

**BUTLER COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICE  
610 OAK STREET  
ALLISON, IA 50602**

Telephone (319) 346-6575

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING  
August 8, 2023**

BOH Members Present: Greg Barnett, Joyce Dickes, Dr. Lindstrom, Chris Showalter via telephone

Others Present: Jennifer Becker, Misty Day, Tammy Fleshner

Absent: Deb Gayer

The regular meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. at the EMA Meeting Room by Greg Barnett. No public comment was heard.

Chris Showalter made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, and this was seconded by Joyce Dickes. Motion carried.

Joyce Dickes made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, and this was seconded by Chris Showalter. Motion carried.

Jennifer Becker presented the Annual Sub-Fund agreement that has been signed by the Board of Supervisors. Half of the allocation will be moved to the Public Health fund now, and the second half will be allocated in January, unless it is needed sooner. After discussion, it was approved by the Board of Health, and signed by Greg Barnett. The updated Financial Report was distributed. Corrections will be made and will be resent. Joyce Dickes made a motion to approve the following claims: 6-30-23, 7-11-23, 7-18-23, 7-25-23, 8-8-23, and 8-15-23, and this was seconded by Chris Showalter.

Misty Day gave the Environmental Health Report. See attached notes.

Jennifer Becker gave the Program Updates as follows:

1. 5292 visits have been made by the Agency for the past fiscal year. This includes nursing, home care aide, homemaker, and therapies. Waverly Health Center has ended our contract with speech therapy. Jennifer is in the process of finding another speech therapist to contract with.
2. The following State grants have been fully executed and are active the grant year that started on July 1, 2023: Immunizations; Care for Yourself; Tobacco Prevention; Local Public Health Services; and Substance Abuse. Jennifer met with the Board of Supervisors this a.m. to get the Pathways subcontract signed, and she will be meeting with Pathways tomorrow to have them sign it.
3. Year End reports have been completed and submitted for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 for the Immunization Grant, Care for Yourself grant, Tobacco Prevention, Local Public Health Services, and County Substance Abuse.
4. We have had 2 cases of campylobacter, 1 case of salmonella, and 2 cases of e-coli since our last meeting. There have also been 8 dog bites to follow up on since June 13.
5. Tammy Fleshner and Greg Barnett informed the Board of Health about the search for a County EMS Coordinator. A help-wanted ad went into the newspapers the end of June and first week of July. We had 5 applications, and all 5 were interviewed. We are currently working on finalizing the salary and benefits package before a formal offer can be made. This person will be assisting the local EMS services with their transports, administrative duties, and much more. This person will be reporting to the Board of Health in the future.
6. In 2022, Governor Reynolds announced plans that the State of Iowa was going to begin a comprehensive assessment of state government, to find ways to operate more efficiently and effectively. This resulted in 37 cabinet-level departments being consolidated into 16, and the elimination of 500 unfilled positions. In March, 2022, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Department of Human Services fully aligned, to become the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.

As of July 1, 2023, IHHS now includes the Departments of Human Services, Public Health, Aging, Human Rights, Early Childhood Iowa, Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services, Child Advocacy Board, and Consumable Hemp Registration. During the summer, and into the fall of 2023, IHHS is studying the delivery of health and human service programs throughout the State. IHHS hired health management associates to conduct the study.

An assessment of the services will give a clear understanding of:

- The purpose, rationale, and historical context of current service delivery systems
- Scan of providers within the service delivery system
- Funding and resources for service delivery systems
- Linkages between service areas in the current system and Medicaid programs
- Target priority populations
- Decision makers and partners
- Operational capabilities and gaps of the state and local systems
- To address lessons learned from the pandemic

The assessment will be completed by the Fall of 2023, and will include: 1) recommendations and rationales for at least 2 proposed options for service delivery maps; 2) at least 2 proposed funding models for the local HHS system.

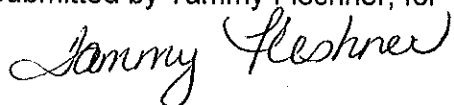
On July 6<sup>th</sup>, Jennifer attended a town hall meeting in Waverly, where this assessment plan was rolled out to the locals from the State. Numerous partners were there, and we all voiced our concerns. The State believes that the departments, agencies, etc. operate in silos, and while we agreed that the State departments operate in silos, that is not true at the local level. We also expressed our believes that the State has already made up their minds about what will happen at the local level, and that the whole assessment process is just a 'feel good' formality. The State people at the meeting assured us that is not true. A survey link was sent to everyone to complete last week, and it is due on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Please complete this if you haven't already done so. We have also received notification that the consumer survey has been released.

**Building Update:** We have fully moved in, and while we have most everything put away, we are still adjusting as to where stuff is. An automatic gate opener has been installed so now we can open and shut the gate on the driveway with a garage door opener, and this is wonderful! We are having humidity issues in the building. Since it is so well insulated, the air conditioners don't have to run much, which means the humidity in the air id not removed. We are having problems with paper curling and jamming the copier and printers, Velcro won't stick, and the worst thing is that the immunization refrigerator glass door is covered with condensation, which runs down the front of the fridge and leaks onto the tile. Chris and Jennifer approached the ARPA Funding Committee, and they have approved the purchase and installation of 3 dehumidifiers to be installed on the air handlers. We have to wait for the budget amendment before they can be installed.

An Open House is being planned for September 27<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 6 pm. We will start notifying the public about the open house next week. We are planning lemonade, coffee and bars / cookies, etc. We are having to change our phone number due to an issue with the county-wide phone system, and we have ordered new magnets to pass out during the open house with our new number on it. Our new number will be 319-346-6575 after August 14<sup>th</sup>.

The next Board of Health meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, October 10th at 4:00 p.m. Joyce Dickes made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and this was seconded by Chris Showalter. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Tammy Fleshner, for



Joyce Dickes