

ALLAMAKEE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

January 11, 2023

LOCATION: Board of Supervisors Room, Allamakee County Courthouse

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeanne Stein, Board of Health Chair; Dr. Bill Withers; Lynn O'Hara; Jan Ellingson and Dan Byrnes, Board of Supervisor

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Mandy O'Neill- BOH Secretary, Sheryl Darling-Mooney- CHC, Laurie Moody- Environmental Health, Amanda Josvanger-Unity Point, Grant Davis & Taylor Meyer- Hillcrest Family Services

Board of Health meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS: Motion to approve minutes from November with changes made by Dr. Withers and seconded by Lynn O'Hara. All in favor. Motion carried.

GUESTS:

- Amanda Josvanger came to the meeting to give an overview of the public health program at Unity Point Dubuque Visiting Nurse Association. 1st Five is a public health partnership with primary care providers to improve rates of developmental screening to coordinate referrals, interventions and follow up for children referred to the program. VNA consists of 8 counties service area including Allamakee County. In the past year, she has met with VMH Medical Clinic and Postville Medical Clinic to be sure they are aware of the necessary screenings to send referrals onto Unity Point for the 1st Five Grant. For 1st Five, a Developmental Support Specialist can assist families by connecting them to a wide variety of resources including early intervention services through Keystone, childcare assistance, transportation, and food, utility, and clothing assistance. Screenings are done by phone call for the initial screening. The requirements for this program are child needs be ages 0-5, referred by a primary care provider and must live in the state of Iowa. **Handouts on services are available in Environmental Health Office**

-Grant Davis & Taylor Meyer are HIV Development Coordinators with Hillcrest Family Services in Dubuque. Offer testing for STI and HIV, they offer condoms, and training in harm reduction and offer wound care kits. There has been staff turnover so haven't been to our County in a while. Treatment, care plans, referrals, and health fairs for STI and HIV testing. Per chat feature on zoom, Taylor mentioned they are happy to travel with their supplies to our area and would need space, with no compensation necessary. Free service for testing and treatment. They also offer vaccination of Twin Rix. They would send us fliers and advertise for our area. Due to them being logged off zoom before there was an option to mention this to the Board, this discussion is tabled until the next meeting. Motion by Jan Ellingson to table this discussion from Hillcrest Family Services HIV Clinic; seconded by Dr. Withers. All in favor. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Dr. Withers makes a motion to nominate Jeanne Stein as Chair and Jan Ellingson as Vice Chair. Dan Byrnes seconded. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

APPOINTMENT OF BOH SECRETARY: Jeanne makes a motion to appoint Mandy O'Neill. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL FOR CHAIR TO SIGN ROUTINE RENEWABLE GRANTS/AMENDMENTS WITHOUT

BOARD VOTE: Jeanne states there's a lot of grants with amendments which might be a dollar amount, or something small. If any new grant comes up, it would go before the Board. Dan Byrnes makes a motion for the Chair or Vice Chair to sign without a Board vote; Lynn O'Hara seconds. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Jan Ellingson was appointed by the Board of Supervisors on 1/3/2023 to fill the board vacancy.

Lynn O'Hara makes a motion to keep the time and date of 2023 meetings as the 2nd Wednesday of every other month starting in January at 9am; Dr. Withers seconded. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Conflict of Interest was signed by all Board Members.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Sheryl Darling-Mooney - CHC Updates** Lisa is unavailable due to something that came up at the last minute. The agenda item regarding voting on clinical manager will be tabled until next time. Motion made by Jan Ellingson; seconded by Dr. Withers. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Dr. Withers made a motion to designate Veterans Memorial Hospital CHC as the Allamakee County Health Department; Lynn O'Hara seconded. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Budget information has changed from carefax to matrix care and there were crossover issues. **FY23 2nd Quarter Report & End of Year Report-** Compared to this time last year, there are a few less home health clients. Staff have been very busy, and December was very busy with referrals. On the Public Health side, there have been a lot of vaccinations given. Those who have received the COVID vaccine, generally are compliant with remaining up to date with boosters. No active TB at this time. Most COVID cases test with an at home test so accuracy of statistics reported by IDPH/CDC are not very accurate. We hope that if people feel the need to test, they will follow the correct guidelines for isolation. Schools reported a large percentage of absenteeism between the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. If a school has more than 10% absenteeism, they are required to report it to IDPH. One school site in particular had frequent days of >10% absent. Public Health is alerted to these absenteeism rates and offers assistance to the schools. It is a wide range of illnesses reported including RSV, COVID, Influenza, Norovirus, etc. There is a testing panel that can be done to test for COVID, Influenza, and RSV. In the last year 4,062 vaccinations to 2,777 people through Public Health. Their vaccine partners Gundersen Clinics in Lansing & Waukon, VMH Clinics in Waukon & Postville, Nightingale and Hartig Pharmacies have also helped to vaccinate residents of Allamakee and beyond. Discussion took place on religious and medical exemptions for COVID vaccines. One school district has taken an extra step of requiring students to receive vaccine or not be at school if an outbreak would take place. Example- If there was an MMR outbreak in a district, they would require the students be vaccinated or not attend until the outbreak was deemed to be over. Schools have all done a good job making sure vaccination records are up to date. Jeanne asks about public output of information for vaccines and Sheryl states they have been and will continue to be putting information out there. Dan asks about hospital masking regulations if statistics aren't valid. Sheryl responds it's more about respiratory infections than a COVID statistic.

