

## **Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting Minutes**

### **June 21, 2023**

Chairperson, Sandra Larson called the June 21, 2023, Dubuque County Board of Health regularly scheduled meeting to order at 4:32 pm, via in person and zoom.

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

**Members Present via Zoom:** Jess Smith

**Members Absent:** Adam Hoffman, Hendrik Schultz

**Others Present:** Ann McDonough, Wayne Kenniker, Harley Pothoff, Allie White, Stacey Killian, Tina Daubenberger, Ben Fischer, Chuck Isenhardt, Ed Raber, Deb Anglin, Diane Heiken, Carla Kasal, Diane Pape Freiburger, Noah Dougherty

**1. Roll Call** - A quorum was established.

**2. Public Comments**

None

**3. Chairperson Announcements**

- a. Sandra Larson attended Watershed Field Day organized by Eric Schmechel and suggested that the public health department partner with him for future events such as these. Sandra shared that a new organization called Farmer to Farmer is forming in Dubuque County as well. Adam Hoffman was quoted extensively in the Telegraph Herald article that followed the Field Day.
- b. Sandra is being asked in public to “do something with opioid settlement funds.” Would like to form an ad hoc committee to discuss the use of the \$570k that will be in our county by the end of the summer. Sandra emphasized that the Board of Health needs to start spending some money to stop the deaths. Sandra asked if others would be interested in joining a committee to which Mike Fidgeon, Amy Crow Sunleaf, Pat Lehmkuhl, Jess Smith, and Ann McDonough responded that they would be interested. Sandra read a letter from Charles Isenhardt, Representative dated June 21, 2023 for part of Dubuque County urging the Board of Supervisors to order the Board of Health to consult and convene all stakeholders to present a request to spend opioid settlement funds. The letter also urged the Board of Supervisors to provide the financial support needed to undertake this task. After reading aloud the letter, Sandra stated that she feels that the Board of Health can advance this effort without the need for an order from the Board of Supervisors. Sandra referenced a recent Telegraph Herald article describing Naloxone on the University of Platteville campus, emphasizing that the effort took over a year, and recommended that the Board of Health begin work immediately. Sandra says that certain places, such as schools, can legally maintain Naloxone on site. Sandra also referenced vending machine style Naloxone distribution and noted that is not currently legal in Iowa. Amy Crow Sunleaf mentioned that Loras and Clarke have Narcan and that adding to NICC and VNA had recently been discussed. Diane Heiken states that that she believes that certain Clarke and Loras staff carry Narcan and it is not left unattended for public

access. Sandra issued a correction regarding a statement by Evan Hudson at the May 17, 2023, Board of Health meeting during which he referenced Dubuque having lost 30 citizens to Covid-19. Sandra stated that 320 beloved citizens were lost to Covid. Jess Smith stated that Narcan was approved for OTC by FDA and is not yet available in that form, but access will increase significantly soon. Sandra recommended stockpiling Narcan for those who need and cannot afford it.

#### **4. BOS/BOH Liaison Comments**

- a. Pleased that discussion regarding Opioid Settlement Funding is occurring and strongly encouraged that the item be added as a standing agenda item so that the public is aware. The BOH used to have a standing subcommittee regarding opioid and substance use disorder and met the first W of every month. Ann was part of this and it's time for robust planning to occur. Noted in minutes and requested robust discussion about Strategic Planning update. It needs to be systemic, what is the process, finances, sustainability, who will measure and report back and where is the funding going to come from. Hillcrest A New Day flyer, schools can have Narcan present in the schools and Lindsay James is engaged in that conversation – may be room for community support.
- b. Thanked Adam Hoffman for his work at the County level related to Watershed facilitated meeting at EB Lyons to address water quality in IA. Featured in TH this weekend next to Eric Schmehhel. Relationship between BOH, watershed critical.
- c. Disabilities council, Samantha Berglin would like to partner with BOH.
- d. Requested strategic plan update

#### **5. Approval of the Board of Health Meeting Agenda**

- a. Mike Fidgeon motioned to approve the agenda for June 21, 2023; Pat Lehmkuhl seconded the motion, and with 5 Ayes and 0 Nays, the motion was passed.

#### **6. Approval of the Board of Health Meeting Minutes**

- a. Mike Fidgeon motioned to approve the minutes for May 17, 2023; Pat Lehmkuhl seconded the motion, and with 5 Ayes and 0 Nays, the motion was passed.

#### **7. Presentations & Reports**

##### **a. County Health Department Report**

- i. Allie White introduced Noah Dougherty, University of Iowa Public Health student interning with the Dubuque Co Public Health Department.
- ii. Strategic Planning update – Phase one is complete and consisted of a planning session with Evident Analytics. Deliverables will include updated mission, vision, values, and goals. Phase two is currently occurring – consultants interviewing community members identified by Allie. Phase three will involve another on-site visit.
- iii. Opioid Settlement Funding update – Time to stop talking and start going. Allie attended the Iowa State Association of Counties planning summit facilitated by

the Opioid Response Network in Des Moines. The overarching message was to have Naloxone available in every community.

