

***Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting
Minutes of June 16, 2021***

Mr. Bechen called the June 16, 2021, Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present:	Tom Bechen, Diane Pape-Freiberger, Adam Hoffman, Amy Crow Sunleaf, Hendrik Schultz
Members Absent:	Katie Jones
Others Present:	Patrice Lambert, Dubuque County Health Department; Samantha Kloft, Dubuque County Health Department; Stacey Killian, VNA; Ben Fischer; TH; Ann McDonough, Chair to Dubuque County Supervisors; Sandra Larson

Additional Notes:

1. Roll Call

2. Public Comments

None

3. Approval of Agenda

Tom Bechen comments that the Dubuque County staff responsible for the Grants to Counties update are absent from the meeting. He suggests this agenda item be postponed until the next BOH meeting.

Diane Pape-Freiberger made the motion to approve the Agenda for June 16, 2021, with the exception of agenda item #9. Amy Crow Sunleaf seconded the motion. 4 Aye, motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Diane Pape-Freiberger made the motion to approve the Minutes for June 2, 2021. Hendrik Schultz seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.

5. 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. She shares that 62.58% of the County's total population 21+ has either completed their vaccination series or is currently in the process. 90.47% of the County's total 65+ population has either completed their vaccination series or is currently in the process as well. Approximately 3,324 more residents must receive at least one dose of the vaccine to

compare with President Biden's goal of having 70% of all US adults age 18+ getting at least one vaccine by July 4, 2021.

In the news today is that Test Iowa will be closing their program on July 16, 2021. Also in the news is more information on the new Delta COVID-19 variant. More information on this to come in the next few days and weeks. Hendrik Schultz comments that the Pfizer vaccine shows good protection against the Delta variant, which seems to be twice as infectious as the original strain.

Patrice also shares that the IMT is meeting to discuss a potential incentive program in Dubuque for COVID-19 vaccinations. Again, more information to come on this in the coming weeks.

Amy Crow Sunleaf asks if there are recorded vaccination numbers for the homeless and undocumented populations and if there are clinics to address that need. Stacey Killian responds that the IMT has worked with the multicultural Family Center but not the Dream Center, mostly because of age. Patrice also adds that the vaccine was available for the homeless populations at shelters in the past. Additionally, the IMT is working with the Equity Immersion Committee to continue serving those populations.

6. SASC Report (Receive & File)

Diane Pape-Freiburger made the motion to receive and file the SASC Report. Hendrik Schultz seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.

7. VNA Nurse Payment Rate Contract (Receive & File)

Hendrik Schultz made the motion to receive and file the VNA Nurse Payment Rate Contract. Diane Pape-Freiburger seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.

8. Grants to Counties Update

Dubuque County staff responsible for the Grants to Counties update are absent from the meeting. This agenda item has been postponed until the next BOH meeting.

Diane thanks the VNA staff for all the work they have done, including throughout COVID-19. Hendrik and Tom second this.

9. Number of BOH Members

Tom Bechen begins the conversation by stating that the BOS will be appointment new members to the BOH next week. The BOH members are encouraged to share their thoughts on adding additional members with the BOS. Tom shares that 5-7 seems to be the most common number of members for larger counties in Iowa.

The Board agrees that they would like to avoid any “blinds spots” in the community by including a diverse range of individuals from different backgrounds to the BOH.

Diane Pape-Freiburger made the motion to formally recommend to the BOS that the BOH does not exceed 7 members. This, along with the bylaws will be reevaluated at a later date. Hendrik Schultz seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.

10. BOS/BOH Liaison Comments

Supervisor McDonough shares that Sandra Larson, on tonight’s meeting is one of the applications to the BOH. She believes Sandra has been at many of the BOH meetings in the past. Ann also adds that testing and PPE can be funded by American Rescue Act Plan funds as well. Additionally, Ann asks for more information on home test kits for COVID-19.

Ann believes there is missing data about the Kennedy Mall POD. Before closing this facility, she would like to see how many vaccinations are occurring at the POD vs. in the community.

Lastly, she urges the IMT and BOH to think creatively about the incentives program and how to get more individuals vaccinated throughout Dubuque County.

11. Future Meetings

Tom Bechen begins the conversation by asking BOH members what they prefer for frequency, date, time, and location of meetings. Amy Crow Sunleaf comments that meeting in person as fully vaccinated individuals would set a good example for the community, although Zoom is more convenient. She also recommends meeting once and month. Hendrik Schultz agrees with Amy on this change. Tom comments that it is possible to do a hybrid option, which would allow members who are out of town or community members to join via Zoom. Diane Pape-Freiburger and Adam Hoffman agree with the idea of a hybrid meeting option.

Tom Bechen makes the motion that the BOH will meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 6pm with a hybrid option. Hendrik Schultz seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried. This may create security concerns, but Patrice and Supervisor McDonough will follow up on this. Though Supervisor McDonough does ensure there will be security.

12. Next Meeting Date – July 21, 2021

13. Public Comment

None

14. Adjournment

Hendrik Schultz made the motion to adjourn at 7:05pm. Adam Hoffman seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.