- **Laurie Moody- Environmental Health**

- Due to glitches in Iowa Grants, all second quarter information has been removed and the grant site has been on hold since November. So 2nd Quarter reports cannot be completed yet. We're hoping the site is operational soon.

- **Expense/Revenue Reports-** October, November & December Dan Byrnes made a motion to approve these reports as presented and Dr. Withers seconded it. All in favor. Motion carried.
- **BOH FY24 Budget-** Budget reviewed by all members and no changes made. Dan Byrnes makes a motion to approve FY24 Budget; Jan Ellingson seconds. All in Favor. Motion carried.
- **Environmental Health FY Budget-** Laurie states Grant to County amount, salary, FICA and IPERS need amounts entered in the proposed budget to even create one. An email was sent to GTC asking for budgeting purposes, if the next budget is expected to be the same as this year, which was \$50,505. So, for budgeting proposal, this is the number used. 5% wage increase is figured in, although we don't know the percentage yet and 10% is increased for health insurance. Vehicle expenditure has \$17,000 in both the grant and EHD budgets. This may not even be enough to cover the cost, it's just an estimate for a mid-size SUV. Dan Byrnes makes a motion to approve the budget as presented, but leave salaries, vehicles and health insurance to supervisors discretion; Dr. Withers seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
- **Board of Health Chair Comments/Correspondence-** Letter from Roxane Schleich at Veterans Memorial Hospital to approve the consent to assignment of agreement with the conversion of VMH from a City to County Hospital. Dan Byrnes made a motion to sign the agreement; Lynn O'Hara seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Michael Coyle also sent a letter stating there will be no change to Employer ID number with the conversion.

- **Contracts Update**— there weren't any contracts to sign.

Full audio minutes are available at the Environmental Health office.

FUTURE MEETING: The next meeting for the Board of Health will be Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 9am in the Board of Supervisors Office.

ADJOURNMENT: Lynn O'Hara made a motion to adjourn at 10:35 a.m. Dr. Withers seconded. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

APPROVED BY: _____ **DATE** _____

Jeanne Stein, Chairperson

MINUTES TAKEN BY: Mandy O'Neill

ALLAMAKEE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

March 8, 2023

LOCATION: Board of Supervisors Room, Allamakee County Courthouse

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeanne Stein, Board of Health Chair; Dr. Bill Withers; Lynn O'Hara; Jan Ellingson and Dan Byrnes, Board of Supervisor

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Mandy O'Neill- BOH Secretary, Sheryl Darling-Mooney & Lisa Moose- CHC, Jen Rose-Helping Services, Kiane Smith-I Smile **Via Zoom-**Taylor Meyer & Grant Davis- Hillcrest Family Services

The Board of Health meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS: Motion to approve minutes from January made by Dr. Withers and seconded by Dan Byrnes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jan Ellingson makes a motion that in the absence of clinical manager, Lisa can appoint the next chain of command, which is Sheryl Darling-Mooney for public health and Cindy Johnson for Home Health. Dan Byrnes seconded. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Taylor Meyer & Grant Davis with Hillcrest Family Services spoke that they are still looking for a location to have STI & HIV Testing for free as well as hand out harm reduction supplies and condoms.

GUESTS:

- **Jen Rose, Helping Services** No changes with Domestic Abuse Advocacy services director Kathleen Davis. The Family Education and Support team director is Barb Fjelstul. They are going into the homes for children ages birth to three for developmental screenings, weight checks and yearly health screenings. Prevention Services team will meet via zoom tomorrow from 11:30-12:30. The Integrated Provider Network Grant is promoting March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month. Began implementing Curriculum-Based Support Groups for 4th/5th graders at the after-school program in Waukon. This program is for small groups of youth whose high risk situations put them at an elevated risk for future behavioral and health problems including substance misuse, delinquency, and violence. There is an upcoming TIPS certification course (Training for Intervention Procedures) offered to all alcohol retailers and their employees in Allamakee County, being held on Monday, March 13th at Robey Memorial Library in Waukon from 4-7 PM. 11 participants became certified in TIPS (10 from Quillin's IGA in Lansing, 1 from Casey's General Store in Postville) at a training held at the Lansing Public Library in February. Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Grant has done vaping presentations for Middle & High School Health Classes as well as a High School Life Management Class. These presentations covered dangers that are associated with these products as well as cessation resources that are available. Staff is looking to conduct presentations for additional groups of adults who currently work with youth to provide updates on the Youth Nicotine Trends. The State Opioid Response 3 Grant is Continuing to provide training on Opioids, Psychostimulants,

Stigma, Harm Reduction, and Addiction. Training continues to be offered to agencies that provide/offer services in Allamakee County, community members, and medical/emergency personnel. Schools are able to have Naloxone on hand in case of an overdose or poisoning on school grounds. Information has been sent out to all schools in the county on this and staff will follow up to offer technical support with obtaining the Naloxone. The Youth Mentoring Grant for Youth Impacted by Opioids Recruitment-On March 26, the 2023 Youth Mentoring Bowl-A-Thon is being held. We have already raised \$6,675 from sponsors (businesses and individuals). There is still time to register to bowl at www.helpingservices.org/ymbowl

Screening- Procedures are helpful to determine if applicants are a good fit for the program.

