BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES & WORK SESSION
WITH TAMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE

Monday September 28, 2026 – 12:00 P.M.
Meeting held at Tama County Annex Building and via Zoom

Members Present:	Micki Ferris	Sherry Parks	Sally Custer
	Lori Johnson	Jolynn Harger	LeeAnna Kriegel
	Kelly Purk	Richard Arp	Sherri Vesely – via Zoom
	Karen Rohrs	Chris Behrens	Heather Knebel
	Curt Hilmer – via Zoom	David Turner	Curt Kupka
	Mark Doland – via Zoom	Heather Bombei	

Others Present: Karen Murty Attendees by Zoom

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

Micki Ferris moved to approve the agenda as presented. Richard Arp seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Micki Ferris moved to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2026, meeting as presented. Richard Arp seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Environmental Report: Chris was present to provide his report. He discussed the water testing he performs and the revenue generated from those services. He also clarified a statement from the previous meeting regarding updates to the environmental health policies. He plans to work on policy updates soon as septic services and water testing begin to slow down and as time allows.

Interim Director's Report was reviewed:

- FY 27 Budget Information were shared.
- FY 27 Grant Allocations and Balances were provided.
- Information about Public Health Core Service Framework was shared including:
  a. Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention
  b. Communicable & Infectious Disease Control
  c. Environmental Public Health (DNR focused)
  d. Emergency Preparedness & Response
  e. Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health
- Other Organizational updates were provided.

Waiver: There was one person served under the Frail and Elderly Waiver in August. There were 0 Maternal Health Visits in August.

Financial Report:

Admissions, Skilled Nursing visits, Home Health Aide Visits and hours decreased for the month. Revenue decreased for the month.

Questions and discussion were held regarding payroll. Board of Health Member will meet with Lori regarding this information.

The County timekeeping software will be reviewed.

Richard Arp moved to approve the Financial Report. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

A. Letter of Support for Cerro Gordo Board of Health, Public Health Lead Entity

After discussion, Richard Arp moved to approve the Board of Health Chair signing this letter of support. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Discussion/Approval of Contracts Signed
   a. Contract #PHTHOLP27086, Amendment #1, for FY 27 LPHS Grant – signed 09/01/26.
   b. Application to become a Presumptive Provider – signed 08/25/26.

After discussion, Micki Ferris motioned to approve the above. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approve Finance Committee Recommendations

1. Discussion was held regarding staffing needs following Kelly Purk's appointment as Director. Three options were submitted to the Finance Committee for review: increasing current PRN RN Melanie Blocker's schedule to 29 hours per week, hiring a PRN LPN for fewer than 30 hours per week, or hiring a full-time LPN with public health experience. Due to current caseload and budget, by consensus, Board agreed to temporarily increase Mel's hours and revisit need for full-time LPN as agency needs change.

2. Lori reported that Jolynn Harger had submitted her resignation. Due to budget concerns, Lori did not recommend filling the position at this time. Jolynn's duties were distributed among the remaining staff.

   After discussion, Sally Custer moved to increase Missy's pay by $1 per hour due to her increased duties and to maintain Lori's pay at its current rate. Richard Arp seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Discuss/Approval to send two RNs to become Certified American Heart/CPR/First Aid Instructors

After discussion, Richard Arp moved to approve two RN's becoming Certified American Heart/CPR/First Aid Instructors. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Sherry Parks left the meeting at 1:03 p.m. Sherri Vesley also vacated the meeting.

Sally Custer left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Work Session with Tama County Board of Supervisors:

Discussion was held regarding previous meeting questions. Lori reviewed budget reports with Heather Knebel.

Budget appropriations and future agency structure were discussed.

Richard Arp stated that it is difficult for the Board of Health to make decisions regarding staffing without knowing the Agency's long-term plans.

Potential options were discussed including separate EIN, establishing a separate levy, contracting certain services, sharing services, and staffing needs.

Lori Johnson requested information regarding remainder of FY 27 budget appropriation for staffing decisions, service planning, and software renewals.

Board of Supervisor members requested six-month plan, employee salaries, software contract amounts, Separate EIN information, and checking with County Attorney regarding separate levy. Discussion was held.

Heather Bombei, Regional Health Consultant, questioned the amounts allocated to and levied by the Board of Supervisors for the department. She stressed the importance of the Board of Supervisors having a plan of action for the department, as the Agency cannot effectively plan without knowing what level of

funding will be available. She also noted that the Agency has responsibilities within its district related to HHS Alignment and, if those responsibilities cannot be met, the State would need to be notified.

Heather Bombei also questioned when Kelly's appointment as Director would become official. Richard Arp stated that there was no longer a quorum of Board of Health members present, as three members had left the meeting. Therefore, the matter would need to be addressed at a future meeting.

Discussion held regarding the best public health services possible; concerns were shared.

The consensus of the Board of Supervisors was that Lori and Kelly would provide the requested information regarding employee salaries, software contracts, obtaining a separate EIN, and the possibility of establishing a levy. Following receipt of this information, the Board of Supervisors will hold discussion regarding appropriation of the remainder of the Agency's budget on a future agenda.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: Was made by Karen Murty

Future Meeting Dates: The next Board of Health meeting will be held on October 26th at Noon.

The meeting adjourned at 2:09 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Johnson, Secretary Pro tem