



Public Health
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Dubuque County
Public Health Department

Board of Health

Sandra Larson, JD, BSN
Amy Crow Sunleaf, MA, NCC, LMHC
Preeti Joseph, MD
Jess Smith, PharmD, MPH
Pat Lehmkuhl, MSN, BSN, RN, CIC
Mike Fidgeon
Adam Hoffman, PhD

DUBUQUE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

October 18, 2023, at 4:30pm
Dubuque County Offices – West Campus
1225 Seippel Rd. Dubuque, IA

MEETING MINUTES

Chairperson Larson called the October 18, 2023, Dubuque County Board of Health regularly scheduled meeting to order at 4:35pm, via in person and zoom.

Members Present in Person: Mike Fidgeon; Sandra Larson; Pat Lehmkuhl; Amy Crow Sunleaf.

Members Present via Zoom: Preeti Joseph; Adam Hoffman.

Members Absent: Jess Smith.

Others Present: Evan Hudson (via zoom); Ann McDonough (via zoom); Allie White; Stacey Killian; Diane Pape Freiburger; Noah Dougherty; Kevin Dragotto (via zoom).

1. **Roll Call** – A quorum was established.
2. **Public Comments** – Evan Hudson, Program Coordinator of Dubuque Harm Reduction provides updates of the harm reduction boxes.
 - a. Evan stated that when the Board moves forward with the harm reduction boxes, he would like to see them containing Naloxone, stating it would be missing a large part of its purpose by eliminating Naloxone.
3. **Chairperson Announcements & Updates** – Chairperson Larson addressed the ever-increasing obesity epidemic in the United States and Iowa. Chairperson Larson thanked the Dubuque Community Schools, Holy Family, and Western Dubuque School Districts for hosting local food day, where students got to eat locally grown and locally sourced foods. Chairperson Larson stated that Dubuque residents are eligible for 4 Urban Agricultural Entrepreneur Fellowships. Chairperson Larson raised concern about the fact that fentanyl strips are not legal in Iowa. They are strips that can test illegal drugs to ensure there is no fentanyl in the drugs which could be lifesaving in many events. The last announcement Sandra had was regarding a podcast about our current epidemic of loneliness. A certain hospital has been running a program with a group of volunteers who call people who volunteer to receive calls. The calls have been proven to decrease loneliness significantly. It

is a successful intervention which costs very little.

4. BOS/BOH Liaison Comments –

- a. Supervisor McDonough notes that the chair of the Food Policy Council, Catherine Caitlin has resigned. Supervisor McDonough questions where the strategic plan is at and wonders if there is strategic budget planning happening. There are concerns regarding the food policy council and whether or not it will continue.
- b. Supervisor McDonough encouraged the Board to consider Evan Hudson's concern regarding the harm reduction boxes. Supervisor McDonough stated that there will be a webinar regarding the opioid expenditure report led by Kevin Dragotto.

5. Approval of Agenda - Motioned by Lehmkuhl to approve the October 18, 2023, regularly scheduled Board of Health meeting agenda; seconded by Fidgeon. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.

6. Approval of Minutes – Motioned by Crow Sunleaf to approve the September 20, 2023, regularly scheduled Board of Health meeting minutes; seconded by Fidgeon. The motion passed unanimously without discussion

7. Presentations & Reports –

a. VNA Report – Director Killian shared updates on the following:

- 5 open staff positions at the VNA
 1. Homecare Aid
 2. WIC Dietician
 3. Ryan White Case Manager (part-time)
 4. Dental Hygienist (part-time)
 5. Dental Assistant (part-time)
- Went live with EPIC- the VNA's new EMR
- Maternal and Child Health grants ended September 30th:
 1. All work plan goals were met.
 2. Increased lead testing, immunization promotion, medical and dental, home care coordination, Hawkeye outreach, and child care nurse consultant support.
 3. For maternal health, the VNA increased breast-feeding knowledge, implemented maternal health advisory council, increased health education for pre-natal and post-natal, and continued the Doula program.
- Director Killian and Director White developed promotional items to take out in the community to provide more awareness of the Dubuque County Public Health Department.
- Attended the kid's expo, providing the vendors and participants with masks and hand sanitizers. The VNA provided vaccinations, dental screenings, lead tests, and informational booths.
- Attended Dyersville head start parent meetings.
- Attended Latinx festivals in Dyersville and Dubuque.
- Presented for parent classes at Western Dubuque and Cascade High Schools.
- Will be attending a resource fair at the multicultural family center.
- This year have served Medicaid to 200 individuals needing insurance compared to 134 last year.

- Still have both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and received an allocation for more doses.
- Have ordered the Novavax vaccine which has been shipped and is on its way.
- There has been a press release put out regarding vaccine availability.
- Received funds to purchase additional vaccination equipment including an ultra-cold freezer, updated data collection, and portable freezer and refrigerator packs to use when in the community.
- The VNA has an application in for their homecare aid position, that has been vacant for nearly 3 years. The homecare waitlist is currently 43 and they have introduced 2 new patients this month.

b. DCPHD Report – Director White shared updates on the following:

- Allie welcomed Noah Dougherty to the team as the Public Health Departments Public Health Coordinator, Followed by welcoming Dr. Preeti Joseph as Dubuque’s newest Board of Health member.
- Will continue to explore the future of the Food Policy Council following the resignation of Catherine Caitlin.
- Our service area has the opportunity to provide “Stop the Bleed” training and supplies to local school districts.
- Completed a strategic planning workshop with Evident Analytics on September 29th and will be looking into phase 3 of the project which will prospectively be taking place December 1st.
- Attended an ISU extension office grant workshop in October.
- Completed Iowa DNR annual lab audit, they recommended some money saving changes and we are looking into updating our thermometers to get them up to code.
- Attended Iowa Respiratory Surveillance annual webinar.
- Issued a news release on October 11th regarding the Covid vaccine, public health’s current role when it comes to the vaccine is educating people when and where they are able to get the vaccine.
- Completed a county wide wage assessment survey.
- Visited the University of Dubuque nursing students and talked to them about the community health assessment.
- Attended leadership workshop for county department leaders.
- The Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan is due to the state on November 17th, it is in its final stages and will be brought to the Board of Health for review before the November 17th final date.
 1. The three priorities to be addressed in the health improvement plan will be improving brain health and reducing substance misuse, improve access to dental care, and improve physical activity and nutritional wellness opportunities.
- Opioid Project Coordinator Interviews are to begin the week of the 23rd of October, 2023.
- Working with the GIS department to map opioid resources within Dubuque County.
- Received additional funding intended for outreach and promotion of seasonal

vaccines including Influenza, Covid, and RSV.

- Continuing the digitization of Health Department files.

8. Action Items – None.

9. Response to Public Questions – Responded to concerns throughout the month regarding vaccinations, specifically where to get them.

10. Unfinished Business

- Finance committee will be meeting with Director White and Stella Runde to develop the Budget.
- Performance Review Committee has yet to meet, Chairperson Larson has reached out to HR regarding the topic.
- Next meeting for the opioid subcommittee is November 2nd.
- Work is still being done to implement harm reduction boxes in Dubuque County.

11. New Business- None.

12. Board Communication & Reports – None.

13. Next Meeting – November 15, 2023 @ 4:30pm

14. Public Comment - None

15. Adjournment – Larson adjourned the meeting at 5:13pm.

Minutes by: Noah Dougherty