Training- On 3/ 21, there will be a training on Internet Safety via Zoom from Noon-1.

Matching and Initiating-We currently have 10 matches. 5 youth are waiting-4 boys & 1 girl.

Monitoring and Support- Mentoring staff visit regularly with matches to help support them and coach them to overcome barriers when needed.

Closure- No matches have closed recently.

- **Kiane Smith- I-Smile Coordinator with VNA CSA 10** is an 8 County service area. Services provided are dental screenings, fluoride and varnish, nutritional counseling, maternal health, tobacco counseling and dental sealants. They attend the schools in Allamakee County for a sealant program each school year, which include WIC, Head start & Preschools. In 2022, 359 screenings were completed and in 2021, 308 were completed. They are seeing a 19% decay in Allamakee County and the state average is 17%. 1,700 kids in Allamakee County ages 0-20 are enrolled in Medicaid and there are no dental offices that will accept new Medicaid patients which is the biggest barrier with access. 39% of children statewide are enrolled in Medicaid and in Allamakee County is 46%. 13% of children 0-17 in the State of Iowa live below the poverty level and in Allamakee County is 15%. 44% of pregnant women in Iowa have no dental care with 56% of Allamakee County pregnant women not receiving dental care. 63% of new mothers in Iowa reported receiving no dental care with 66% of new mothers in Allamakee County.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Lisa Moose & Sheryl Darling-Mooney - CHC Updates** On January 30, President Biden announced the National Public Health Emergency Declaration will be ending the COVID19 Pandemic on May 11. Questions are arising on how our County will get vaccine here, as of right now, Public Health allocates what vaccine is needed for all county vaccine partners and orders it on a monthly basis. Free COVID tests kits are currently available free of charge, and vaccines are available at no charge right now, unsure what that will all look like going forward. Pfizer is the bigger vaccine producer and requires vaccine storage in an ultra-cold freezer and if one isn't available, can be kept in a vaccine refrigerator for 10 weeks from date of delivery. Grant funds are available to update the vaccine refrigerator and for the purchase of an ultra-cold storage freezer, along with the digital data loggers required for constant temperature monitoring. Once the ultra-cold storage is available in the agency the vaccine can be stored until the manufacturer's expiration date of the vaccine. Infectious disease count is at 55 cases for 2nd quarter FY23 with most of them being COVID. Nursing Visits- The current census is 65-70 clients. Janel Helgerson has been a nurse with CHC for 21 years and has resigned. Deb Hanson is retiring next month as well. There are

some in-house applications to fill these spots. There are two home care aides, and some PRN home care aides help occasionally when available. QUAPI data plan updates and audits reviewed. Matrix Care Software has a report available on wound care. Nurses use an IPAD in client homes and are able to take pictures using the IPAD. The photos then are immediately available in the client's chart.

- **Laurie Moody- Environmental Health 2nd Quarter FY23 Quarter Report**

2nd Quarter was just submitted to Iowa Grants last week, as this site has been shut down since October. Working on getting 2022 septic maps and well logs in from contractors.

The Septic Variance for Stan Fullerton at 1235 N 2nd Street, Lansing, is not an official application right now, it's just to make you aware it's most likely coming in May. The only access is to come through Brad Hermans lot due to the retaining wall. There isn't an agreement yet for access until Brad is back from vacation. The permit will be for a 3,000-gallon holding tank which will most likely be placed closer than the 10' minimum from a property line. Lynn O'Hara makes a motion to table the variance; Dan Byrnes seconded. All in favor. Motion Carried.

- **Expense/Revenue Reports-** January & February- Dan Byrnes made a motion to approve these reports as presented and Dr. Withers seconded it. All in favor. Motion carried.

- **Board of Health Chair Comments/Correspondence-**

Contracts Update— was signed on paper on 2/20/23- 58885BT403 Amendment #14 adding \$19,000 for the purchase of an ultra-cold freezer-refrigerator and temperature monitoring system in COVID 19 crisis response budget.

This was missed being mentioned in January as it was signed 12/1/22- 5885BT403 Amendment #13 Emergency Response Multi Year Program.

