



Board of Health
Sandra Larson, JD, BSN
Preeti Joseph, MD
Jess Smith, PharmD, MPH
Mitchell Edwards, MD
Mike Fidgeon
Lynn "Tut" Fuller, MD
Kathryn J. Dolter, RN, PhD,
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army (Retired)

Dubuque County Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 16, 2025 | Time: 4:30 p.m.

Location: Dubuque County West Campus Conference Room, 1225 Seippel Rd., Dubuque, IA & via Zoom

Call to Order

Chair Sandra Larson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. (in person and via Zoom).

Roll Call

Board Members (In Person):

- Sandra Larson, Chair
- Dr. Kathryn Dolter
- Mike Fidgeon

Board Members (Virtual):

- Dr. Jess Smith
- Dr. Mitchell Edwards

Board Members (Absent):

- Dr. Tut Fuller
- Dr. Preeti Joseph

Liaison (Virtual):

- Ann McDonough, Board of Supervisors

Internal Staff (In Person):

- Allie White
- Bailey Avenarius
- Tina Daubenberger
- Carissa Brown
- Emma Hilkin

Contracted Staff (In Person):

- Stacey Killian
- Kiane Smith

Guest (Outside Department):

- Diane K. Anderson, Regional Community Health Consultant, Iowa HHS

Public Attendees (In Person):

- Diane Pape Freiburger
- Jacob Schumacher
- Tricia Schumacher
- Carla Kasal
- Deb Anglin

Quorum Established

A quorum was established at 4:30 p.m.

Public Comment

None.

Chairperson Announcements & Updates

Chair Larson welcomed Diane Anderson from Iowa HHS. She referenced two recent editorials:

- *Cedar Rapids Gazette*: “New Measles Cases Are a Wakeup Call,” highlighting the need to strengthen public trust in vaccinations.
- *The New York Times*: Discussed a new federal bill that could leave nearly 12 million Americans uninsured by 2034.

Larson emphasized the urgency of these issues, noting, “Our work is cut out for us.”

Board of Supervisors Liaison Comments

Supervisor McDonough reported the Humane Society contract was finalized with anticipated changes. She noted her vote against the contract due to increasing costs and concerns over county taxpayers covering services for municipalities.

She encouraged exploring cost-efficiency and mentioned potential service reductions. McDonough also expressed appreciation for those present and concern over board member absences.

Dog Licensing Discussion:

Chair Larson suggested exploring county dog licensing as a revenue option. McDonough acknowledged the idea but emphasized enforcement challenges and the need for legal approval by the County Attorney. Further research will be required.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion by Larson to move Action Item 8C immediately after minutes approval. Seconded by Dolter. Motion carried.
 - Motion by Larson to approve amended agenda. Seconded by Dolter. Motion carried.
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Approval of Minutes – June 18, 2025

- Motion by Fidgeon, seconded by Dolter. Approved unanimously.
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Action Item 8C: Waiver Request – 19420 Herber Rd., Dubuque, IA

Request:

Homeowner Jacob Schumacher requested a one-time waiver to drill a new well 40 feet from an existing septic tank (10 feet closer than the Iowa Administrative Code setback of 50 feet), due to low water yield from the current well.

Review:

- Environmental Specialist consulted with Daniel Watterson (Iowa DNR), who supported the waiver under local authority.
- Homeowner will maintain documentation and conduct annual water testing.
- All requirements will be recorded with the Dubuque County Recorder.

Waiver Criteria Met:

1. Undue hardship: No other viable water source.
 2. No prejudice to others’ legal rights.
 3. Not specifically mandated by law.
 4. Public health protections maintained through annual testing.
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- Motion to approve waiver by Fidgeon, seconded by Dolter. Approved unanimously.

