

BLACK HAWK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
MINUTES

May 25, 2022

The meeting of the Black Hawk County Board of Health was called to order at 7:32 a.m. by Chair, Rev. Dr. Mary Robinson. Members present: Kingsley Botchway (via video conferencing) ,Dr. Disa Cornish (via video conferencing), Dr. Wesley Pilkington , Dr. Adam Roise, and Attorney Heather Prendergast. Absent: None. A quorum was met.

Others present in person: Kaitlin Emrich and Micah Knebel.

Others present via video conferencing: William Aukes, Dr. Nafissa Cisse Egbuonye , Gabbi DeWitt, Jenna Diephouse, Amanda Fesenmeyer, Rachael Mayer, Megan Olmstead, Jared Parmater, Joshua Pikora, Aaron Reinke, Lori Rottinghaus, Toki Selby, Lisa Sesterhenn, Tonya Wilder, Bridgett Wood, and Alexandria Writz.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

I. Approval of Agenda – For Vote

Discussion: Typo discovered. Please note the following changes to agenda item IX: Letter H is supposed to read: Contract (Amendment 3) 5882ST12 – DIS and Partner Services for Sexually Transmitted Infections, IDPH. Letter I is supposed to read: Contract (Amendment 1) 5882AP03 – Integrated HIV and Viral Hepatitis Testing Services, IDPH.

Action: Mr. Botchway moved and Dr. Pilkington seconded to approve the agenda with the corrections presented to the board chair. Motion carried.

II. Approval of Minutes* For Vote

Discussion: None

Action: Dr. Pilkington moved and Dr. Roise seconded to approve the Board of Health Minutes for April 27, 2022. Motion carried.

III. Public Comments – No comments

IV. Joshua Pikora introduced intern, Alexandria Writz, formerly a contact tracer for the department. Ms. Writz will be interning until mid-July and is currently working on her Master's Degree in Public Health. She has been a great assistance with the Community Health Needs Assessment Survey.

V. Health Department & COVID-19 Update

Summary of Health Department Update presented by Dr. Cisse Egbuonye

- Vacancies in Environmental Health and Nursing. Utilizing creative recruiting strategies to fill these positions.
- End of year reports have been reviewed and submitted for grants. Also applying for new grants.

- Systems practice work with external partner's update: working with Community Foundation of NE Iowa to coordinate a convening with community stakeholders. Hoping to conduct first convening in August The goal is to provide clarity on what equity related initiatives are happening in the community, identify gaps, and identify what can be done to provide a greater impact beyond immediate needs. Save the dates will be sent out once a date has been finalized. Funding for this event will be provided by the grant that was received from NE Iowa Community foundation for racial equity work.
- Community Health Needs Assessment Survey will be ready to launch on June 1st with a press release. This survey is for the community to provide feedback. Once the survey data is collected, there will be focus groups with vulnerable populations to obtain more qualitative data.

Discussion: Rev. Dr. Robinson applauded the department for holding this convening. She noted it is important to know what everyone is doing.

In reference to the vacancies, Rev. Dr. Robinson asked if the department has seen any decline in applicants/hires due to COVID long haulers. Rev. Dr. Robinson stated that there have been known cases where people are still having effects from COVID-19 and are not able to work at all or are only able to work part time due to the symptoms they are experiencing. Rev. Dr. Robinson will forward article to Dr. Cisse Egbuonye.

Dr. Roise asked if the community stakeholder convening will include businesses.

Dr. Cisse Egbuonye stated that it is inclusive of all organizations including businesses. All sectors that have impact on health outcomes. The department is working with Grow Cedar Valley to include the business community and to identify any potential cross collaborations.

Dr. Roise asked if a convening like this has been done before or if this is a novel venture.

Dr. Cisse Egbuonye said that the department has been researching places/models that have done the same and consulted with others in the community. Cedar Rapids has completed a similar assessment. The intention is not to jump too far into what the result will be but to identify how to break silos, identify gaps, and have a collaborative discussion on how to move forward. The focus is on the key strategic actions needed. The department is currently seeking a model that fits the direction that the community agrees with.

Summary of COVID-19 Update presented by Mr. Pikora

- Black Hawk County: case numbers: 33,383 positive individuals, rates over last 7 days: 128 new cases per 100k, 7.1 new COVID-19 admissions per 100k, 1.9% 7-day average of inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients, 483 deaths
- April and May have seen increases but starting to level off. Levels have remained at the low community level based on CDC criteria.
- Vaccines: Ages 12+: 72% - one dose administered, 67.7% fully vaccinated; Ages 5-11: 28.1% - one dose administered, 24.2% - fully vaccinated
- May 5th – U.S. Food and Drug Administration has limited the authorized use of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine to individuals 18 years of age and older for whom other authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines are not accessible or clinically appropriate and to individuals 18 years of age and older who elect to receive the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine because they would otherwise not receive a COVID-19 vaccine
- CDC approved child booster doses for ages 5-11 at least 5 months after the primary series

Discussion: Dr. Pilkington inquired where to find what level the county is currently in. Mr. Pikora stated that data is available on the BHCpublichealth.org website on the COVID-19 page by entering the state and county in the CDC embedded widget “COVID-19 County Check”. This tool is also found on the CDC homepage.

