



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**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
Lynn “Tut” Fuller, MD

DUBUQUE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

September 23, 2024, at 4:30pm

**Dubuque County West Campus Conference
Room.**

1225 Seippel Rd. Dubuque, IA

MEETING MINUTES

Chairperson Larson called the September 23, 2024, Dubuque County Board of Health regularly scheduled meeting to order at 4:31 p.m., in person.

Members Present in Person: Sandra Larson, Amy Crow Sunleaf, Pat Lehmkuhl

Members Present via Zoom: Preeti Joseph, Mike Fidgeon, Jess Smith

Members Absent: Lynn “Tut” Fuller

Staff Present in Person: Allie White, Carissa Brown

Staff Present via Zoom: Bailey Avenarius,

Others Present in Person: Ann McDonough, Brittany Hubanks, John Sewell, Carla Kasal, Diane Pape Freiburger, Todd Felderman

Others Present via Zoom: Kevin Dragotto, Diane Kay Anderson, Lisa J., Brandi Blatz, Mary Rose Corrigan, Harley Pothoff, Alyssa, Mike Freiburger

1. **Roll Call** – A quorum was established.
2. **Public Comments** – None.
3. **Chairperson Announcements & Updates** – Larson requested 2-3 volunteers from the Board of Health to form a nominating committee for new officer elections in January 2025. Lehmkuhl and Smith volunteered. Additionally, a finance committee was formed with volunteers Fuller and Crow Sunleaf. Larson noted that Smith and Crow Sunleaf's terms expire in December 2024 and encouraged attendees to promote qualified candidates and support current members seeking reappointment. She stated that Governor Reynolds recently announced that Board appointments, statewide, would prioritize qualifications rather than gender balance. Larson urged the Board of Supervisors to appoint the most qualified applicants rather than using term limits as a priority. Larson emphasized the importance of voting this November because Public Health is on the ballot.
4. **BOS/BOH Liaison Comments** – McDonough highlighted the availability of bookmarks from the Auditor's office to promote voting and addressed Larson's concerns about Board of Health

member qualifications, encouraging those who believe in science to apply. She emphasized that citizens have the right to know who has applied and urged the County to allow candidates to speak to the Board of Supervisors during open meetings. McDonough also noted that applicants can be college students or young adults, not just retired individuals.

5. **Approval of Agenda** – Motioned by Crow Sunleaf to approve the September 23, 2024, Regularly Scheduled Board of Health Meeting Agenda; seconded by Lehmkuhl. The motion carried unanimously.
6. **Approval of Minutes** – Crow Sunleaf motioned to amend the minutes from the August 21, 2024, Board of Health meeting to include Larson's nay vote for action item 9a. The motion was seconded by Smith and carried unanimously.
7. **Presentations & Reports**
 - a. Local Respiratory Virus Activity Report – White presented community data on respiratory virus activity, noting that vaccines are readily available. McDonough suggested providing free rapid tests at DCPH for citizens. They also discussed the potential for conducting COVID-19 wastewater surveillance testing using federal grant funding
 - b. Dubuque County Public Health Report – White shared updates regarding the Dubuque County Public Health Department.
 - c. VNA Monthly Report – Brittany Hubanks shared updates regarding the Dubuque Visiting Nurse Association.
 - d. Opioid Settlement Funds Report – Brown updated the group on planning for the use of opioid settlement funds, noting that the initial location at a New Day Clinic was unsuitable for the Naloxone distribution machine. McDonough expressed a desire to stick to the original placement plan. Brown will update the Board of Health when the placement is final. Larson referenced an editorial in the Telegraph Herald praising the expansion of Naloxone availability, mentioning a case where it might have saved a life. She also highlighted the illegality of fentanyl test strips in Iowa and encouraged the community to advocate for their legalization.
8. **Consent Items** - Larson motioned to approve the consent items, which included the FY25 Board of Health & City of Dubuque Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Subrecipient Agreement and the FY25 Board of Health & VNA Local Public Health Services Grant Subrecipient Agreement. Crow Sunleaf seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously without discussion.
9. **New Business** – None.
10. **Board Communication & Reports** – None.
11. **Response to Public Questions** – None.
12. **Next Meeting** – October 16, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m.
13. **Public Comment – Items Not on the Agenda** – Kasal noted that she hadn't received a response from Killian regarding her inquiry about fluoride in drinking water, and Hubanks will follow up on this. McDonough expressed interest in receiving a report on new grant opportunities available to DCPH.
14. **Work Session** – Todd Felderman from Seneca Companies, an environmental firm, requested the Board of Health to consider adding language to restrict new wells from being installed within 500 or 1,000 feet of known contamination or leaking underground storage tank (LUST) sites. He noted that if this amendment is made, frequent monitoring of Truck Stop LUST sites could be discontinued. Sewell mentioned that Watershed could assist with

erosion control and permit applications in certain cases. White will convene a group of County departments (zoning, health, watershed) that may be impacted by the proposed changes to seek consensus before presenting to the Board of Health. If approved, the updated ordinance would need to be submitted to the Iowa DNR.

15. Adjournment – Larson adjourned the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

Minutes by: Allie White