Dr. Withers asks about the Hospital conversion from City to County, wondering if there's bumps in the road or business as usual. The vote was to acquire the assets of the hospital and the thought was that the Gundersen building was part of the Hospital, and the City says that building and the parking lot is theirs and they plan to continue renting that out to Gundersen. Staffing updates- CFO, Roxanne, has resigned and County Attorney has retained help of another Attorney to help with the transition. The public needs to know that losses are being backfilled with the County Levy. There is a consulting firm looking at taking on financial responsibilities at Veterans Memorial Hospital. Having the hospital in town is a great thing and it's good to be able to help it be successful.

Full audio minutes are available at the Environmental Health office.

FUTURE MEETING: The next meeting for the Board of Health will be Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 9am in the Board of Supervisors Office.

ADJOURNMENT: Dr. Withers made a motion to adjourn at 10:17 a.m. Lynn O'Hara seconded. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

APPROVED BY: _____ **DATE** _____

Jeanne Stein, Chairperson

MINUTES TAKEN BY: Mandy O'Neill

ALLAMAKEE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

May 10, 2023

LOCATION: Board of Supervisors Room, Allamakee County Courthouse

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeanne Stein, Board of Health Chair; Dr. Bill Withers; Lynn O'Hara; Jan Ellingson and Dan Byrnes, Board of Supervisor

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Mandy O'Neill- BOH Secretary, Sheryl Darling-Mooney & Lisa Moose- CHC

The Board of Health meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS: Motion to approve minutes from March made by Lynn O'Hara and seconded by Jan Ellingson. All in favor. Motion carried.

GUESTS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Lisa Moose & Sheryl Darling-Mooney**

CHC Updates- QUAPI Report- Wound assessment was done with 100% weekly measurements and documentation. On 4/20/2023 an admission information audit was completed on 74 patient records. The audit was to ensure that clinical records contained clients DNR status and Disaster Triage status. There were 3 records that this wasn't completed on, so the result is a 96% completion rate. Disaster Triage is checking to see if clients are ok in their home without a visit or if they need to be checked on, for examples such as a tornado for those with oxygen, wound vacs, IV antibiotics, etc. People are coded upon admission if they can do without help for a day or so or if they need to get to them right away.

With the resignation of a full time nurse and retirement of another in March, there have been two hospital nurses who were requesting to transfer to CHC. Surgery has stated they are keeping the nurse for another 3 months until training is complete. Current client census is 73, with 5 referrals this week and they are working with 4 nurses 4 days a week and 1 nurse working 2 days a week. One new nurse has been able to come in 1 day a week, but it's very hard for her to remember how to do everything. The administration is fully aware help is needed and they are meeting with them today. There have been a few referrals declined due to the complexity of care. Hospital policy states the internal candidate is to remain in their current position until the replacement begins employment. The new hire applied on 2/21/23 and they've been waiting a long time to begin employment with CHC. A recent newspaper statement reads about therapy visits being up and there were 123 visits for the month. Turns out it was therapy visits in the home. Michael got stats from HIM but didn't clarify about being therapy visits in the home, not CHC visits. Dr. Withers asks if hospital is giving sign on bonuses. Some contention is that initially the starting wage was raised, so everyone got a \$2/hr. raise. Then everyone except home care got a \$3 raise. When Lisa

asked why CHC wasn't considered and was told that on 1/29/23 they would get a raise, but that wasn't the case. They got everyone up to 50th percentile of what the Iowa Hospital Associations wages are, so only three CHC employees got a raise to get them up to the starting wage of the hospital. Home care wages were already at the 50th percentile because employees have been there for up to 20 years longevity, so they should be making more than people just starting out.

Public Health Updates- Cases reports were unavailable due to new server software that was installed. 1st Quarter there was 45 infectious disease cases including Hep C, E Coli, COVID and STD. They were able to use grant money for new laptops, desktops and IPADS. Grant money pays for equipment and salaries. A lot of vaccines were no longer good after 10 days prior to the new Immunization refrigerator and ultra cold freezer where vaccines can now be kept until expiration dates. Lisa & Sheryl attended the Iowa Public Health State Conference and learned more about the direction Public Health is going. They did a tabletop exercise with a 14-county coalition in Fayette on power outages and identifying clients in need who are oxygen or ventilator dependent, or those who are in an electric chair when the power goes out. Corey Snitker is working with Upper Explorerland on a Hazardous Mitigation plan for Allamakee County. Starting in June, Blood Pressure clinics will be held in Postville, Lansing, Harpers and New Albin once per month at City Libraries for 2 hours. Looking at Waukon and Waterville as well. Immunization Clinic will be held Friday at the Postville School. The school Nurse and Sheryl work together to determine immunization status on immigration population. A Master Student from Viterbo worked with them in January on a Capstone Project and had her help update the Allamakee County Resource Guide. It will be rolled out over the next few months. Public Health Regional meeting focused on succession planning. The state epidemiologist is coming today to work with infectious disease cases. COVID vaccine boosters are now available for people who are immune suppressed or over age 65 are able to receive another booster. With grant money, portable solar generators have been purchased in the event of a power outage. These can charge electronically and the maintenance department at VMH is helping with this and storage.

