

BLACK HAWK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
MINUTES

September 28, 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 (virtual), Dr. Disa Cornish, Dr. Wesley Pilkington, Dr. Adam Roise, and Attorney, Heather Prendergast. Absent: None. A quorum was met.

Others present in person: Dr. Nafissa Cisse Egbuonye, Kaitlin Emrich, and Megan Olmstead.

Others present via video conferencing: Becky Clark, Gabbi DeWitt, Jenna Diephouse, Amanda Fesenmeyer, Madeline Fritz, Micah Knebel, Linda Laylin, Rachael Mayer, Becky Nowachek, Jared Parmater, Joshua Pikora, Aaron Reinke, Toki Selby, Noshaba Shafiq, Lisa Sesterhenn, Tonya Wilder.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

I. Approval of Agenda – For Vote

Discussion: Dr Cornish requested to add an introduction of two University of Northern Iowa students interested in the public health field.

Action: Dr. Pilkington moved, and Dr. Roise seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

II. Approval of Minutes* For Vote

Discussion: No discussion.

Action: Dr. Cornish moved and Dr. Pilkington seconded to approve the Board of Health Minutes for August 31, 2022. Motion carried.

III. Public Comments – No comments.

IV. Health Department & COVID-19 Update

Summary of Health Department Update presented by Director, Dr. Cisse Egbuonye

- Recruiting positions update
 - Public Health Nurse – two positions remain vacant, continue to recruit, found it challenging to fill
 - Financial Manager – interviews have been scheduled
- Management started working on FY24 budget
- Workforce Development
 - 1st Phase - Cultural Assessment – original plan was to have University of Iowa present data this month but will present this report in October
 - 2nd phase will be conducted in January for workforce competence
- Community Health Improvement Plan
 - Steering committee met on 9/19/22 to review and adopt priority issues
 - Shared results of focus groups with vulnerable populations for COVID-19 after action report
 - Next steps: Department to review priorities and engage with community partners and present recommendations to the board

- No ARPA or space assessment updates
- 09/13/22 - Equity Convening with Community Partners
 - 110 attendees from 65 different non-profit organizations
 - Identified target populations and trends in the community that need to be addressed
 - A convening for the business community will be scheduled soon
 - Goal for this convening group is to build relationships beyond the health department with different sectors of the community to advocate for its vulnerable populations
- Joshua Pikora's last day is today and today is Dr. Cisse Egbuonye's last board meeting.

Dr. Cisse Egbuonye said the success of this agency is the people that work here and the board that is passionate and supporting team and the director. Dr. Cisse Egbuonye thanked the board for being supportive, a gift that will not be forgotten. There is a strong, dedicated and passionate staff that are here, and she requests the board to keep advocating for them.

Discussion: No discussion.

Summary of COVID-19 & Monkeypox Update presented by Mr. Pikora

- Community Level: Low per CDC guidelines; levels have been on a decreasing trend
- Black Hawk County case totals: 36,856 positive individuals, 500 total deaths
 - 72 cases per 100k over the last 7 days, significant decrease since August
 - 5.8 new COVID hospital admissions per 100k over last 7 days and 1.8% 7-day average staffed inpatient beds
- Vaccine data provided by IDPH for all Black Hawk County residents
 - 64.6% one dose administered, 60.5% completed initial series, and 21.7% up to date
 - Age 50+ 27.1% are up to date with second booster
 - Age 5 and under: 5.3% first dose administered, and most of these doses are age 24 months plus
- Omicron continues to be the dominate strain and BA.5 as the subvariant
- 9/26/22 - Approval of bivalent vaccines or updated boosters by the FDA - pharmacies and providers have started to receive these vaccinations

Monkeypox

- 09/21/22 - 24 reported cases in Iowa and 4 in Eastern Iowa
- Public Health Center at Black Hawk County Health Department continues to provide vaccinations to eligible individuals

Discussion: Dr. Cornish asked about an update for Tuberculosis (TB) cases since last month.

