



Board of Health
Sandra Larson, JD, BSN
Preeti Joseph, MD
Jess Smith, PharmD, MPH
Pat Lehmkuhl, MSN, BSN, RN, CIC
Mike Fidgeon
Lynn “Tut” Fuller, MD
Kathryn J. Dolter, RN, PhD,
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army (Retired)

DUBUQUE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

January 15, 2025, at 4:30pm

Dubuque County West Campus Conference Room.

1225 Seippel Rd. Dubuque, IA

MEETING MINUTES

Chairperson Larson called the January 15, 2025, Dubuque County Board of Health regularly scheduled meeting to order at 4:31 p.m., in person.

Members Present in Person: Sandra Larson, Dr. Kathryn Dolter, Mike Fidgeon, Pat Lehmkuhl

Members Present via Zoom: Dr. Preeti Joseph, Jess Smith, Lynn “Tut” Fuller

Members Absent: none

Staff Present in Person: Allie White, Nicole Bertges, Carissa Brown

Staff Present via Zoom: Tina Daubenberger, Bailey Avenarius

Others Present in Person: Ann McDonough, Carla Kasal

Others Present via Zoom: none; no zoom option to the public.

1. **Roll Call:** A quorum was established
2. **Public Comments:** none
3. **Chairperson Announcements & Updates:** Larson highlighted the positive media coverage the Health Department was receiving, emphasizing key initiatives. These included the ongoing efforts to establish local partnerships, White’s interview addressing the federal connection between alcohol use and cancer, and Brown’s interview discussing the introduction of Narcan boxes to combat opioid overdoses.
4. **BOS/BOH Liaison Comments:** McDonough discussed the ASO, addressing the unknown details and potential issues that may arise, while also proposing a review of items such as budgeting considerations. She suggested that this topic could be considered for a future agenda item. Fidgeon shared updates on the informational meetings that have occurred, and Larson proposed that these discussions could be incorporated into a future work session.
5. **Approval of Agenda:** Motioned by Fidgeon to approve the January 15th Board of Health Agenda, motion seconded by Lehmkuhl; motion carried unanimous.
6. **Approval of Minutes:** White informed the board of a correction to the December 18th minutes, noting that Daubenberger should be listed as an attendee. Larson also suggested

moving Dolter from the "board members" section to "others present." A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Lehmkuhl, seconded by Fidgeon, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Presentations & Reports

- a. DCPH Monthly Report- White began by expressing gratitude to the board for their hard work and acknowledged colleagues for their progress in outreach, education, and services. She provided the Seasonal Virus report, noting the ongoing monitoring of influenza, with influenza A being the most prevalent strain. COVID-19 cases remained low, while RSV continued to be a concern statewide. White emphasized that vaccines remained a priority, with the VNA offering free vaccinations to both children and adults.

White also provided an update on avian influenza in Iowa, including one mild human case. The Iowa Department of Agriculture is leading the response, with support from Iowa Health and Human Services. Through their partnership with the VNA, testing capacity is available if necessary, and a biosecurity task force has been established at the county level in preparation for potential response needs. The state has expanded vaccination programs to include poultry and dairy farmers, and the Dubuque County Public Health Department, VNA, and MercyOne will be present at Dairy Days in New Vienna on February 27th. Additionally, two billboards in Dubuque and Dyersville will be rented to promote awareness.

Larson inquired about the availability of safety equipment for dairy workers, to which White responded that a recent webinar may contain relevant information, and she would follow up with the board. Larson also commented on the limited availability of masks at local stores, suggesting the need for future planning. McDonough expressed concerns about the effectiveness of vaccination messaging within the farming community and offered outreach resources for consideration.

White also discussed community outreach efforts, including partnerships with the Conservation Department and Dubuque County Veteran Affairs. She highlighted the upcoming Parent Night event and TB screening at the Marshallese Constitution Day celebration on May 24. Additionally, White provided an update on Naloxone distribution, with 63 boxes used, showing significant community need. Two smaller boxes have been placed in Sherrill and Luxenberg, and Dolter suggested creating a visual representation of the use.

White reported ongoing work on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and a digitization project. She mentioned that the department's budgets have been submitted and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors. White also discussed revisions to the state codes for septic pumper trucks and private well sewage disposal, which will prompt corresponding updates to local ordinances. She provided information on new legislative developments, including the creation of a task force to investigate high cancer rates and potential contributing factors. Lehmkuhl suggested inviting Crescent to the TB event and future working sessions. Dolter emphasized the importance of using metrics to assess the impact of projects and referenced available resources for data already collected.

- b. VNA Monthly Report – Stacey Killian was not present but had submitted a report

included in the agenda packet. White reported that the VNA continues its community outreach efforts. Larson drew attention to the 42 individuals currently on the waiting list for home care/aid, highlighting the ongoing staffing challenges contributing to this backlog.

8. **Action Item:** Lehmkuhl and Smith served as the nominating committee. The committee proposed Larson as the 2025 chairperson, Lehmkuhl as vice chairperson, and Bertges as secretary. Larson inquired about any other nominations, and with none presented, Fidgeon motioned to approve the nominations. Dolter seconded the motion, and Lehmkuhl moved for a unanimous vote, which was seconded by Dolter. The motion was adopted unanimously.
9. **Response to public questions:** No public questions received.
10. **Unfinished Business:** Board discussed the previous request to amend the Board of Health bylaws in regard to the term limits. Dolter reported that while some boards have members that have served upward to 35 years, the state has a 3-year term limit with no limit to the number of times a board member can serve.
11. **New Business:** none
12. **Board Communication and Reports:** Fidgeon shared details about the state's new realignment of mental health services and discussed Crescent's role in the revised system. McDonough expressed concerns regarding the limited understanding of brain health within the community, as well as the exclusive nature of Crescent's services, highlighting that individuals must be established clients to access their mental health care.
Dr. Joseph commented on the need to educate the public about the risks of avian flu to the agricultural workers and its impact on the entire community. Larson highlighted the new medical school coming to the county.
13. **Next Meeting** – February 19, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m.
14. **Public Comment** – Kasal raised concerns previously discussed regarding the presence of e-sports in schools, asking whether the Department of Public Health had been consulted on the matter. White responded that the schools had not consulted the department. Larson inquired whether a representative from the schools attended the Wellness Coalition meetings. White confirmed that they were included but noted that due to the meeting time, attendance might not always be possible.
15. **Work Session** – none
16. **Adjournment** –Lehmkuhl motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 pm

Minutes by: Nicole Bertges