- **Laurie Moody- Environmental Health Update by Mandy O'Neill-** Mandy attended the Regional Environmental Health Meeting in Charles City with Laurie where the 28E agreements were discussed, which is a formal agreement with Board of Health to allow her and another county to work back and forth with each other. A sample was given to the Board to review. On April 14, heard back from the Iowa Finance Authority on the "Unsewered Communities" grant, they wanted further information. The previous variance request for Stan Fullerton at 1235 N 2nd St Lansing is no longer needed. A 2023 Jeep Cherokee was purchased for Env. Health Department in April. The 2008 Trailblazer is being handed down to the Planning & Zoning Department. As of now, Grant to Counties has not paid out 1st, 2nd or 3rd quarters.

3rd Quarter Report- 7 animal bites, 42 water tests, 5 TOT Inspections, 0 septic permits, 2 well permits and 38 radon kits. There is \$26,783.43 Grant money remaining for 4th quarter.

- **Expense/Revenue Reports-** March & April- Dan Byrnes made a motion to approve these reports as presented and Jan Ellingson seconded it. All in favor. Motion carried.

- **Board of Health Chair Comments/Correspondence-
Contracts Update**— was signed on paper on 4/13/23- 5884BT103 6 yr. response & 507814-
FY24 LPHS. ON 3/16/23 resigned the freezer amendment for adding \$285 for monitoring
temperature.

Full audio minutes are available at the Environmental Health office.

FUTURE MEETING: The next meeting for the Board of Health will be Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 9am in the Board of Supervisors Office.

ADJOURNMENT: Dr. Withers made a motion to adjourn at 9:55 a.m. Dan Byrnes seconded. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

APPROVED BY: _____ **DATE** _____

Jeanne Stein, Chairperson

MINUTES TAKEN BY: Mandy O'Neill

ALLAMAKEE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

July 12, 2023

LOCATION: Board of Supervisors Room, Allamakee County Courthouse

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeanne Stein, Board of Health Chair; Lynn O'Hara; and Dan Byrnes, Board of Supervisor; Dr. Bill Withers on via zoom

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jan Ellingson

OTHERS PRESENT: Mandy O'Neill- BOH Secretary, Sheryl Darling-Mooney- CHC, Lauire Moody- Environmental Health; Jen Rose- Helping Services and Katie Strub- Allen Child Protection Center via zoom.

The Board of Health meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS: Motion to approve minutes with corrections from May made by Lynn O'Hara and seconded by Dan Byrnes. All in favor. Motion carried.

GUESTS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Sheryl Darling-Mooney CHC/Public Health Updates-** CHC has been keeping busy with offering community blood pressure clinics in all community libraries. Public Health has ordered retractable signs made in English, Spanish, Somali and Hebrew. There was a Postville school vaccination clinic held in May where 67 vaccinations were given and now looking into having a clinic before they go back to school, so students are up to date before the school year. A Viterbo master's student was with CHC and through her Capstone Project, she assisted with updating the Allamakee Resource Manual based on healthcare needs and social services. This document is fluid and able to be updated by CHC administration as well as the nursing student who helped update it. This document will be rolled out and made available to the public soon.

Public Health is working on a survey to be distributed to multi-sector social service providers that service Allamakee County. The results of this survey will be used in compiling Public Health's Community Health Assessment and Community Health Plan that is due in November.

The Preparedness Grant in FY23 was for \$19,694.43 to be used for the year on preparedness topics and they were given an additional \$5,548.51. In total, they billed out \$25,242.94, for a very positive grant. They have worked with Cory Snitker and Upper Explorerland on developing an updated Hazardous Mitigation Plan. The 14 county SA6 Preparedness group is looking at the social vulnerability index and how to identify and get information to people in times of crisis.

Staffing- the process of getting staff transferred from other departments has not happened yet. The home health bilingual nurse has resigned and will be effective next week. Still trying to fill open positions.

- **Laurie Moody- Environmental Health-** Laurie presented a Septic Variance requesting 6' between the septic tank and the property line and 4' between the septic tank and the footing wall of a seasonal cabin for Chuck Casterton at 2204 Hwy 26 Unit 10 Lansing. Dan Byrnes asks how long it takes before a 3,000-gallon holding tank will fill. Laurie states that it all depends on the homeowner's lifestyle & that she explains to homeowner to be conscientious how much water they run and to shut water off when not in use (since it's a cabin) to prevent a dripping faucet or leaking toilets from filling the tank. Also, a holding tank is a last option-but with no room for a "system" it was about the only thing they could do. Dan Byrnes also asks about the area and if most are septic systems or holding tanks. Laurie said some are still septic systems, but when/if they fail or a sale of the property and a Time of Transfer done, there will need to be more holding tanks or mechanical systems installed. None of the older systems were ever meant for how people are using these cabins-they are more like a second or summer residence now. Holding tanks must be 50' off well, this site will be 72' off the shared well. Laurie recommends the people do get a water sample done once per year. Dan Byrnes makes motion to approve variance request. Lynn O'Hara seconds. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

The current Septic Permit application has been updated. New ones will be printed on a heavy stock paper and if the applicant wants a copy, we will make one in the office instead of using an expensive carbon copy type paper.

