

Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2023

Link to view the Meeting Recording: [Meeting Recording](#):

Chairperson, Sandra Larson called the February 15, 2023, Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting to order at 4:32 PM, via in-person and zoom.

Members Present: Sandra Larson, Amy Crow Sunleaf, Jess Smith, Mike Fidgeon, via Zoom, Hendrik Schultz

Members Absent: Adam Hoffman, Pat Lehmkuhl

Others Present: Allie White, Laura McCarthy-Kohn, Stacey Killian, Ann McDonough, Evan Hudson, Catherine Caitlin, Vicki Allendorf, Diane Heiken, and Lori Peter

1. Roll Call – A quorum was established.

2. Public Comments

Evan Hudson, Program Coordinator with Dubuque Harm Reduction, addressed the Board, regarding the MAT Agreement that is on the agenda. He voiced his concerns of access barriers to this program and asked that the Board address those barriers. Evan spoke with Representative, Isenhardt; they suggest that the Board reach out to Representative, Joel Fry, to inquire as to how the opioid settlement money is being spent.

3. Chairperson Announcements and Updates

a. Sandra shared that members of the Board and the Health Department gave their budget presentation to the Board of Supervisors in late January and to date, the Board of Supervisors have not acted on the budget request.

b. Update on the Strategic Planning Committee, Sandra shared that an RFP (Request for Proposal) has been completed and that the committee will meet bi-weekly.

c. Sandra reminded the Board of its goal to prevent, promote and protect the public health. She shared her personal concerns of the increasing gun violence and the lack of concern for safety, as a public health concern in our country. She asked that the Strategic Planning Committee keep this in mind.

4. BOS/BOH Liaison Comments

a. Supervisor McDonough discussed the presentation that the Board of Supervisors received from the Sheriff and Emergency Management and that each school in the state of Iowa, received \$50,000 to do safety planning for their school.

b. Through ARPA funds, the Board of Supervisors approved \$300,000 for the Mercy One Mobile unit and during Mercy One's presentation, it was discussed how this would assist with opioid treatment. Supervisor McDonough shared that Dubuque County does not currently have an agreement with Mercy One for the MAT program and that the Board of Health would not be able to vote on this today.

4. BOS/BOH Liaison Comments, Continued

- c. Supervisor McDonough introduced Catherine Caitlin as the new Chair for the Food Policy Council.

5. Approval of Agenda

- a. Mike Fidgeon made a motion to approve the agenda for February 15, 2023; Jess Smith seconded the motion, and with 5 Ayes, the motion was passed.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes for regularly scheduled meeting on January 18, 2023.
- b. Minutes for the special meeting held on January 23, 2023.

Amy Crow Sunleaf made a motion to approve the minutes for both dates; Jess Smith seconded the motion, and with 5 Ayes, the motion was passed.

7. Presentation & Reports

a. Dubuque County Health Department Report

1. Laura McCarthy-Kohn presented information on revenue generated from the purchase of septic and well permits from FY22 and thus far, in FY23.
2. Laura shared that Bailey Avenarius, the Environmental Specialist, is gearing up for septic pump truck inspections that will begin in the spring.
3. Allie White shared highlights from the connections she's made with the various community partners that she's been in contact with.
4. Allie shared that the RFP (Request for Proposal) for the Strategic Planning is complete and will be posted on the County website soon.
5. Update on the Opioid Settlement Funds, Allie share that a committee will be formed.
6. Allie shared that the AAR (After Action Report) for COVID-19 is near completion.
7. Allie shared that work on CHA (Community Health Assessment) is being done with a steering committee comprised of area agencies and partners.
8. Allie shared some data and background information on the MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) program and the agreement that the County had with Mercy One.
9. Allie introduced, "nhanes" (National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey). Dubuque County was selected to host their event from May – July 2023.

b. VNA Monthly Report and COVID-19 Update

1. Stacey Killian shared that for the month of January, through all the programs that the VNA offers, a total of 1,304 services were provided.
2. The VNA visited schools to provide dental services.
3. Stacey shared that participants in Medicaid, will need to re-enroll – this is due to the state of emergency ending.
4. The VNA is paying close attention to and providing information on the increase in vaping, eating disorders and suicide.
5. The VNA is developing two Advisory Councils: a Maternal Health and a Child Health. Anyone interested in serving on either, may contact Stacey Killian.
6. COVID-19 update: Stacey reports that the community level is at a medium and the Omicron variant is still present. The vaccine numbers have increased slightly. There's been a slight increase in Mpox. Influenza level is at a minimal and hospitalization is down considerably.