Mr. Pikora stated there have not been any new cases since last month. The TB case management team continues to work the existing case load and contact tracing.

Rev. Dr. Robinson asked if there were any updates on the Ebola breakouts.

Mr. Pikora said there were not any additional concerns reported, but they continue to monitor any travelers that are returning from areas that have been affected.

V. Communications Update – Gabbi DeWitt
Summary of Communications Update presented by Gabbi DeWitt

- September events
 - 09/10/22 – Focus on Diabetes
 - 09/11/22 – Queen of Peace Fall Fair
 - 09/24/22 – Black Women’s Health Summit
 - 09/24/22 – Wellness Day at the Independence Farmer’s Market
- October events
 - 10/04/22 - Community Baby Shower
 - 10/08/22 – Splash of Color Breast Cancer Walk
 - 10/25/22 – Sexual Health event at West High School
- Digital billboards in Waterloo are doing well and have had really good feedback; plan to expand the billboards to Cedar Falls locations with Health Equity funds
- Staff attended several events even though the department short staffed

Discussion: Rev. Dr. Robinson thanked all the staff for all the work that is being done in the community. Rev. Dr. Robinson added that Black Hawk County Public Health is really being seen everywhere and being noticed in the community.

VI. Electronic Health Records Request for Purchase* - Toki Selby – For Vote

Ms. Selby reviewed the bid proposal process.

- On 7/27/22, four electronic health records vendors were contacted to submit proposals for the department’s EHR and integrated practice management (IPM) system
- Two were received, but only one was completed in full (CureMD)
- CureMD is the current contractor and the department has been satisfied with the services in the current contract
- Memo attached reviews pricing and services provided for the board’s review

Discussion: Dr. Pilkington asked if the cost has changed since the last contract.

Ms. Selby stated that the pricing has not changed from the last agreement.

Action: Dr. Roise moved and Dr. Cornish seconded to approve the 36-month agreement with CureMD, and an annual renewal selected service, authorizing the Director as signatory, to add or remove optional services with a cost of \$1,112 per month for the duration of the agreement and to authorize a one-time payment of \$750 for implementation of the interface with the State Hygienic Lab for electronic lab orders. Motion carried.

VII. Health Department Purchases with COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Funds* - Joshua Pikora – For Vote

Mr. Pikora stated this request is to expand the existing billboard campaign that is currently running in Waterloo to Cedar Falls to expand the reach of the messaging.

Discussion: Dr. Cornish asked what the duration of the billboard agreement will be for.

Mr. Pikora stated that the billboards will run from October 2022-January 2023 with the option to change the messaging on the University Ave. billboard each cycle.

Action: Dr. Pilkington moved and Dr. Cornish seconded to approve the purchase of health department expenses including digital billboard advertising not to exceed \$16,400 using Emergency Response Multi-Year Program: Equity and Prioritizing Populations Disproportionately Affected by COVID-19 Statewide Funding – Immunization funds. Motion carried.

Supervisor Laylin wanted to stop and thank Mr. Pikora for all his help, especially during the pandemic and wish him good luck in his new position.

Added item to agenda:

Dr. Cornish introduced two University of Northern Iowa graduate students that are attending today's meeting to learn more about public health in the community:

- Madeline Fritz is graduate student in Community Health and Recreation and undergraduate degree is in public health and is very interested in public health
- Noshaba Shafiq, an international student from Pakistan, is majoring in Women and Genders studies and is interested in maternal health; currently working on birth story board projects. She is also interested in sexuality and health education with youth and adults.

VIII. Request to Purchase Digital Advertising Campaign* - *Joshua Pikora – For Vote*

Mr. Pikora stated this campaign would use a variety of digital platforms including social media, streaming ads, and search ads to promote regular testing for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV and combat stigma associated with STIs and HIV. Funds for this advertising campaign will come from the Integrated Testing Services grant.

Discussion: No discussion.

