

Dubuque County Board of Health
Minutes of April 20, 2022

Link to view the Meeting Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYADJzF3qhY>

Chair Sandra Larson called the April 20, 2022, Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting to order at 4:30pm in-person and via zoom. A quorum was established.

Members Present: Tom Bechen, Marsha Horwitz, Sandra Larson, Jessica Smith, Amy Crow Sunleaf, Adam Hoffman

Members Absent: Hendrik Schultz

Others Present: Ann McDonough, Bailey Avenarius, Ken Buesing, Elizabeth Kelsey, Becky Nowachek, Stacey Killian, Samantha Kloft, Wayne Kenniker

Additional Notes: None

1. Roll Call

2. Public Comments

None

3. Chairperson Announcements and Updates

Sandra Larson shows the BOH members a document from the American Public Health Association that provides key public health data points to allow Board members to better promote and speak on public health topics.

Sandra also thanks the VNA for the open house that was hosted in March for BOH and BOS members. Additionally, she spotlights Adam Hoffman for his article in the Juline's Journal regarding water quality.

Sandra Larson also shares the proclamation signed by the BOS to acknowledge National Public Health Week being April 4-10, 2022.

4. BOS / BOH Liaison Comments

Supervisor Ann McDonough thanks the BOH for their involvement on multiple county committees such as the Food Policy Council and Wellness Coalition. She also thanks the BOH for their input at the last meeting regarding two ARPA proposals that were approved by the BOS.

5. Approval of Agenda

Jess Smith requests to remove Item 7c from the Agenda as a representative from the Food Policy Council was unable to attend the meeting. Amy Crow Sunleaf also requests to change the minutes to reflect "March 2022" rather than "February 2022."

Amy Crow Sunleaf made the motion to approve the Agenda for April 20, 2022, with the requested amendments. Tom Bechen seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.

6. Approval of Minutes

Tom Bechen made the motion to approve the Minutes from March 16, 2022. Amy Crow Sunleaf seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.

7. Presentations & Reports

a. Response to Public Comment/Questions from Previous Meeting

Samantha Kloft shares her screen to display a question from last meeting regarding the change in meeting time and if it was done to improve BOH participation, or community participation. Sandra Larson responds that this was moved to better accommodate both BOH members and the public. The first meeting held by the BOH at 4:30pm received more participation than previous meetings held at 6:00pm.

Samantha Kloft discussed an email received by the BOH from a community member asking for updates on the BOH APRPA proposals. Samantha lets the BOH know she responded to these emails on 4/12/2022 and provided the requested information. The BOH did not have any additional comments or questions.

b. Guest Presentation – Becky Nowachek: LPHS Updates

Becky Nowachek from the Iowa Department of Public Health presents on changes to the Local Public Health Services Grant for the upcoming fiscal year. This grant is subcontracted from the BOH to the Dubuque Visiting Nurse Association (VNA). Stacey Killian from the VNA provides a workplan put together with support from the Interim Director of the Dubuque County Health Department.

c. Guest Presentation – Dubuque County Food Policy Council

This item has been removed from the Agenda.

d. Dubuque County Health Monthly Update & COVID-19 Update

Samantha Kloft shares her screen to provide a COVID-19 data update to the BOH. She reminds the BOH that Dubuque County is at a Low Community Level. At this level the CDC recommends staying up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters, maintaining good ventilation, and making a plan for testing and treatment if/when needed. Isolation and quarantine guidelines have not changed. Cases have increased slightly in Dubuque County, while vaccination and testing options remain available.

Samantha shares that since last meeting with the BOH, the department has completed 53 Grants to Counties water tests. Bailey Avenarius, Environmental Specialist, has

assisted 18 community members apply for the Iowa DNR Infrastructure Fund that will cover the cost of septic replacement for these individuals. Additionally, the department is preparing to participate in upcoming events, including an emergency preparedness drill and Party for the Planet at the Mississippi River Museum. Samantha attended a NACCHO Emergency Preparedness Conference in Atlanta the first week of April that was a great way to learn from and network with other public health professionals.

- e. VNA Monthly Update
Stacey Killian provides a brief update to the BOH on grant progress for all subcontracted grants including Tobacco Abatement, Wisewoman/Care for Yourself, LPHS, and Immunizations.
- f. BOH Member Topics of Interest – Jessica Smith
Jess Smith presents on a IDPH initiative to increase Narcan access at local community business such as restaurants, bars gas stations, etc. The BOH discusses how this might look for Dubuque County. Sandra Larson and Amy Crow Sunleaf offer to take this information to other groups such as DASAC and Dubuque County Mental Health and Disability Services.

8. Action Items

- a. Full-Time Clerk IV Position Posting
Amy Crow Sunleaf made the motion to approve the Full-Time Clerk IV position for posting. Tom Bechen seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.

This will now move to the BOS for final approval and posting.

- b. Receive & File – Food Policy Council Grantees Quarter 2 Reports
Tom Bechen made the motion to receive and file the Quarter 2 reports for the Food Policy Council grantees. Jess Smith seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.

9. Unfinished Business

- a. Executive Director Position Updates
Sandra Larson shares a timeline for hiring the Executive Director. This timeline was shared with the BOH in advance through the Agenda Packet. They anticipate the new employee starting mid-late July.

Sandra, Amy, Jess, and Dawn Sherman will continue to meet with the recruiter and share findings with the BOH.

Sandra also asks for a list of community stakeholders to participate in the interview process. If the BOH has any suggestions, she urges them to email Samantha Kloft.

- b. Well & Septic Updates – Permitting Process & Permitting Fees
Bailey Avenarius provides an update to the BOH on development of a new septic permitting process. This permit was presented to the BOH at the March meeting and

has since been reviewed by the Iowa DNR, City of Dubuque Health Services, Dubuque County Attorney, and local septic installers.

Adam Hoffman suggests making a verbiage change to the beginning of the permit that explains what is required for a percolation test and/or soil analysis.

Jess Smith made the motion to approve the proposed permit with the proposed changes, as well as the permitting process. Tom Bechen seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.

c. Ordinance Updates

Sandra Larson shares with the BOH that she will be meeting with County Auditor Kevin Dragotto and Samantha Kloft to discuss ordinance changes and the process moving forward. There will be more to share at the next meeting.

10. New Business

None

11. Board Communication & Reports

Marsha Horwitz reports on the last Wellness Coalition meeting she attended and discussed Health Hometowns.

Amy Crow Sunleaf reports on the last DASAC meeting she attended.

Sandra Larson reports on the last Food Policy Council meeting she attended. She lets the BOH know that the Council is in need of more growers.

12. Next Meeting – May 18, 2022 @ 4:30pm

13. Public Comment

Kathy Wimester – Asks when the next Food Policy Council meeting is. That will be May 9, 2022, at 4:00pm.

Ann McDonough – Asks the BOH to have a discussion about maternal health issues in Dubuque County.

14. Adjournment

Tom Bechen made the motion to adjourn. Amy Crow Sunleaf seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried. Sandra Larson adjourned the meeting at 6:00pm.