



## Scott County Health Department

600 W. 4th Street | Davenport, IA 52801-1030 | P. 563-326-8618 | F. 563-326-8774  
health@scottcountyiowa.com | www.scottcountyiowa.com/health

### SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

March 18, 2021

### MEETING MINUTES

12:00 p.m.

Meeting Held at: Via Web-Ex at the Scott County Administrative Center  
600 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street – 4th Floor Conference Room  
Davenport, Iowa 52801

Mrs. Coiner, Chair of the Scott County Board of Health, called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Members Present: Via Web-Ex: Mrs. Coiner, Dr. O'Donnell, Dr. Hanson, Dr. Sandeman,  
Dr. Squire

Staff Present: Via Web-Ex: Amy Thoreson, Eric Bradley, Tiffany Peterson, Teri Arnold,  
Lenore Alonso, Shiobhan Burkhead, Katie DeLaRosa, Christina McDonough,  
Kim Mills, Lashon Moore, Brenda Schwarz, Jennifer Stout, Sue VanDeWalle,  
Chris Varnes, Maggie Wright

Others Present: Via Web-Ex: Mahesh Sharma, Mary Thee, David Farmer, Nicole Mann, Becky  
Nowachek, Tom Bowman, Mark Ridolfi

Mrs. Coiner called for a motion to accept the agenda. Dr. Hanson moved to accept the agenda.  
Motion seconded by Dr. Sandeman. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Coiner called for a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. O'Donnell moved to approve the  
minutes of the February 18, 2021 Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Dr. Sandeman. Motion  
carried unanimously.

The following reports were reviewed and discussed by the Board:

#### A. Director's Report

Amy Thoreson recognized the following employees for their years of service with the  
department.

- |  |          |          |
|--|----------|----------|
| • Maggie Wright, MCAH Nurse                    | 3 years  | March 8  |
| • Larry Linnenbrink, Seasonal Health Worker    | 5 years  | March 21 |
| • Lorna Bimm, Public Health Nurse              | 13 years | March 24 |
| • Brandon George, Correctional Health Nurse    | 14 years | March 9  |
| • Sherry Holzhauser, Correctional Health Nurse | 16 years | March 7  |

Mrs. Thoreson introduced new employee, Jennifer Stout. She has been hired as a Public  
Health Nurse with her main responsibilities in the lead program.

Mrs. Thoreson acknowledged the retirement of Edward Rivers, Director on March 5, after 10 years with the Health Department.

Mrs. Thoreson shared as Interim Director, she has appointed Roma Taylor as Interim Deputy Director. She explained that Mrs. Taylor has been directing many of the efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic and that remains a primary focus.

Mrs. Thoreson expressed appreciation for the communication efforts of the Health Promotion Team. They have been a tremendous value to the department as they gather, assemble, and share information throughout the COVID response. The team was assembled as part of the department's PHAB Accreditation efforts. Throughout the pandemic, they have gathered information from the intended audience, most recently inmates at the Scott County Jail.

Mrs. Coiner asked if any individuals at the jail have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Mrs. Thoreson explained that there have been some cases in the jail, but fortunately no large outbreaks. The jail medical and corrections team have been working closely to put screening, isolation, quarantine, and testing procedures in place to avoid an outbreak.

Mrs. Thoreson provided an overview of COVID-19 cases for Scott County. As of the meeting, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) reported a total of 18,677 positive tests in Scott County. That number represents 17,407 individuals. IDPH changed the way they reported the number of cases or tests. They had been reporting based on individuals, but are now reporting based on tests on [coronavirus.iowa.gov](https://coronavirus.iowa.gov). The large increase that was seen on this website was due to this change. The website dashboard reported 370 cases so far in March compared to 759 in February. Scott County's 7-day positivity rate was 4.7% and the 14-day positivity rate was 4.4%.

Over the last month approximately 2,000 tests per week were being reported to IDPH. Individuals conducting the testing must report both positive and negative testing. The weekly testing number was as high as 5,000 in November. Mrs. Thoreson shared that the case information looks good, so staff remains cautiously optimistic. IDPH issued a press release on March 17 stating 38 tests were identified as the UK variant which is believed to spread more easily. Public health continues to promote wearing masks, practicing social/physical distance, washing hands, and staying home when sick. Cases will be monitored carefully over the next several weeks to see what impact spring break travel and St. Patrick's Day may have on cases.

Mrs. Thoreson shared that 61,096 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been given by Scott County providers; 53,800 of these doses have been to Scott County residents and 19,682 residents are fully vaccinated. An additional 14,976 Scott County residents have initiated the first dose of a two-dose series. Last week, Iowa exceeded one million doses administered.

