

***Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting
Minutes of June 2, 2021***

Mr. Bechen called the June 2, 2021, Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present:	Tom Bechen, Diane Pape-Freiberger, Katie Jones, Adam Hoffman, Amy Crow Sunleaf
Members Absent:	Hendrik Schultz
Others Present:	Patrice Lambert, Dubuque County Health Department; Samantha Kloft, Dubuque County Health Department; Stacey Killian, VNA; Ben Fischer; TH Ed Raber, Interim Board Executive Director; Ann McDonough, Chair to Dubuque County Supervisors; Becky Nowachek, IDPH; Collin Dolphin, Dubuque County Health Department; Bailey Avenarius, Dubuque County Health Department

Additional Notes:

1. Roll Call

2. Public Comments

None

3. Approval of Agenda

Tom Bechen request to add a line item for BOS/BOH Liaison Comments after item #8.

Amy Crow Sunleaf made the motion to approve the Agenda for June 2, 2021, with the addition of the line item for BOS/BOH Liaison Comments. Diane Pape-Freiberger seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Amy Crow Sunleaf would like to change the word “heritage” to “hierarchy” in the Food Policy Council section of the minutes.

Katie Jones made the motion to approve the Minutes for May 5, 2021, with the suggested change. Diane Pape-Freiberger seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.

5. Board Resignations

Tom Bechen recognizes the recent resignations from members Corey Young, Suzie Stroud, and Bobby Koneru and thanks them for their service to the BOH.

6. COVID-19 Update

Samantha Kloft shares her screen to display a presentation led by Patrice Lambert. Patrice gives the BOH a brief update on COVID-19 vaccinations in Dubuque County.

As of June 2, 2021, 61.64% of the County's total population 12+ has either completed their vaccination series or is currently in the process. 90.23% of the County's total 65+ has either completed their vaccinations series or is currently in the process.

The presentation also includes a slide comparing positive COVID-19 tests and COVID-19 vaccinations by age group in Dubuque County. It points out that those age 16-29 have the highest rate of positive COVID-19 tests, but the lowest rate of vaccinations.

Patrice addresses Diane's emailed question prior to the meeting stating that TestIowa will be operated through Epic Health and Wellness until at least July 1, 2021, if not later.

Amy asks if the Thursday night market will have a pop-up vaccine clinic. Stacey Killian answers that there is not, but they will look into having a clinic at the next night market. Diane adds that she has been in contact with the event organizer, and they are interested in having a pop-up clinic.

7. Water Testing – Adam Hoffmann/Collin Dolphin

Adam Hoffman leads a presentation on water quality and testing in Dubuque County that was provided previously in the BOH Agenda Packet.

Diane comments that because of certain laws, we are not able to control who gets their water tested. Additionally, because of the pandemic, many people did not want the Health Department at their house or site testing water. Adam adds that we can educate the community on the need for clean and tested water in the meantime.

Amy asks if testing is low because of the lack of perceived need or the lack of education on water testing. Adam responds that it is a little of both.

Patrice shares that over 100 water tests have been done so far for Grants to Counties. Letters have been sent out to community members and it has been posted on social media. In July, the Health Department plans to put an ad in the local papers to include education on water testing and information on free testing. Collin Dolphin adds that Grants to Counties is at about \$11,500 right now and shares plans moving forward.

Katie asks if there is testing offered for septic tanks like the ones in her neighborhood. Collin responds that there is not.

Collin also adds that for the coliform, E. coli and nitrate tests that have gone out so far, most have come back clean which is great to see in the community.

8. Role of the Board of Health – Becky Nowachek (IDPH)

Becky Nowachek provides a presentation to the BOH on IDPH guidelines for Boards and roles within that. She also adds that many Boards in the area have subcommittees related to operational aspects of a health department and not necessarily on different health topics or concerns.

Tom Bechen clarifies that all rules made by the BOH must be approved by the BOS. Becky confirms that. Tom then asks about HR issues and concerns. Do those go through the BOH or BOS? Becky responds that hiring, compensation, and other HR responsibilities fall on the BOH.

Tom also asks who sets the guidelines for the number of BOH members that are needed. Becky responds that it is not written anywhere where that authority lies. Looking at the history of this BOH, Becky recommends having seven BOH members rather than nine.

Diane Pape-Freiburger asks how many members are needed for a quorum if there are seven on the BOH. Becky responds that four members would be needed for a quorum.

Adam asks how common it is to have a BOS member serve on the BOH. Becky responds that three or four of the 14 counties in the area have a BOS member on their Board.

Diane also asks about the length of terms and if the BOH is able to pick and choose how long those are. Becky recommends staying with the three-year term, but she understands the need to stagger them. Code questions should be addressed with the County Attorney.

9. BOS/BOH Liaison Comments

Supervisor Ann McDonough asks Becky how many counties in the area have a BOS liaison. Becky answers that 10 of the 14 Boards in the area have a BOS liaison in some type of way.

Ann adds that Linn County has 55 staff members while Dubuque County has 3.5. She urges the BOH to look at changes that can be made within the Health Department moving out of this pandemic. Becky adds that the VNA provides staffing and nursing support to the County as well.

Ann comments that Collin was hired to address needs in Grants to Counties and spending that money. This is a high priority for the BOS.

The Iowa code was changed this year to include a flood mitigation protection/service. This ties into water quality. Ann has requested that Adam's presentation be shared on Facebook, YouTube, and the County websites.

Tom Bechen comments that next month the BOH would like to discuss restructuring the Health Department with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. Patrice and Samantha have been putting together a plan for this that has been shared with the BOH and will be discussed at a future date.

Ann also adds that in two weeks the BOS will be appointing new members to boards and commissions.

10. Next Meeting – June 16, 2021 at 6pm via Zoom

11. Public Comment

None

12. Adjournment

Diane Pape-Freiburger made the motion to adjourn at 7:30pm. Amy Crow Sunleaf seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.