Farm Workers and Tama County employees and their family members in October.
- School audits are complete.
- The plan is to start childcare audits in November.
- Ordered vaccines for VFA so we can start immunizations on uninsured and underinsured adults. We've administered 2 flu shots already with the VFA in October.

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

- JIS 10/07 was attended by Stacy & Lori
- CIHCC Met in person 9/18, Stacy and Lori attended
- Stacy attended the MRC Regional Unit Development Workshop: Medical Care 9/23.
- Lori, and Stacy attended the Public Health Office Hours Zoom Meeting on 10/7.

**7. Assure an effective system that enables access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy.**

- Foot Clinics: 7 clinics – 42 clients an increase from 26 clients in August.
- Coffee Talks: 6 were scheduled, 1 was cancelled, so 5 were actually completed. 26 attended.
- Home Health: 23 Referrals, 15 admitted. 65% of referrals were admitted. (6 refused services, 1 placed in nursing home, and 1 was Hospitalized).
  - Weekly amount of nursing visits have increased.

- There's been an increase in straight Medicare admissions.
- Referrals amounts have increased.
- The patient census has increased as well. 2024 patient census ranged from 29-42. 2025 patient census has ranged from 38-47, already exceeding the high from 2024.
- We did not get the grant through Thiesen's to help build handicap ramps, install grab bars, and obtain other DME for Tama County residents.

#### **8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce.**

- PRN HCA started October 7, 2025. She will be helping with foot clinics.
- Applied for the BOOST grant for furthering education for the new Maternal Health Nurse to become a Certified Car Seat Technician and a Lactation Consultant. We obtained 3 letters of support from community members for the grant application process.
- Applied for the More Options for Maternal Support (MOMs) grant for adding more options for services to the Maternal Child program we currently have.
- Stacy, Lori, and Gloria met with Prairie Ridge Mental Health to schedule trainings and collaborate.
- Stacy and Gloria met with Esmerelda for CAPS, which is new to Tama County.
- The Maternal Child Class area now has a designated child-friendly playroom made possible by funding from ARF grant funds

#### **9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research and continuous quality improvement.**

- QAPI: Processes are being reviewed.
- Policies are being updated.
- Stacy and Gloria have registered for a grant funded 17 week Public Health Essentials Training Course through Cornell University.

#### **10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.**

- Gloria has taken over the foot clinics until the PRN HCA is trained and able to assist.
- We continue to have a Home Care Aide that is off on FMLA.
- Department Head Meeting has been held. They are revising the Tama County Employee Handbook and HR processes.
- Stacy attended the 2025 LPH Collaborative on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Contracted coder had some family issues and left the contract. We have another contracted coder interested in the position that will start soon.

**Waiver:** September: One patient was served under the Frail and Elderly Waiver. There were 2 Maternal Health Home visits in September.

#### **Financial Report:**

Admissions decreased for the month of September. Skilled Nurse visits increased for September. Home Health Aide visits were the down but the hours increased for the month of September. Our revenue decreased for the month of September.

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

#### **New Business**

##### **A. Discussion of Contracts Signed**

1. Letter of Agreement with Totes to Go for Free Totes, Magnets and Maps
2. Jolly Lights at the Heights
3. 568083-BOOST Application and Contract Documents
4. 5884BT186 Initial Amendment 08 TB 2025, Directly Observed Therapy for Suspected/Confirmed Case of TB, Project Period: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025
5. Wellmark Recredentialing
6. MOM's Grant

Micki Ferris moved to formally approve the contracts that had already been signed. Sherri Vesely seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### B. Nuisances and Abatement Policy

Chris initiated a discussion regarding a nuisance abatement property located at 2170 C Avenue, Garwin. The homeowner has not made the required improvements to the property and, although invited to attend today's meeting, did not appear. Chris reported that he has sent two letters to the homeowner outlining the necessary corrections.

A neighboring resident has been mowing the lawn, and the associated costs have been assessed to the homeowner's property taxes. Chris confirmed that the homeowner has been paying his taxes. The interior of the property requires significant cleanup, as wildlife has entered and established habitation inside. Chris provided photos documenting the poor condition of the property. The neighbor has been trapping raccoons, but raccoon feces is present throughout the home. Additionally, the soffit and fascia require repair to prevent further entry, and the doors remain unlocked.

Sherry Parks recommended referring the matter to the County Attorney. Micki Ferris inquired whether the Board of Health or the Union Grove Lake Board holds governing authority over this property.

Micki Ferris noted that the Nuisance and Abatement Policy states that contacting the DNR is the next step when wildlife is involved; however, it appears that this issue is already being addressed. Chris confirmed this.

Sherry Parks stated that the Board should pursue having the property condemned, noting that the photographs indicate the home is unlivable.

Motion by Sherri Vesely to refer the matter to the Tama County Attorney. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Future Meeting Dates:** Discussion was held regarding upcoming dates. It was suggested to combine both the November and December meetings due to Board member availability. The date that was decided on was Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at Noon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolynn Harger, Executive/Financial Assistant

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