Mrs. Thoreson reported that as of March 1, IDPH allowed the entities receiving vaccine directly from the federal government, as part of the national pharmacy partnership, to vaccinate anyone in Phase 1B. In Scott County those entities are Hy-Vee pharmacies and Main at Locust. All of the Hy-Vee locations in Scott County are receiving the vaccine. As of March 8, IDPH amended Phase 1B to include individuals 16 – 64 that are or might be at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 due to medical conditions identified by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Mrs. Thoreson stated Genesis and UnityPoint have been continuing to work through their 65 and older population before making this transition. They are working together to adjust allocations to keep moving at a similar pace. Health Department staff continue to meet with community partners every Friday.

The clinics held at the Sears location toward the end of February to date have focused on the Tier 1 first and second doses. The department held a 65 plus clinic on March 3, as the result of an extra allocation from IDPH to be given in a mass clinic setting. On March 10, a clinic was held for individuals with disabilities living in home settings, direct care staff, as well as some teachers, child care providers, and some medical providers in Phase 1A and Tier 1.

Mrs. Thoreson stated staff continues to talk with businesses that might be eligible for vaccine in Phase 1B due to staff working in congregate settings. Hy-Vee has worked with some businesses. The information has been shared with IDPH: Johnson & Johnson vaccine is planned for this population. The department has also worked with Genesis Occupational Health to get staff in the county and state correctional facilities vaccinated.

Mrs. Thoreson expressed extreme gratitude for the partnerships in the community. Bettendorf Fire, Community Health Care, Inc., Genesis, MEDIC, UnityPoint, and Scott County EMA and their volunteer emergency response team, all continue to assist with staffing the clinics. CASI also continues to assist with getting older adults with technology barriers registered.

Mrs. Thoreson introduced Tom Bowman, CEO at Community Health Care, Inc (CHC). Mr. Bowman stated the Board should be extremely proud of the team that has been assembled at the Health Department as well as the Emergency Management Agency. The collaboration and coordination around the COVID efforts from the beginning has been phenomenal. To bring two large health systems, CHC, and the Health Department together to collaborate has been a highlight and is not common. He shared that he has a lot of colleagues throughout the state that do not have that same experience with their Health Departments and hospital systems. Scott County is special.

Mr. Bowman explained that CHC is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Their primary focus is low income populations but are open to everyone. Nationally, there has been studies regarding the disproportionality of COVID cases impacting lower income and minorities groups. In February, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and CDC were directed to develop a FQHC vaccine distribution program. No Iowa centers were chosen in the first round, however CHC was selected in the second round. CHC is the largest health center in the state of Iowa, serving approximately 41,000 patients. The goal of this program is to get to the harder to reach populations but stay within the phase/tier guidelines in place in each state. They will be giving vaccinations out of the former downtown YMCA as well as at various community sites.

Mr. Bowman explained that CHC has been able to vaccinate its 65 and older population with the doses that Scott County has allocated. They are currently working to vaccinate individuals with underlying conditions and plan to move as quickly as they can through the tiers and phases. He stated they should never throw a shot away because there are plenty of people

that need it. If a shot has to be thrown out, they have failed. He stated they have the potential to vaccinate 1,000 to 1,200 a week.

Dr. Hanson asked if CHC, being a FQHC, is taking a more regional approach. Mr. Bowman explained that while they could use the vaccine at their clinics in Clinton and Muscatine Counties, they are not allowed to share with other health centers. The doses must stay within their organization but they are allowed to collaborate with other agencies.

Dr. Hanson inquired if the program will expand to other FQHCs in Iowa. She expressed concerns that there are a lot more rural areas in the state. Mr. Bowman explained there are currently 1,400 health centers nationwide. HRSA just announced expansion to 700 additional centers. He stated there are currently six centers in the state of Iowa. They are located in Waterloo, Des Moines, Sioux City, Burlington, and Ottumwa.

Dr. Hanson asked how the response has been with the underserved population. Mr. Bowman shared response has been very good. They are working with some groups that may have more vaccine hesitancy than others, but receiving it from a trusted provider helps.

Dr. Sandeman asked if the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is better for their organization. Mr. Bowman explained that a one dose vaccine is easier to use in community settings and with transient populations. They are trying to prioritize the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for the hard to reach priority groups.

Mrs. Thoreson expressed her appreciation to Mr. Bowman as well as other partners and staff for their efforts and willingness to step up during this pandemic. It has been a great community effort. She shared Governor Reynolds announced a tentative date of April 5 to make the vaccine available to all individuals 16 years of age and older. Pfizer vaccine is the only vaccine that can be administered to 16 and 17 year olds. Johnson & Johnson and Moderna are approved for 18 years and older.

- B. Mrs. Coiner moved to the Public Health Activity Report for the month of February 2021.
- C. Mrs. Coiner moved to the Budget Report for the month of February 2021.

