

Strategic Goals:

○ **DUBUQUE COUNTY, IOWA CHA & CHIP 2023**

#1. Brain/Mental Health (including alcohol and drug misuse)

#2. Obesity (including physical activity and nutrition)

#3. Access to dental care

#1. Thank you to Allie and her staff at the Board of Health for working on multiple initiatives to try and keep us healthy in Dubuque County with minimal resources!

#2. Thank you to Stacy at the VNA and to Mary Rose Corrigan at the City of Dubuque Department of Health for all they do to keep Dubuque County citizens healthy because the Dubuque County Board of Health could not perform its mission without these public health partners.

#3. Public Health Issues Currently in the News:

- Measles
 - Outbreak in Wyoming
 - Case in Des Moines
- Nationwide intestinal Cyclosporiasis (sigh-klo-spore-EYE-uh-sis) infection
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/cyclosporiasis/php/surveillance/index.html>
- Tick borne diseases
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/data-research/facts-stats/tick-bite-data-tracker.html>
- Heat injuries
 - <https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/Applications/heatTracker/>

#4. Health Impact of Data Centers

- AI Data Centers are continuously in the local and national news. 7 of 10 Americans oppose the construction of local data centers.(Gallup, 2026). There are many concerns regarding the construction of data centers including light, air, noise, water, and air pollution and the unstated impact of those types of pollution on health.

Seven in 10 Americans Oppose Local Construction of AI Data Centers

Overall, would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the construction of a data center in your area to support artificial intelligence, or AI, technology in the U.S.?

■ % Strongly favor ■ % Somewhat favor ■ % Somewhat oppose ■ % Strongly oppose



March 2-18, 2026
"No opinion" percentage not shown

[Get the data](#) • [Download image](#)

GALLUP

- The headline of the front-page article in the August 2026 edition of *The Nation's Health* published monthly by The American Public Health Association reads "Data Centers increasingly encroaching on health."
- The article identifies the following:
 - Montgomery County Maryland, County Executive "We've seen too many examples in government where development outpaces policy. The responsible approach is to establish the rules, understand the impacts, and then make decisions with a clear framework. The welfare of our residents, whether it is public health or environmental impacts is paramount."
- And *The Nations Health* continues:
 - "As artificial intelligence and growing computing needs drive a rapid expansion of data centers nationwide, public health experts say communities need to look beyond the jobs and tax revenue. Data centers reals electricity demand and costs, strain the power grid, increase emissions from fossil fuel energy and backup generators, consume large amounts of water, add noise and heat, and reshape land use."
 - The article then outlines the Noise, Energy Cost, Water, and Air impacts of data centers on public health and identifies the need for permitting decisions to be made with a full account of the public health costs.
- The Dubuque County Board of Health Data Center Health Impact Subcommittee will be convening monthly Data Center Health Impact Working Group meetings to evaluate the impact of Light, Noise, Water, Air, and Hazardous Waste associated with data centers on public health and recommend standards, and prevention and mitigation strategies to the Dubuque County Board of Supervisors and Dubuque County Zoning Commission. Meetings will generally be on the 4th Wednesday of the month at

5 PM at the Board of Health. The schedule will be posted on the Dubuque County website. Citizens will be able to submit evidence-based materials on each topic of the identified to the e-mail address identified on the schedule. We look forward to full county-wide participation of all citizens in this effort to use evidence to develop standards and prevention and mitigation strategies to ensure the public health of the citizens of Dubuque County.



Board of Health

Sandra Larson, JD, BSN

Preeti Joseph, MD

Mitchell Edwards, MD

Lynn “Tut” Fuller, MD

Jeff Metcalf, MD

Jack Dolehide, DO

Kathy J. Dolter, RN, PhD,

Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army (Retired)

DUBUQUE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes – July 16, 2026 | 5 p.m.

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

Call to Order: Chair Dolter called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. (in person & Zoom).

Roll Call:

Board Members (In Person):

- Sandra Larson
- Kathy Dolter
- Jeff Metcalf

Board Members (Virtual):

- Preeti Joseph

Board Members (Absent):

- Mitchell Edwards
- Lynn “Tut” Fuller
- Jack Dolehide

Liaison (Virtual):

- Ann McDonough, Board of Supervisors Liaison

Internal Staff:

- Allie White
- Bailey Avenarius
- John Sewell
- Emma Hilkin
- Tina Daubenberger

Contracted Staff:

- Stacey Killian
- Brittany Hubanks
- Cristee Miner

Members of the Public:

- Diane Pape Freiburger
- Erica Felton
- Jay Schmitt
- Mary Drapeau
- Carla Kasal
- Deb Anglin
- Diane Anderson
- Mike Wolter
- Chuck Isenhardt
- Laura Willging

Quorum Established: at 5:04 p.m.

Public Comment:

- Jay Schmitt asked whether the variance request for the septic system was included on the agenda. Dolter confirmed that it was on the agenda and stated that the item would be moved to the beginning of the agenda.

Chairperson Announcements & Updates:

- See Addendum A for Dolter's announcements and updates.

BOS/BOH Liaison Comments:

- Supervisor McDonough stated that the BOS is seeking to retain separate expert counsel regarding the proposed data center ban. She advised that the BOH should be prepared in the event that the anticipated timeline is accelerated.

