

***Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting
Minutes of November 17, 2021***

Mr. Bechen called the November 17, 2021, Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present:	Tom Bechen, Diane Pape-Freiberger, Adam Hoffman, Sandra Larson, Hendrik Schultz, Amy Crow Sunleaf
Members Absent:	Katie Jones
Others Present:	Patrice Lambert, Dubuque County Health Department; Samantha Kloft, Dubuque County Health Department; Benjamin Fischer; TH; Ann McDonough, Chair of Dubuque County Supervisors; Stacey Killian, VNA; Danielle Stowell; Dubuque County Food Policy Council; Candance Eudaley-Loebach; Dubuque County Food Policy Council; Dave Baker; Wayne Kennicker; Amy Carley; Dana Simon

Additional Notes:

1. Roll Call

2. Public Comments

3. Approval of Agenda

Amy Crow Sunleaf made the motion to approve the Agenda for November 17, 2021. Hendrik Schultz seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Sandra Larson made the motion to approve the Minutes for October 20, 2021. Hendrik Schultz seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.

5. COVID-19 Update

Samantha Kloft shares her screen to display a presentation led by Patrice Lambert. Patrice gives the BOH a brief update on COVID-19 vaccinations in Dubuque County. She shares that Dubuque County remains at a community transmission level of high. Patrice also shares the following updates:

- Active cases have continued to increase significantly from October 2021 to November 2021.
- Total COVID-19 deaths in Dubuque County have increased by 11 in one month's time.

- Individuals ages 29 and under make up almost 50% of all positive COVID-19 cases in the last 7 days.
- Those age 0-10 remain the highest age group for total positive COVID-19 cases since the start of school on August 16, 2021.
- Zip code data on testing and vaccinations was shared as well.

Patrice also reiterates the mitigation strategies that have been voted on by the BOH in August 2021. These are only recommendations, not requirements for Dubuque County residents.

Diane Pape-Freiburger references a study she discovered that shows children do not have as severe COVID-19 symptoms as adults, overall. This study was additionally looking at levels of immunity among children compared to adults. Hendrik Schultz comments that immune systems of all age groups are complex. Adaptive immune systems working against COVID-19 react differently from children to adults which impacts mitigation/vaccination for these age groups as well. Hendrik adds that antibodies have been found to not be a good measurement for an individual's overall level of protection; Vaccines have an advantage over natural immunity.

Diane reiterates, it is recommended that all individuals age 5+ get the COVID-19 vaccine regardless of if you have had COVID-19 or not. Hendrik Shultz agrees and adds that more and more is being learned about the long-term effects of COVID-19. Getting COVID-19 could impact the future strength of your immune system.

6. BOH By-Laws

In June 2021, the BOH recommended to the BOS that the BOH remains at 7 members. Tom Bechen believes that since then, the Board has been working well and quorums have been met at each meeting.

Samantha Kloft shares her screen to display the BOH By-laws as Tom Bechen goes through the three proposed changes:

1. Under Section 1. Number:
Change the wording from "shall consist of at least five persons but no more than nine," to "shall consist of seven persons."
2. Under Section 4. Quorum:
Change "Three members of a five-person board shall constitute a quorum at any Board meeting. Five members of an eight- and nine-person board shall constitute a quorum at any Board meeting" to "Four members of a seven-person board shall constitute a quorum at any Board meeting."
3. Under Section 1. Disclosure:
Change "Any member of a Board Committee ..." to "Any member of a Board..."

Diane Pape-Freiburger made the motion to adopt the listed changes to the Board of Health by-laws. Hendrik Schultz seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.

7. Budget

a. Guidance from Budget Director

Tom Bechen shares that no guidance on FY23 budget has come from the Dubuque County Budget Director yet. He adds that at the next BOH meeting, members will be voting on the proposed FY23 Health Department budget. The Budget Committee consisting of Patrice Lambert, Samantha Kloft, and Tom Bechen will be meeting to compile this information prior.

b. Funding Request

Danielle Stowell and Candance Eudaley-Loebach present a proposal for funding increases on behalf of the Dubuque County Food Policy Council. This proposal was included in the Agenda Packet for all BOH members.

Tom Bechen comments that this proposal will be considered by the Budget Committee when putting together the proposal for FY23 and voted on by the BOH at the next meeting on December 15, 2021.

8. Mental Health Court Proposal Update

Amy Crow Sunleaf provides a brief update to the BOH on the proposal for what was formally known as “Mental Health Court.” The title has since changed to Dubuque County Behavioral Health Support and Judicial Advocacy Services. There have been two stakeholder meetings held over the past few months to include the following: Iowa Department of Correctional Services, Dubuque Police Department, Dubuque County Sheriff, Dubuque County Attorney, Hillcrest Family Services, Crescent Community Health Center, Substance Abuse Services Center, MercyOne Turning Point, Dubuque County Mental Health and Disability Services, Mental Health/Disability Services of the East Central Region, Iowa Court of Appeals, Representatives from local law firms and court judges, Members from Dubuque County Board of Health, and Members from Dubuque County Board of Supervisors. These groups have provided verbal support for the program moving forward. There will be a third stakeholder meeting in December before moving to the Board of Supervisors for final discussion/approval as a ARPA proposal. Many gaps have been identified through these meetings and adjustments have been made to the proposal as more is learned.

Some changes made to the proposal since last presenting to the BOH include:

- Removal of Narcan from budget
- Removal of five counseling sessions from budget
- Increase in general budget request
- Include contracts for services with providers such as Hillcrest and Crescent

Sandra Larson, who has attended the stakeholder meetings, reiterates her feelings on the importance of this work and the benefits of this proposal.

Adam Hoffman asks how the program will be assessed. Amy Crow Sunleaf responds that there are future meetings scheduled to address and plan for this.

9. BOS/BOH Liaison Comments

Supervisor Ann McDonough shares her feelings on the work shortage for counselors and prescribers in Dubuque County. She also adds that the County will no longer collect tax dollars for mental health programs/services. This money will all need to come from the State.

Supervisor McDonough emphasizes the gaps identified through the stakeholder meetings previously discussed. She stresses concern about funding for these programs. She adds that the supervisors voted to fund Catholic Charities to address the exact gaps identified through Amy and Samantha's work. She feels many of the things being addressed in the Dubuque County Behavioral Health Support and Judicial Advocacy Services proposal are already being addressed.

Supervisor McDonough also addresses the large budget requests coming from the BOH and the Health Department. These requests come from the Health Department, Food Policy Council and ARPA proposals. She urges the need for a strategic plan to provide support for these requests.

10. Next Meeting Date – December 15, 2021

11. Public Comment

Dave Baker – Asks the BOH to consider the need for additional testing resources in Dubuque County, specially for older adults and those without access to a computer. At this time, most COVID-19 testing requires an individual to have access to a computer and email to receive test results.

Dana Simon – Is worried about the amount of school students are missing due to COVID-19 exposures. She asks if this is required and if the BOH is legally allowed to require this.

Amy Carley – Reads the Nuremberg Code to the BOH and urges them to further study this.

Wayne Kenniker – Asks the BOH to provide the public with a place or time for their public comment concerns/questions to be addressed/answered.

12. Adjournment

Hendrick Schultz made the motion to adjourn at 7:35pm. Diane Pape-Freiburger seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.