4th Quarter Report: Septic permits-29; TOT inspections-21; Well permits-10; Water tests-89; Well Closures-8; Renovated Wells-4; Well Shockings-4; Plugged Cisterns-2; Radon kits-15; Animal bites-6

FY23 Report: Septic permits-74; TOT inspections-57; Well permits-28; Water tests-274 Well Closures-8; Renovated Wells-4; Well Shockings-10; Plugged Cisterns-6; Radon kits-90; Animal bites-26.

The grant for FY23 was \$50,500 and \$10,743 was turned back in.

Nuisance complaints were discussed. Laurie states caution is used to determine what actually constitutes a "nuisance", especially in a rural agricultural community. Old farm buildings may look dilapidated and in need of repair when in fact they are used daily. It's a matter of perspective and each complaint needs to be dealt with individually.

In late 2021 the Iowa Finance Authority offered grants for unsewered communities; we had two applications submitted in April 2022 for new septic systems. One for Wings Restaurant and one for Rick & Kim Crawford's home, both in Dorchester. These 2 grants are moving forward now via communication through Cory Frank at Iowa DNR. When Laurie questioned Cory why we haven't heard news on whether the grants were approved or not, he stated that there were over 900 applications in the State of Iowa and only one employee to work on the applications. He said the money is reserved for these 2 bids, but now with a year passing and prices changing, they are going to allow new, updated bids to be submitted. Wings is a Public Water Supply well site so this makes separation distances from septic's quite a bit further. They would need to be 200' from the well to the drain field and 100' from the well to the tank. In the case of Wings, these

separation distances alone may have already hindered the ability to install anything new. Crawfords have a lot with a spring running all the way through it. This water will need to be diverted to get a septic system installed. In the floor of the basement, a trough is cut for spring water to flow through. So, with this bid, additional tiling will be needed and discussions with the County Engineer in regards to cleaning out of some county road culverts to take water away will be necessary. The contractors and Laurie have done a walk through to reassess the situation. Two contractors will submit updated bids to do this work.

- **Expense/Revenue Reports-** May & June- Dan Byrnes made a motion to approve these reports as presented and Lynn O’Hara seconded it. All in favor. Motion carried.
- **Board of Health Chair Comments/Correspondence-**
Contracts Update— 5883C003-010 signed on May 12th; Immunization Grant 58841403 and Bioterrorism Preparedness Grant signed on July 6th.

CLOSED SESSION WITH CHC TO ADDRESS FUTURE STAFFING CONCERNS- Per Jeanne, since we are short board members and CHC is short one employee for the meeting, this will be tabled to another day in the near future. Lynn O’Hara makes a motion to postpone this agenda item until a special meeting date; Dan Byrnes seconded. All in favor. Special Board of Health meeting is set for Monday, July 17th at 1pm in the Board of Supervisors Room.

Full audio minutes are available at the Environmental Health office.

FUTURE MEETING: The next meeting for the Board of Health will be Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 9am in the Board of Supervisors Office.

ADJOURNMENT: Lynn O’Hara made a motion to adjourn at 10:57 a.m. Dan Byrnes seconded. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

APPROVED BY: _____ **DATE** _____

Jeanne Stein, Chairperson

MINUTES TAKEN BY: Mandy O’Neill

ALLAMAKEE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

September 13, 2023

LOCATION: Board of Supervisors Room, Allamakee County Courthouse

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeanne Stein, Board of Health Chair, Lynn O'Hara, Jan Ellingson, Dr. Bill Withers and Dan Byrnes, Board of Supervisor

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Mandy O'Neill- BOH Secretary, Sheryl Darling-Mooney- CHC, Lisa Moose- CHC, Cindy Johnson-CHC, Ashley Havensite- Helping Services

The Board of Health meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS: Motion to approve minutes with corrections from July made by Dr. Withers and seconded by Dan Byrnes. All in favor. Motion carried.

GUESTS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Ashley Havensite- Helping Services-** Ashley serves under the tobacco prevention grant. Nothing new with domestic abuse advocacy or family education group. The domestic abuse advocacy group does have a 24-hour line and the chat on the website. Allamakee Prevention Advisory Group held a hidden in plain sight booth at the Allamakee County Fair. Kratom training was held last month online. Kratom in low doses acts as a stimulant but in high doses acts as an opioid. Iowa has had deaths due to this product as it is promoted as a pre workout. The Integrated Provider group is working on doing curriculum-based support groups and continuing their work for policy assistance on gambling in the workplace. Savor every moment campaign which is aimed at getting people to focus on being in the moment and not focus on alcohol abuse. My Life, My Quit is being promoted for the tobacco abuse group. Ask, Advise, Refer is being used at VMH for their nurses and providers to easily connect people to the cessation group. Jeanne states to get ahold of respiratory therapy at VMH also. Trying to get people to apply policies for nicotine free parks and trails. The surgeon general has said there is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke and according to the EPA the adverse health effect is the same for indoor and outdoor exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke contains 7000 chemicals with 70 of them being cancer-causing deaths due to heart disease and stroke. 35% of children in US have been exposed to secondhand smoke may be a cause for sudden infant death (SIDS), asthma, bronchitis, middle ear infection and other issues. Opioid response grant is wrapping up end of the year, as this is in September. They are focusing on promoting presentations. Youth mentoring in need of girls in Waukon, Lansing, and New Albin. A vaping training was held in August and soon they will be hosting a training on having difficult conversations. Byrnes asks about opioid grant and communication with Allamakee Substance Abuse Coordinator. Ashley said she would need to let Jean comment on that. Byrnes also mentions he's amazed at the amount of people parked at the Waukon Park and stay in their vehicle and smoke. Stein asks

