

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

Telephone (319) 346-6575

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
August 12, 2025**

BOH Members Present: Greg Barnett, Joyce Dickes, Dr. Lindstrom, Chris Showalter
Absent: Deb Gayer
Others Present: Jennifer Becker, Kari Coates, Jen Nichols, Misty Kofron, Tiffany Stanbrough
Visitors: Lisa Epley, Jerald Heuer

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.

Lisa Epley gave presentation on cancer clusters in Butler County.

Greg Barnett presented a change to the agenda and to add 9a, approval of sub fund agreement. Dr. Lindstrom made a motion to approve amended 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.

The updated Financial Report was distributed. Chris Showalter made a motion to approve the following claims: 6/30/25, 7/8/25, 7/15/25, 7/29/25, 8/5/25, 8/12/25, and 8/19/25 this was seconded by Joyce Dickes.

9a. Approval of sub fund agreement with board of supervisors. This is done annually to supplement the Public Health Department with money for operations. The allocation amount this year is \$177,398. Chris Showalter made a motion to approve the sub fund; this was seconded by Joyce Dickes.

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

Kari Coates gave the EMS update. January 1st through June 30th of this year, we have had 556 ambulance calls, majority on day shift. Butler County EMS has responded to 125 of the ambulance calls with 24 of those with just a driver, 40 with EMT and 61 with first responder. Butler County EMS received their SA2 check and that went back to the cities for reimbursements for students. Hoping to have another EMT class starting in January.

Jennifer Becker gave the Program Updates as follows:

1. For fiscal year 24-25, 1,988 skilled nursing visits were made, 2,397 home care aide and homemaker visits were made, 210 PT and 93 OT visits were made. Compared to the previous fiscal year 23-24, 1,961 skilled nursing visits, 2,662 home care aide and homemaker visits, 179 PT and 72 OT visits.
2. Our HCA/HMK (home care aide/homemaker) numbers are decreasing, and I anticipate those will decrease even more as the VA continues to reduce the number of visits they are authorizing and for what reasons. For example, Susan Stirling has been fighting with them to get HCA visits authorized for a patient with ulcers on lower legs that require assistance to get off the chair let alone get into shower. I went out the first day to give her a shower and dress the ulcers on her legs and it took everything I had to get her out of the chair and to get into the shower and once she was done with her shower, I had to literally get into the shower with her to get her off

the shower chair. The VA is saying she doesn't need an HCA, this is the kind of thing we are fighting for every week.

3. Immunizations: Iowa passed a law that went into effect July 1st that parents need to be notified from schools and daycare centers that there are exemptions to the immunization laws and how to obtain an exemption. LPH is not subject to the law, but I wanted you to know that this law was passed. I notified the schools and daycares at the beginning of July so they would be following the law when sending out information to parents for the start of school. We received the information for the immunization cards audits we need to complete every fall. The audits are due October 31st.
4. Care for Yourself program: The contract finally came through on July 2nd, and we were awarded the full amount of \$33,600.
5. Drug Testing: Nothing new with this program except that Kara Powers has shown interest in becoming certified in collecting drug screens. I have been doing this program since it started 25 plus years ago and feel like it should be turned over to someone new. Kara is interested in growing the program and maybe adding new entities. It's online training/certification and I hope to get her trained prior to the 4th quarter. I just finished the 3rd quarter screenings today with Kara observing.
6. Communicable disease: After a 2 year wait the state is finally rolling out the new Disease Surveillance System. It goes live on 8/18/25. Susan Stirling and I went to the training last Friday. I will continue to be the primary disease investigator, but Susan will be there as a backup. There has been no one besides myself doing the investigations and we have run into problems when I am out of the office. Usually, I don't go anywhere when I'm on vacation but in early July I went of state and while I was gone a case of pertussis came through. Since our last meeting, I've investigated 4 cases of campylobacter, 1 case of e-coli, 1 case of pertussis, 1 case of Hep B and 1 case of ehrlichiosis. I've also followed up on 2 dog bites and 1 cat bite. The cat bite was from a stray and the clinic the person went to sent the person to the ER for rabies vaccine.

The next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, at 4:00 p.m. Chris Showalter made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Joyce Dickes seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Tiffany Stanbrough, for



Joyce Dickes