

Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2023

Chairperson, Sandra Larson called the April 19, 2023, Dubuque County Board of Health regularly scheduled meeting to order at 4:31pm, via in-person and zoom.

Members Present in Person: Sandra Larson, Amy Crow Sunleaf, Patricia Lehmkuhl, Mike Fidgeon

Members Present via Zoom: Hendrick Schultz, Jess Smith

Members Absent: Adam Hoffman

Others Present: Allie White, Tina Daubenberger, Ann McDonough, Diane Pape-Freiburger, Kevin Dragotto

1. Roll Call – A quorum was established.

2. Public Comments

None

3. Chairperson Announcements

- a. Sandra Larson shared that the FDA approved Covid-19 booster vaccines for those aged 65 and older, who had not received a booster within the previous four months.
- b. Sandra Larson shared a news release regarding the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) opportunity for Dubuque County residents and was unsure if it had been published in the newspaper.
- c. Sandra Larson shared that Peosta, IA hosts the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety and suggested a partnership regarding farming safety education. Sandra also stated that the American Public Health Association (APHA) supports rural health and recommends that be considered during strategic planning.
- d. Sandra shared a Telegraph Herald article in which the Congregational Leadership Teams of the Sisters of Charity, Sisters of Presentation, Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, and Sinsinawa Dominican Leadership Council called for support of trans youth. Sandra emphasized that we must make sure that people who are marginalized are not marginalized further.

4. BOS/BOH Liaison Comments

- a. Supervisor McDonough shared that the brain health East Central Region (ECR) has targeted specific outreach to farmers for stress relief and brain health issues and that the Region is aware and working on this as a separate issue as well.
- b. Supervisor McDonough stated that when strategic planning commences, planning sessions must be published and subject to open meetings law. Sandra Larson asked if the open meeting would need to occur only if there is a quorum and Supervisor McDonough responded citing that the Iowa Code does not allow for exclusions for strategic planning of governmental boards to not be public, even in the absence of a quorum. Supervisor McDonough further stated that citizens have the right, not to participate, but to listen in and learn.

- c. Supervisor McDonough shared that on March 28, the Watershed Group (a 28E agreement between City of Dubuque, Dubuque County, and the Soil and Water Commissioners and led by Eric Schmechel) met. Adam Hoffman presented detailed water studies conducted by the University of Dubuque (UD). Super McDonough stated that Adam and his group demonstrate extraordinary effort and great leadership and may be a resource for water sampling in the future. Supervisor McDonough emphasized that we are beginning to draw a skeletal framework and voiced support for continued collaboration on water sample data collaboration between departments.

5. Approval of the Board of Health Meeting Agenda

Amy Crow Sunleaf motioned to approve the agenda for April 19, 2023; Hendrick Schultz seconded the motion, and with 6 Ayes and 0 Nays, the motion was passed.

6. Approval of the Board of Health Meeting Minutes

a. Minutes for March 22, 2023

Mike Fidgeon motioned to approve the minutes; Patricia Lehmkuhl seconded the motion, and with 6 Ayes and 0 Nays, the motion was passed.

7. Presentations & Reports

a. County Health Department Report

- i. Allie White introduced Tina Daubenberger, Dubuque County Health Department Clerk, who may assume secretarial duties on behalf of the Board of Health in the future.
- ii. Allie White referenced the Board of Health report and highlighted the following events and tasks that have been completed by the Health Department since March 22, 2023:
 - 1. Allie attended Power Grid Tabletop Exercise at Upper Iowa University March 22, 2023.
 - 2. Allie and many local public health partners attended the Iowa Public Health Conference at Iowa State University March 28-29, 2023.
 - 3. Allie and Amy Crow Sunleaf attended an Opioid forum hosted by the Dubuque Police Department March 29, 2023.
 - 4. Allie met with the Iowa Counties Assurance Pool (ICAP) to discuss departmental policies and procedures.
 - 5. Bailey Avenarius was a guest presenter for Environmental Health Courses at Senior and Hempstead.
 - 6. Allie attended a tobacco prevention grant meeting March 18, 2023.
 - 7. Bailey Avenarius completed the Annual septic truck inspections.