Presentations & Reports

a. Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) – Director Stacey Killian

Program Updates:

- **Site Visits:**
 - HHS Child Health: Positive feedback.
 - Family Planning: Services expected to launch in September.
 - Ryan White site visit scheduled for July 23.
- **Oral Health:**
 - Oral Health Advisory Committee met; next meeting July 29.
- **Tobacco Prevention:**
 - Services transitioned to VNA to avoid gaps.
- **BCC/CFY Programs:**
 - Resumed after federal funding delay.
- **Community Outreach Events:**
 - Attended Pride event in June
 - Dubuque County Fair (daily attendance)
 - Upcoming:
 - *Aug 2:* Back to School Bash
 - *Aug 5:* National Night Out
 - *Aug 9:* Crescent Steppin' Up
 - *Sept:* Latinx Festival
 - *Sept 18:* Wellpoint Health Fair
 - *Sept 23:* West Dubuque Health Fair
 - *Oct 4:* Kids Expo (immunizations, oral health, WIC)
- **New Initiative:**
 - Car seat distribution in partnership with Dubuque County Early Childhood.
- **Measles Update:**
 - Following accelerated MMR schedule.
 - Outreach in progress to increase vaccine access.
- **School/Childcare Engagement:**
 - Preparing for immunization audits and outreach.
- **Impact Metrics:**
 - 2,500–3,000 community interactions reported in one month.
- **Success Stories:**
 - Referrals led to food pantry support and same-day service coordination.
- **Vaccine Rates:**
 - ~96% school vaccination rate.
 - Dolter suggested co-branding Iowa Immunizes materials.
 - Pape-Freiburger provided additional resources.

b. Dubuque County Public Health (DCPH) – Director Allie White

1. Assessment & Surveillance:

- Monitoring measles case; promoting MMR vaccination.

2. Policy Development:

- BOS approved DRHS contract:
 - FY26: \$150/dog, \$100/cat
 - FY27: \$180/dog, \$105/cat

- DRHS will stop accepting live-trapped animals.
- Ordinance updates underway; awaiting County Attorney input.
- 3. Community Partnerships:**
 - COAD meeting held July 10.
 - Collaboration initiated with UD Medical School Director.
 - Measles Incident Management Team (IMT) convening regularly.
- 4. Accountability & Performance:**
 - Emma Hilkin now full-time.
- 5. Equity:**
 - VNA offering measles vaccines regardless of insurance status.
- 6. Emergency Preparedness:**
 - Planning AED installations in county libraries this fall.
 - 30% reduction in preparedness funding noted.
- 7. Organizational Competencies:**
 - Environmental Specialist interviews underway.
 - Exploring office space expansion.
- 8. Communications:**
 - IHHS press release identified Dubuque as a potential exposure site.
 - Larson raised legal support concerns; McDonough clarified only the County Attorney can authorize external counsel.
 - Emergency funding cuts acknowledged (effective July 1).

Action Items

a. MAT (Medication-Assisted Treatment) RFP

- One proposal received: Hillcrest Family Services (\$110,416.61)
- Project: Expand MAT services via Contingency Management incentive model.
- Approved by both review and BOH subcommittees.
- Brown requested Board approval to advance to BOS.
- Fidgeon recused (Hillcrest CEO).
- Motion previously moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

b. Opioid Settlement Fund – Q1 General Application - \$100,000 allocation for initiatives outside the strategic plan.

Recommended Awards:

- ASAC (Dubuque): \$35,000 for full-time assessment counselor (50% of request).
- NAMI Dubuque: \$14,400 for two part-time peer facilitators (full request).
- Operation Empower: \$45,523 for peer recovery specialist and supplies (50% of request).

Total Awarded: ~\$94,923

Remaining: ~\$5,000

- One application for a TruNarc device (\$34,000) not funded due to limited direct impact on individuals with opioid use disorder. Suggestion made to seek BOS funding instead.

Smith thanked applicants, noting the high quality of submissions and limited funds.
Motion previously moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.

Response to Public Questions

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Chair Larson introduced Dr. Mitchell Edwards and welcomed his future in-person participation.

Board Communication & Reports

Larson inquired about meeting time poll. White reported full participation; most preferred 4:30–5:30 p.m. No change at this time, but flexibility remains a priority.

Public Comment

None.

Next Meeting

Date: August 20, 2025 | Time: 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Larson at 5:41 p.m.

Work Session

Presenter: Kiane Smith, Registered Dental Hygienist & I-Smile Coordinator, Dubuque VNA