Action: Dr. Cornish moved and Dr. Roise seconded to approve the purchase digital advertising from OnMedia up to \$10,025. Motion carried.

IX. Financials – *Micah Knebel*

A. Disbursements* – For Vote

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

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

B. Ms. Knebel presented the Financial Report as of September 23, 2022, to the board.

Discussion: No discussion.

- X. Consent Agenda: Grants and Contracts* - *Dr. Cisse Egbuonye, Deputy Director – 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. Sub-Contract (New) CY2022-CY2023 – IDPH CADE COVID Homeless Funds, Friends of the Family
 - B. Contract (Renewal) FY23 5883NU40 – Physical Activity Access, IDPH
 - C. Contract (Renewal) FY23 5883NB02 - Care for Yourself WISEWOMAN Program, IDPH
 - D. Sub-Leased Premises (Amendment) Wheaton Franciscan dba Covenant Health System
 - E. Memorandum of Understanding (Amendment 7) MOU-2022-TB03, Tuberculosis Direct Observed Therapy, IDPH
 - F. Request for Proposal 58823006 - 1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative: Implementation Phase, IDPH, Project Period January 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026, Contract Period: January 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024
 - G. Application (Renewal) Integrated HIV and Viral Hepatitis Services, IDPH

Discussion: Dr. Cornish requested more information on item B.

Ms. Emrich said that this is a smaller grant that is continuation of a project with INRCOG (Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments) to look at physical activity access throughout the community. Kathryn Gilbery (lead on project) recently completed activities with this grant including a transit activity with Jesse Cosby center.

Rev. Dr. Robinson requested more information about item A.

Mr. Pikora stated that this is a sub-contract with Friends of the Family using COVID-19 funds for homelessness populations to purchase supplies to mitigate spread of COVID-19 like masks, hygiene kits, and to help with travel costs to distribute these items.

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

- XI. Motion – to accept the RESIGNATION from Dr. Nafissa Cisse Egbuonye as Public Health Director effective October 21, 2022

Discussion:

The board all made statements about Dr. Cisse Egbuonye's resignation.

Dr. Pilkington stated that he really appreciated the time working with Dr. Cisse Egbuonye as a colleague and as a friend. He was really impressed at how she handled the vaccine response. She is very passionate about her work, and he really enjoyed her as a person. He said she is very positive, resilient, and has a good heart.

Dr. Roise commended Dr. Cisse Egbuonye on re-structuring the department along with becoming nationally accredited during a pandemic, all the while conducting all the regular work of the agency.

Dr. Cornish recalled meeting Dr. Cisse Egbuonye for the first time. Dr. Cornish really appreciated how Dr. Cisse Egbuonye has motivated her to be more involved with public health

and how Dr. Cisse Egbuonye has brought the community together to improve health outcomes. None of this passion or drive was diminished through the pandemic and Dr. Cornish is impressed how she motivates others around her. Dr. Cisse Egbuonye took a systems approach to come together for the common good. Dr. Cornish added that Dr. Cisse Egbuonye will be successful at anything she does and thanked her for her work.

Dr. Botchway said that outside of being a board member, he was able to work with Dr. Cisse Egbuonye as a community partner with the schools. They were able to keep the schools open, even when the guidance was to close schools. He said her courage was unbelievable and transformational. They had some courageous conversations to work through those times. Dr. Botchway thanked Dr. Cisse Egbuonye for her leadership during a very trying time and for being an amazing leader.