- iii. Allie White referenced the Board of Health report and highlighted the following ongoing projects within the Health Department:
 - 1. Strategic Planning will commence with a kickoff on May 26, 2023.
 - 2. Laura McCarthy Kohn has resigned, and Allie will develop policies to encourage retention and recruitment of qualified staff.
 - 3. Community Health Assessment survey extended through April 28, 2023 providing an opportunity for citizens to provide input. Survey can be completed by visiting the Dubuque County Health Department website or Facebook page.

- iv. Allie White referenced the Board of Health reports and highlighted the following future plans for the Health Department:
 - 1. Epworth Town Hall Meeting, Friday April 23 10a-11:30a. Allie White and Amy Crow Sunleaf will be present.
 - 2. Board of Health Strategic Planning session will take place at the Dubuque County West Campus in the afternoon – details forthcoming.
 - 3. The Community Health Assessment committee will continue to gather information from other sources following the completion of the survey. The entire plan is due to the State in November 2023.
 - a. Hendrick Schultz voiced appreciation for following different avenues to elicit community input.
 - b. Supervisor McDonough inquired if students were asked to take the survey during the environmental course. Allie answered that they were not, but if given the opportunity, would incorporate moving forward.
 - 4. Sandra Larson asked if additional Opioid Settlement meetings had been scheduled. Kevin Dragotto answered that the next meeting would be in May to discuss the possibility of an endowment.

b. VNA Monthly Report

- i. Sandra Larson shared that Stacey Killian was not able to attend the meeting but had provided a thorough written report and offered for her assistant to attend on her behalf. Sandra did not feel it was necessary and there were no questions, comments, or concerns about the VNA report.

c. Detailed Budget Report

- i. Sandra reviewed the detailed budget report, noting that the negative signs were a result of government accounting and not of concern and that the Health Department is within budget. There were no questions, comments, or concerns about the budget report.

d. Replacement of Assistant Director

- i. Sandra Larson shared that a committee had been formed to re-evaluate the job description and pay scale for the of Assistant Heath Director. If the changes become ready to be voted on by the Board of Health, a special meeting may need to be called.

8. Action Items

None

9. Response to Public Questions

None

10. Unfinished Business

- a. Amy Crow Sunleaf requested that Enforcement Procedures be returned to the agenda for future meetings and stated that the health Department continues to encounter scenarios for which enforcement procedures would be helpful. Amy also suggested that Sherriff Joe Kennedy be included in the process.

11. New Business

None

12. Board Communications & Reports

- a. Amy Crow Sunleaf stated that the DASAC Park Cleanup will be Saturday, May 13, 10:30am at the Bee Branch Park. Amy also shared that a group of Jefferson Middle School students are enacting their own park cleanup day because they are not able to attend on the 13th.
- b. Amy Crow Sunleaf shared that the Dubuque Police Department Opioid Forum was very well-organized and had broad community representation. At times, the content was depressing and overwhelming. Amy encouraged others to watch the recording if available.
- c. When asked, Jess Smith indicated that a vote regarding accessibility of Narcan was scheduled for March 29, 2023.

13. Next Scheduled Meeting is May 17, 2023, at 4:30pm

14. Public Comments

- a. Diane Pape-Freiburger asked how the public will be informed of eligibility for Covid-19 boosters. Diane has heard from individuals who are unaware that they were eligible for the Bivalent boosters in October 2022, and she knows of many who may participate if the boosters were promoted.
- b. Ann McDonough stated that one week ago, the state passed a law allowing firearms to be stored in vehicles on school property if they are locked. Ann stated that her Granddaughter attends Kindergarten in Dubuque and in her school, one week ago, during an argument, a student stated that they would bring a gun to school to kill the other. Ann stated that the incident was handled by the school following a policy written by Mae Hingtgen. Ann was informed by Sherriff Joe Kennedy that the incident had not been reported to the Sherriff's Department. Ann asked that during strategic planning, the role of public health in the matter of gun safety and gun violence be considered.
- c. Ann McDonough stated that she has heard from community members that the idea of placing Opioid Settlement funds into an endowment is not acceptable.
- d. Ann McDonough stated that the Dubuque Food Policy Council continues to need support and is now meeting bi-monthly.
- e. Ann McDonough stated that she values the work being done and thanks those present for their service.

15. Adjournment

Amy Crow Sunleaf motioned to adjourn; Hendrick Schultz seconded the motion, and with 6 Ayes and 0 nays, the motion was passed at _____.