- iv. Community Health Assessment updates – Community input survey has been closed. Steering Committee continues to meet bi-weekly. Currently identifying reoccurring themes and identifying top priority areas around which to build actionable items.
- v. After Action Report update – Report is complete and will soon be reviewed by the Incident Management Team.
- vi. Offside Soccer Complex Bar and Grill updates – Restrooms have been closed and porta potties are in place. Department of Investigation and Appeals will notify Dubuque Co Public Health Dept if the food license is suspended or revoked given the restroom status. Compliance with septic system moving forward is the responsibility of the State and not the local level.
- vii. Grants to Counties update – Dubuque County received an additional \$40k of Grant funding thanks to the work that Bailey is doing related to testing and remediation of private wells in Dubuque County.
- viii. IA HHS has engaged a vendor to study the delivery of health and human service departments in the State of IA.
- ix. Sandra commented to welcome Noah and recognized the Dubuque Co Health Dept facebook page. Sandra also extended a thank you to the community stakeholders that attended the Strategic Planning Session.
- x. Amy praised the work that Bailey Avenarius is doing in our community.

**b. VNA Monthly Report**

- i. Stacey Killian addressed that Homemaking Homecare Aid services have increased by 32% and are extending further into the rural areas (extending from 6% to 20%).
- ii. May 30, 2023 site visit by State Epidemiologist, Scott Seltrecht and will be providing advanced Epidemiology training session.
- iii. Site visit for Covid Vaccine distribution on Monday, June 19 and there were no deficiencies
- iv. iSmile – 2002-23 school year – 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> grade screenings, fluoride, sealants. Provided to schools with greater free and reduced. \$47k worth of free dental services.
- v. Community Health Collaboration – meeting routinely and targeting Back to School Bash at Audubon Elementary on August 5, 2023.
- vi. Community Outreach – attended Pride event and offered MPox and Covid d vaccines, Juneteenth Event, Dubuque Co Fair, Back to School Bash, National Night Out.
- vii. Breast Cervical Cancer/Wisewoman – Grants subcontracted by Dubuque Co. BCC covers several services 180 slots this year, 30 of which also met criteria for Wisewoman services (difficult to qualify for). Notified just today that the State of IA will end the Wisewoman grant in September 2023 because the state did not re-apply for CDC funding. Allie will forward letter stating such to Board of Health Members.

- viii. Sandra requested that Dubuque Co Public Health and Board of Health Logos be included on Community Outreach events that VNA attends.
- ix. Sandra inquired about the need for a Back to School Bash in the Western Dubuque Community School District.

## **8. Action Items**

- a. Board of Health Member nametags and business cards. Allie White offered to procure nametags and business cards for each Board of Health member using department office supply funds or through Human Resource department as recommended by Supervisor McDonough.
- b. Amy Crow Sunleaf motioned to supply nametags and business cards for any Board of Health Member that desired them; Pat Lehmkuhl seconded the motion, and with 5 Ayes and 0 Nays, the motion was passed.

## **9. Responses to Public Questions**

None

## **10. Unfinished Business**

- a. Sandra summarized a letter that she had written to the County Attorney with specific legal questions. Citing no recommendations for edits and no opposition from Board of Health members present at the meeting, Sandra will send the letter to the County Attorney.
- b. Enforcement Procedure update – County Attorney will be formally consulted via written letter from Sandra Larson.

## **11. New Business**

- a. Amy requested that 988 decals be added to Sherriff vehicles and Allie shared that, after consulting with Sherriff Joe Kennedy, 988 decals have been ordered and will soon be added to Sherriff's vehicles.
  - i. Sandra requested that the next meeting agenda includes discussion of placing 988 decals on other County vehicles.

## **12. Board Communications and Report-**

- a. Amy shared about ISU extension office collaboration.
- b. Amy shared that Health Collaboration is developing a poster to include in public restrooms across the county for emergency resources and to include all department logos
- c. Mike Fidgeon spoke about a flyer that Hillcrest had circulated related to the Opioid Epidemic. Mike stated that the flyer aims to inform people that they can obtain Narcan at area pharmacies– an effort on behalf of IA HHS. Mike also shared that Hillcrest has a lockbox on campus that contains various resources related to treatment and substance use disorders. Janae shared that it is an initiative pushed through by HIV and Hep C Dept of IA HHS. Box has a code that once opened, contains resources related to

Hep/HIV testing, vouchers for Narcan, wound care kits (bandaids, gloves, alcohol wipes) No syringes or Narcan.

- d. Mike introduced Janae Schmitt who shared that there is a new 988 social media kit containing promotional templates for public use.
- e. Sandra noted that Iowa law, at times limits the substance use disorder services that can be provided.
- f. Jess Smith has been in communication with the Food Policy Council. It is undergoing restructuring with kickoff meeting first week in August. Jess is on the invite list and hopes to share an update with the Board of Health following that meeting.

**13. Next Scheduled Meeting is July 19, 2023, at 4:30pm**

**14. Public Comments**

Supervisor Harley Pothoff referenced that Narcan has a shelf life and cautioned against stockpiling more than what can reasonably be used.

Supervisor Pothoff inquired about a septic grant to assist residents to replace septic systems. Allie will follow up with Supervisor Pothoff regarding the matter.

**15. Adjournment**

Amy motioned to adjourn; no second motion needed, and with 5 Ayes and 0 Nays, the motion passed.