Rev. Dr. Robinson said that there is so much that Dr. Egbuonye has done with her time at Black Hawk County Public Health. The first item she was assigned was to reorganize the department. Rev. Dr. Robinson knew this would be a challenge and felt sorry for her, but she came in and organized it to make it more impactful, and in such a way that other counties were looking at this agency as an example and even gained national recognition. Dr. Cisse Egbuonye will always be recognized as a leader, even if the community really doesn't know what she has done for them. Dr. Cisse Egbuonye masterfully led the county to respond to emergency situations. Nobody knew what to expect, but she led in such a way that people are still talking about the COVID-19 response and the Emergency Operating Center that was created. Dr. Cisse Egbuonye looked at the programs and started thinking about best practices of public health and whether programs were really in the role of public health in a way that the board understood and so the community would accept. She reminded the agency and board of their vision that they exist to ensure that people have equitable outcomes. The agency received national and state recognition for health equity initiatives. The board has never dealt with those issues. She brought in national experts to guide the community in having health equity discussions even when they weren't one's people were ready to talk about. Her work reminded Rev. Dr. Robinson that we are systematically connected and that it makes us ask what we do about it and how do we move forward. Dr. Cisse Egbuonye gave the community hope despite the article that came out in the Wallstreet 24/7. She let the community know there is a way out. Everyone should have opportunities for health and wellbeing. She mirrored this in the department staff and strengthened the board by reminding them to have position statements to show the public what the intentions of the board were. During the pandemic, she brought the agency through accreditation and helped live out the vision of the department and the board. The community knows that the health department is everywhere and it is not just a regulatory agency anymore. Rev. Dr. Robinson is forever grateful to her for your service and leadership.

Supervisor Laylin stated that she wanted to share how much Dr. Cisse Egbuonye's work is appreciated by the county and the residents of Black Hawk County. Supervisor Laylin said that Dr. Cisse Egbuonye has been through a lot with the county from, re-structuring, accreditation, and a pandemic. She thanked her for her leadership and said it has been a great opportunity to know her and work with her.

Action: Dr. Pilkington moved and Dr. Roise seconded to accept the RESIGNATION from Dr. Nafissa Cisse Egbuonye as Public Health Director effective October 21, 2022. Motion carried.

- XII. Motion – to approve the Personnel Requisition submitted by the Board of Health for a Public Health Director (Full-Time, Replacement) to begin the recruitment process effective October 3, 2022

Discussion: Rev. Dr. Robinson stated that she is working with Amanda Fesenmeyer in HR to start the recruiting process and will be scheduling some special meetings with the board.

Action: Dr. Pilkington moved and Dr. Cornish seconded to approve the Personnel Requisition submitted by the Board of Health for a Public Health Director (Full-Time, Replacement) to begin the recruitment process effective October 3, 2022. Motion carried.

XIII. Authorizing Signatory to Kaitlin Emrich, Deputy Director – Dr. Cisse Egbuonye - For Vote

Discussion: No discussion.

Action: Dr. Cornish moved and Dr. Roise seconded to authorize Kaitlin Emrich, Deputy Director as signatory while the Director position is being recruited and filled. Motion carried.

XIV. For Information Only

A. Cancellation of Visiting Nursing Association Sub-Contract – Kaitlin Emrich

Discussion: Ms. Emrich stated services will be provided until the end of the year.

Dr. Cornish asked if the department would find another nursing provider to provide those services.

Ms. Emrich said that those funds will now be used for population health per the Local Public Health Services (LPHS) grant initiatives.

Dr. Cisse Egbuonye added that the LPHS grant has moved towards a population health vision.

B. Board of Supervisors Update – Linda Laylin

Summary of update from Board of Supervisor, Linda Laylin:

- County finance director interviews scheduled next week and have very qualified applicants
- Board has a joint meeting with ARPA consultants to get direction moving forward with funding that has not been designated
 - Attended committee meeting for ARPA funds: Identified there is a need to close the loop on some projects that were submitted by departments that have unanswered questions

XV. Next Regular Board of Health Meeting: Wednesday, October 26, 2022, at 7:30am, 1407 Independence Ave. Waterloo, IA.

Rev. Dr. Robinson stated she may need to attend virtually.

XVI. Adjournment – For Vote

Action: Dr. Cornish moved, and Dr. Pilkington seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 a.m.
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Olmstead, Secretary

Rev. Dr. Mary Robinson, Chair