Rev. Dr. Robinson asked if there is data available on how many people are getting 2nd boosters. Mr. Pikora stated that he does not have that data readily available. Mr. Pikora will e-mail those numbers to the board. Dr. Pilkington added that anecdotally it is significantly less.

Dr. Cisse Egbuonye added that she will be presenting on the Strategic Plan in the month of July and the board should be expecting an email to request participation on the internal advocacy committee.

VI. Communications Update was provided by Gabbi DeWitt.

Summary of Update:

- April - Public Health is Where You Are and STI Awareness Campaigns
 - Program and staff highlights
- Focus this summer is on attending several events in the community, including with rural and diverse audiences
- Public Health monthly promotion continues with billboards and Soultown Magazine
- Suggestions for Electronic Communications Policy have been made based on April Board of Health meeting. Final SOP for removing social media users will be ready for June meeting.
- Steele Report in June on KWWL will feature Rev. Dr. Robinson and Dr. Cisse Egbuonye

VII. Financials – *Bridgett Wood*

A. Disbursements* – For Vote

Discussion: Ms. Wood reviewed the disbursements with the board.

Action: Dr. Pilkington moved and Dr. Roise seconded to approve to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried.

B. Ms. Wood presented the Financial Report as of 05/20/2022 to the board.

Discussion: None

VIII. Request for Proposals with Technology Grant Funding, IDPH * – For Vote

Joshua Pikora reviewed the request for proposals to the board.

Discussion: Dr. Cisse Egbuonye stated that after the initial county building assessment shows the department will not be relocating the Health Department, but we are going to be utilizing the state technology funding to provide training and upgrade our conference rooms.

Dr. Pilkington asked if the transition to Microsoft Teams will affect the way board meetings are conducted. Mr. Pikora stated that the department would keep Zoom in some capacity for public meetings, etc.

Rev. Dr. Robinson stated that Microsoft Teams can be confusing for some users that are not used to that platform.

Dr. Pilkington stated that due to the end of the year deadline on this grant that he is willing to have special online meetings to get those items approved as needed.

Action: Dr. Roise moved and Dr. Pilkington seconded to authorize a request for proposals for bids to conduct staff training on computer software including Microsoft Teams, Microsoft Office Suite, and other needs identified through a survey of staff and to upgrade the technology in department conference and meeting rooms. Motion carried.

IX. Consent Agenda: Grants and Contracts* - *Dr. Cisse Egbuonye – For Vote*

The following items will be acted upon by vote on a single MOTION, without separate discussion, unless someone from the board or the public requests that a specific item be considered separately.

- A. Application – Project and Contract Period: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 - FY23 Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP), IDPH
- B. Contract Agreement (New) – Contract Period June 15, 2022 - June 14, 2023 - Transit Advertising, Houck Transit Advertising
- C. Interagency Agreement (New) – Mutual Environmental Health Support, Linn County Board of Health
- D. Request for Contract Information (Renewal) – Surveillance for Mosquito-Borne Diseases, IDPH
- E. Request for Contract Information (Renewal) – Iowa Get Screened: Colorectal Cancer Program, IDPH
- F. Memorandum of Understanding (Amendment) – Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) services, Exceptional Persons Inc./Child Care Resource and Referral
- G. Contract (Amendment 6E) - #5881MH03E - Community Based Programs of Maternal Health and Child & Adolescent Health (including Early ACCESS, HCCI, Hawki, Hawki Outreach, I-Smile, and I-Smile @ School), IDPH
- H. Contract (Amendment 3) - #5882ST12 - DIS and Partner Services for Sexually Transmitted Infections, IDPH
- I. Contract (Amendment 1) - #5882AP03 – Integrated HIV and Viral Hepatitis Testing Services, IDPH

Discussion: Rev. Dr. Robinson inquired on item C to be expanded upon.

Mr. Parmater stated that the agreement was implemented based on requirements from the 28E Agreement from the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals. The purpose of this agreement is to authorize the exchange of Environmental Health Staff between the Environmental Health Programs of Black Hawk County Public Health and Linn County Public Health. Environmental Health Staff are designated as Food Safety Inspection Officers (FSIO), Environmental Health Officers (EHO), and Sanitarians, as well as supervisory staff. This exchange will ensure that each county health department has the trained staff necessary to complete work during extenuating circumstances.

Action: Dr. Cornish moved and Dr. Pilkington seconded to approve items A-I amended as presented on the grants and contracts memo and agenda. Motion carried.

X. For Information Only

- A. Board of Supervisors Update – Supervisor, Linda Laylin was not in attendance to provide an update.

XI. Next Regular Board of Health Meeting: Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at 7:30am, 1407 Independence Ave. Waterloo, IA.

Dr. Cornish and Dr. Roise will not be able to attend June Board meeting.

Dr. Pilkington (in-person) and Mr. Botchway (virtually) will be able to attend.

Dr. Cisse Egbuonye will be attending virtually.

Board Chair, Dr. Rev. Robinson will be in attendance and confirmed there will be a quorum for the June meeting.

XII. Adjournment – For Vote

Action: Dr. Roise moved and Dr. Pilkington seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 a.m.
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Olmstead, Secretary

Rev. Dr. Mary Robinson, Chair