about what's included in the smoke free air act. Ashley states e-cigarettes are a misconception of being safer and when nicotine is heated, it can create formaldehyde and metals.

- **CHC/Public Health Updates**

Lisa Moose Iowa Health and Human Services alignment from IDPH and Human Services fully took place on July 1. Dr. Withers questions the staffing with alignment. No layoffs or discounting of services is supposed to happen, but they are transitioning some things that would involve duplication of services. They are to be looking at regionalizing, but each county is supposed to still have their own public health. They are looking to have more efficiency and effectively manage health and human services program, establish policies, and promote health and quality of life. Allamakee County is unique due to overseas travelers and vacationers. Erin Barkema is no longer the regional director for Allamakee County, but they are looking to replace her position.

A full-time nurse has resigned and a nurse from the floor was hired, but she went back to the floor due to the financial pay cut. A new PRN home care aide started yesterday. A full time RN will be starting 10/25 and a part time RN will be starting 10/2. A part-time nurse will be on maternity leave in November. There were 754 nursing visits in the past quarter. With a 4.05 FTE for nursing coverage, there were 874 visits for the two home care aides. Some visits are longer time periods due to wound vacs or wound care and IV treatments. Some patients require two people so these times can be tricky to coordinate with the drive time.

Cindy Johnson QAPI Report- Hospital wide is doing hand hygiene audits for infection control. Home Care is expecting their survey, and they are doing audits to prepare for this. One area being assessed is infection control and protecting the nursing bag in the homes. Nursing bags are kept inside a plastic bag to prevent contamination of the nursing bag. Equipment that is used during visits is properly cleaned prior to being put back into the nursing bag. Hand hygiene is to be performed before entering the bag and appropriately throughout the visit. Wound Care audits and compliance to wound assessment policy continue to be a focus for QAPI. Winn Med in Decorah has opened a wound center that some patients have been referred to by their provider. Jeanne asks if hospital patients are meeting with the dietician to help with healing. Cindy responded hospital patients do have a dietician assessment completed. The dietician is on the Wound Committee and difficult management of wounds can be reviewed when needed. Cindy is doing in-home audits with Home Care Nurses to prepare for the survey. Home Care has several new staff. Medication audits are being done with nursing staff by doing on site visits looking for a current medication list in the home, allergies are identified, drug regimen review completed, and that all medications patient is taking are on the medication list. One concern is over the counter medications, they need to be on the medication list. Patients don't always inform the nurse that they are taking OTC's since they can obtain it on their own.

Sheryl Darling-Mooney- This week begins immunization record audits from licensed daycares of all children through senior year of high school. In October staff will begin offering Flu/COVID vaccine clinics throughout the county. Multiple locations and a variety of dates/times will provide many opportunities for people to get vaccinated. The new COVID vaccine is designed to provide immunity against the current variants. The prior vaccine will no longer be used and is to be disposed. There is a new program they are participating in called " Bridges to Access" that

will make COVID-19 vaccine available to people 19 and older that are uninsured or underinsured. The vaccine cost is free, but a \$19.58 administration charge will occur. A Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan is due November 15. A survey has been sent to social service partners through the Allamakee Inter-Agency Coalition asking them to identify what they feel are some of the most pressing needs within our county. In general, positive COVID cases are not reported to the state.

- **Laurie Moody- Environmental Health-** No report. Asking for permission though for ongoing use for UPS bills from water sample postage on County credit card due to late fees being accumulated due to UPS billing being 7 day turn around. Board of Supervisors are ok with this but ask for Board of Health approval as well. Dan Byrnes speaks on behalf of this, and the idea is that there will be a monthly limit set that we can use online for this payment and asking for consensus of Board of Health. Consensus from the Board of Health is that this is ok and it will be placed on next week’s Board of Supervisors agenda.
- **Expense/Revenue Reports-** July & August- Dan Byrnes made a motion to approve these reports as presented and Jan Ellingson seconded it. All in favor. Motion carried.
- **Board of Health Chair Comments/Correspondence-**
Contracts Update— Agreement to provide Public Health & Homecare Aide Services FY24 renewed and signed on 7/27/23 and FY24LPHS 5884CO03 signed 7/27/23.

Full audio minutes are available at the Environmental Health office.