Following discussion, Dr. O'Donnell moved to approve the claims. Motion seconded by Dr. Squire. Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Mrs. Coiner moved to the Scott County Kids Report.

Nicole Mann shared Early Childhood Iowa has a community needs survey being released to go child care providers and families. Mrs. Coiner asked if these were the same surveys that were sent out a few years ago. Ms. Mann stated they are not the wellness surveys that get sent out to the schools. The schools already have those surveys and they are being updated. She will be providing an update on those in June.

- E. Mrs. Coiner moved to the Title V, Local Public Health Services and Tobacco Use Prevention Program Report.

Tiffany Peterson reported the state is suspending the formal application process for the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health grant. Contractors will be required to complete various forms by a June 25 deadline. Staff has been busy completing dental audits in the schools.

Mrs. Peterson reported the department was awarded the Tobacco grant for the upcoming fiscal year. She expressed her appreciation to Kim Mills, Community Tobacco Consultant, for the work she did putting the application together, as well as her work with Davenport City Council to pass a Tobacco/Nicotine Free Ordinance in public parks passed. This ordinance does not include the area of play on the golf course. Ms. Mills expressed her appreciation to the Park Advisory Board as they were very instrumental in this effort. Mrs. Coiner commended Kim Mills for her efforts.

Mrs. Coiner called for a motion to accept the reports. Dr. Hanson moved to approve the reports. Motion seconded by Dr. Sandeman. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Coiner moved to Public Comment.

There were no comments.

Mrs. Coiner moved to Unfinished Business.

Mrs. Thoreson shared the county budget's approval is on the Board of Supervisors March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda. The Health Department's budget is included in those figures.

Mrs. Coiner moved to New Business.

Mrs. Coiner opened the meeting up for discussion regarding the Health Department director's position. Dr. O'Donnell addressed the job description and expressed concern about the automatic appointment of someone without a comprehensive search. She stated she had received two calls with similar concerns. She suggested a local search and that the Board should exercise due diligence for this position.

Dr. Hanson expressed that she was not in favor of conducting a national search as it has been a very difficult year of transition for public health staff. She stated the Board has a responsibility to look for the right people for the right job and would recommend posting the position internally. She stated she would consider a local search.

Dr. Squire agreed. He did not feel a national search was necessary. He stated that due diligence is important. He agreed he would also be in favor of a local search and/or posting the position internally.

Dr. Sandeman concurred. He stated a local search would help the candidate selected know that they were not automatically appointed. He express his opinion that anyone concerned about an internal appointment does not understand that the Board interviews the people of the Health Department every month.

Mary Thee shared that County Administrator Mahesh Sharma was also in attendance and is considered to be part of the appointment process. She explained that an internal posting would be released on the Scott County Intranet. She explained that there is no difference between posting the position locally or nationally as it would go on the county website.

Dr. O'Donnell asked what was done during the transition from Mr. Barker to Mr. Rivers. Ms. Thee explained that a national search was conducted utilizing numerous websites and publications. She described the process and indicated it took six months.

Ms. Thee explained the county has conducted a search for a director position three different ways: a national search, internal promotional opportunity, and an appointment of an individual that had been groomed for a position.

Dr. O'Donnell recommended conducting a search similar to what had been done in the past to assure the selection of the best candidate for the position.

Dr. Hanson expressed concern regarding opening the position to an external search as this could attract several candidates which could grow to be a lengthy process.

Dr. Sandeman stated his opinion had not changed. He believed there was an internal candidate that more than fits the qualifications and does not feel an additional search is necessary. Dr. Squire agreed with Dr. Sandeman.

Following further discussion, Dr. Hanson moved to post the Health Department Director position internally. Dr. Squire seconded the motion. Dr. Hanson, Dr. Squire, and Dr. Sandeman were in favor of the motion. Dr. O'Donnell was opposed. Motion carried.

Mrs. Coiner questioned if there was not a qualified internal candidate would an external search be allowed. Ms. Thee shared if an appropriate candidate was not found during an internal promotional opportunity search, generally a national external search would be conducted.

Following discussion, a committee was formed consisting of Mrs. Coiner, Dr. Sandeman, Mahesh Sharma, Tom Bowman, and Lori Elam.

Following discussion, Dr. Hanson moved to approve and authorize the signature of the Delta Dental Participating Screening Center Dental Wellness Plan Agreement. Motion seconded by Dr. Squire. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Coiner shared that she would like to see the salaried employees receive some compensation for all of the extra hours that they have put in during the pandemic this past year. This discussion was tabled and will be added to the agenda under new business for next month. Mrs. Coiner also requested that in person meetings be explored. Mrs. Thoreson stated she would look into this.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2021.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Arnold  
Recording Secretary