Approval of July 15, 2026, Agenda: Dolter suggested a revision to move the petition for waiver to before approval of minutes. Motion by Larson, seconded by Metcalf; approved unanimously.

Action Item**Petition for Waiver - 1763 St. Catherine Rd Bellevue, IA 52031 – Mary Drapeau**

- Sewell summarized the petition for waiver included in the agenda packet. Sewell expressed reluctance to support the petition, noting that the existing sand filter is sized at approximately 67% of the capacity required by code for a six-bedroom residence. The Board reviewed the four requirements for obtaining a waiver and determined that the petition did not satisfy the required criteria.
- Larson moved to deny the petition for waiver. Metcalf seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of June 24, 2026, Minutes: Larson noted an error in the previous meeting minutes stating that the Data Center Subcommittee would meet monthly rather than quarterly. Larson moved to amend the minutes to reflect that the Data Center Subcommittee will meet quarterly. Metcalf seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Presentations & Reports

DCPH Quarterly Environmental Health Report - Bailey Avenarius

- Avenarius summarized the Environmental Health Report, which is provided in greater detail in the meeting packet. Larson raised the question of whether the Board should consider allocating funding for private well water testing during the upcoming budget process, noting that DCPH is receiving reduced grant funding from the state.
- Dolter requested that, at a future meeting, staff provide an estimated number of private wells in Dubuque County, the number of homeowners who submit water samples to the DCPH laboratory for testing, and information on how other counties are prioritizing available grant funds.

DCPH Monthly Report - Allie White

- White summarized her Monthly Report which is in greater detail in the packet. No questions from the Board of Health.

VNA Monthly Report - Stacey Killian

- Killian summarized her Monthly Report which is in greater detail in the packet. No questions from the Board of Health.

Response to Public Questions

Inquiry from Mr. Isenhardt regarding DCPH grant funding and subcontracting

- The information is included in the meeting packet, along with the related email correspondence.

Inquiry from Mr. Halan regarding Opioid Settlement General Application for Bridgewater Recovery

- The information is included in the meeting packet, along with the related email correspondence.

Data Center Inquiries

- Dolter shared data center inquiries that were addressed during the Data Center Subcommittee meeting. Erica Felton's inquiry was regarding the mental health impacts of data centers. Mary Beth Decker's inquiry was regarding the potential impact of asthma in relation to data centers. Laura Willging expressed interest in participating in the Data Center Citizen Working Group. DCPH inquired with the DNR about data centers and plans to post the document.

Unfinished Business

Combat Cancer 28E Agreement with Marion County Public Health

- White shared that Marion County's attorney agreed with the edits made by DCPH. The proposed changes will be presented to the Marion County Board of Health for approval.

Contingency Plan for SF2432

- The plan is to meet with the City of Dubuque Health Department to develop a contingency plan.

Iowa Public Health System Alignment Update

- This information was included in White's report.

Board of Health Ad Hoc Data Center Committee Update

- This information was provided at the beginning of the meeting.

Board of Health Ad Hoc Position Committee Update

- The committee has not yet met. This item will be included on next month's agenda.

Board of Health Ad Hoc Ordinance Committee Update

- MSA is revising and consolidating several ordinances to streamline the requirements and help ensure that development is conducted in an efficient and effective manner while protecting the interests of county residents.

New Business None

Board Communication and Reports:

- Larson noted that community members review the Board of Health's information and emphasized the importance of communicating information to the public. Joseph recommended that DCPH share information about cyclosporiasis on its Facebook page.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 5 p.m.

Public Comment:

- Diane Pape Freiburger commented that Dr. Michael Osterholm published an article regarding cyclosporiasis. Additionally, she noted that most private wells are located in the rural areas of Dubuque County but informed DCPH staff that private wells are also located within the city limits. She thanked the Public Health Department, Board of Health, and especially the Environmental Health Specialists for their work in sampling private wells.
- Erica Felton shared that nitrate levels have doubled from 2024 to 2025. She anticipated that testing may increase as more information becomes available to the public. Felton expressed interest in learning more about nitrate levels in Dubuque County and plans to conduct additional research. The Board was unable to respond to the question at the meeting and will add the topic to a future meeting agenda.
- Supervisor McDonough shared that the Board of Supervisors will hold a town hall meeting to discuss water-related concerns. Community members may submit questions regarding nitrate levels to DCPH.
- Laura Willging shared additional concerns regarding data centers. Dolter encouraged Willging to bring her concerns to the Data Center Citizens Working Group. Supervisor McDonough stated that Willging could contact her for assistance with getting connected to the BOS work.

Adjournment: Motion by Metcalf at 6:22 p.m.

Work Session

Dubuque VNA Family Planning Program - Cristee' Miner, Family Planning Coordinator

- The presentation slides are included in the agenda packet. There were no further questions.

Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr-SPC	May	June-SPEC	July
Sandra Larson	1	1	1		1		1
Lynn "Tut" Fuller	1		1	1	1		
Preeti Joseph	1	1	1				1
Mitchell Edwards	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Kathy Dolter	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Jack Dolehide	1	1	1			1	
Jeff Metcalf	1	1	1	1	1	1	1