8. Action Items

- a. The MAT Agreement with Mercy One – Sandra shared that the Board does not have funding for this program and per Supervisor McDonough, Mercy One will need to request a Purchase of Service Agreement from the Board of Supervisors. At this time, the Board chose to table the vote to participate in this program.
- b. COVID-19 reporting frequency. The Board discussed the need to continue to provide weekly IMT and monthly COVID reports. Dr. Schultz has been monitoring both and is confident that unless there is an uptick, these reports can be less frequent and eventually phased out. Dr. Schultz motioned to approve the IMT report to go out monthly, and the COVID-19 and vaccination reports to be done quarterly. Amy Crow Sunleaf seconded the motion and with 5 Ayes, the motion was passed.

9. Response to Public Questions

- a. Sandra Larson received several correspondences from Representative Chuck Isenhardt:
 - 1. He would like the Board of Health to get involved with FH-261, an act that requires the results of private well water tests be disclosed prior to the sale of a rural property.
 - 2. Per Representative Isenhardt, bills are being proposed to prohibit IA. Schools from teaching on subjects such as HIV and HPV. He's urging people to contact our Legislators.
 - 3. Representative Isenhardt is following up on a previous request to have the Health Department consider testing for PFAS. Sandra asked the department to check with Grants to Counties, to see if this test can be included with tests the department is currently doing.
 - 4. Representative Isenhardt asked if Dubuque County has a problem with childhood exposure to lead.

10. Unfinished Business

- a. Update on Enforcement Procedure: Sandra shared that the Board has requested a copy of procedures from a few other counties, before she and Allie begin work on a draft. Supervisor McDonough shared that the County Attorney, is not opposed to the Board of Supervisors hiring a Civil Attorney to assist the Board of Health in legal matters.
- b. Update on the use of Mercy's Mobile One Unit: Stacey Killian reached out to a Mercy One Representative and a meeting is being planned to discuss the use of the mobile unit for vaccines and additional healthcare needs.
- c. Update on the Community Health Services Agreement with the VNA: All the documents have been signed and the agreement is complete.
- d. Update on the PIO (Public Information Officer) Agreement with the City Health Department. The terms of the agreement have ended, and the final invoice is being processed.

11. New Business

- a. Review the Board of Health Governing Body Bylaws. The comments noted in red are from Becky Nowachek, with IA. HHS. Sandra asked Board members review the bylaws and plan to to discuss any recommended changes at next month's meeting.

12. Board Communication & Reports

- a. Amy Crow Sunleaf shared meeting information: Sponsored by the Dubuque Area Substance Abuse Council on February 23, 2022, from 1:00 – 2:00 PM at the Keystone Area Education site.

13. Next Scheduled Meeting is on March 22, 2023 (vs March 15) at 4:30 PM.

- a. The Board agreed to change the date of the meeting, due to conflicts with spring break.

14. Public Comments

- a.** Catherine Caitlin, Chair for the Food Policy Council, introduced herself and is looking forward to partnering with the Board of Health and the Health Department.
- b.** Vicki Allendorf, Executive Director of a federal, non-profit, “I Hate Heroin” addressed the Board regarding the Opioid Settlement Committee – she supports Evan Hudson being a part of the committee. She expressed her full support for the MAT program.
- c.** Diane Heiken, a retired Pharmacist, shared her support for the MAT program and hopes the Board recognizes the program for the invaluable tool that it is. She has asked the Board to consider increasing the Naloxone access and distribution. Diane shared that through the Omnibus Bill, the County Health Departments are named as secondary distributors – currently, there’s not enough Information being provided on this.
- d.** Lori Peter, a detox Nurse, mentioned that in the state of Iowa, there are only three (3) detox centers and hopes that the Board will keep this in mind, during their future planning.

15. Adjournment

- a.** Jess Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Amy Crow Sunleaf seconded the motion, and with 5 Ayes, the motion was passed. Sandra Larson adjourned the meeting at 5:41 PM.