FUTURE MEETING: The next meeting for the Board of Health will be Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 9am in the Board of Supervisors Office.

ADJOURNMENT: Dan Byrnes made a motion to adjourn at 10:04 a.m. Lynn O’Hara seconded. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

APPROVED BY: _____ **DATE** _____

Jeanne Stein, Chairperson

MINUTES TAKEN BY: Mandy O’Neill

ALLAMAKEE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

November 8, 2023

LOCATION: Board of Supervisors Room, Allamakee County Courthouse

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeanne Stein, Board of Health Chair, Lynn O'Hara, Jan Ellingson, and Dan Byrnes, Board of Supervisor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Bill Withers

OTHERS PRESENT: Mandy O'Neill- BOH Secretary, Sheryl Darling-Mooney- CHC, Cindy Johnson-CHC, Jean Bossom- Allamakee County Substance Abuse

The Board of Health meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS: Motion to approve minutes with corrections from September made by Dan Byrnes and seconded by Lynn O'Hara. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **CHC/Public Health Updates**

Cindy Johnson

10/18-10/25/2023 DIA conducted VMH Community Home Care's Recertification Survey.

Two standard level deficiencies were noted.

- 1) It is required to have a drug regimen review with all comprehensive assessments. A drug regimen review entails going through all medications clients are on including over the counter medications. This is done to identify any potential adverse effects and drug reactions, including ineffective drug therapy, significant side effects, significant drug interactions, duplicate drug therapy, non-compliance and drug to drug or food interactions. One of Two of these were not done at time of discharge.
- 2) The second issue was related to timeliness of care from a referral or time a client returns home from the hospital. Regulation requires when a client is hospitalized , a Resumption of Care assessment must be done within 48 hours. One Resumption of Care was done outside of the 48 hours. When the nurse completes their documentation of the OASIS assessment, it gets sent to a scrubber through our software system for review. It is reviewed by Lisa or Cindy and any concerns or suggestions then get sent back to the nurse to accept or reject. This can take some time, however the assessment is not counted as complete until it has had the final review completed and the visit is locked.

They are waiting for final approval for plan of correction through DIA. Deficiencies will be monitored through QAPI program audits. Surveyors were very complimentary of the training of new staff.

Reviewed 1st quarter report- wound care, infection control and medication audits.

Sheryl Darling-Mooney-

Vaccine program update Allamakee Public Health just completed a yearlong assessment and survey on vaccination rates of age groups 24-36 months and 13–15-year-olds who fall under Vaccine For Children guidelines in federally funded program for Underinsured, Uninsured, Medicaid and Alaskan/ American Indian Native. Vaccination clinics are held, by school request, in certain districts in the county at school registration, just after school begins and in December to get children caught up on required vaccinations. Immunization audits of all licensed day care/ child center/ and school age children are completed in September.

Flu/Covid clinics have been held in every community in the County except Dorchester. Since September, 700 flu vaccines have been given and 450 COVID vaccines.

Staffing- The average longevity of home health nurses is currently 3 years, which makes training and continuity of care difficult.

Community Health Assessment- This is required in the hospital every 3 years and every 5 years in public health. Work is completed with the assistance of VMH, Allamakee Inter Agency Coalition and ISU Extension. A public survey has been offered and encouraged to be completed by consumers as well as colleagues to determine and rank pressing needs within the county. The main health priorities identified in Allamakee County that were identified were obesity, untreated mental health issues, chronic health issues, aging, and cancer. These topics are being used to develop strategies and are reviewed every six months.

Immunization Update- Last week was the State Immunization Conference in Des Moines. Sheryl attended and found it very informative and is waiting for the slides to be released to share with other staff members who were not able to attend.

- **Laurie Moody- Environmental Health-**

1st Quarter FY24 report- Septic permits-24; TOT inspections-18; Well permits-19; Water tests-88; Well Closures-0; Renovated Wells-0; Well Shockings-2; Septic Pumper Inspections-3; Plugged Cisterns-1; Radon kits-9; Animal bites-5.

Postville pool had an incident at the end of June which resulted in investigation this quarter with glass pool goggles breaking in the pool.

Confined Animal Feeding Operation- Laurie was invited by DNR to attend Gavin View Farms.

Laurie was made aware of a manure spill from Cory Snitker, Allamakee County Emergency Management on 10/31/23 where a tanker lost footing on a gravel road where 7,000 or more gallons of manure were dumped in the road ditch in Ludlow Township in a sinkhole. DNR called the next day with concern of nearby wells. Laurie completed water tests at both these residences. DNR notifies fish hatchery in Elkader to walk the stream beds for fish kill.

Iowa Finance Authority- unsewered community grant update where 20 individuals received letters from our office and contact was made from 2 people. The bar/restaurant in Dorchester is one and there are issues with their Public Water Supply and separation distances.

UPS bills- losing \$3.50 per sample. Using this shipping service is beneficial because things arrive in a timely manner. The discussion at hand right now is raising the price being charged to do water samples. The grant covers buying kits from the lab and advertising. But does not cover fuel or postage. We've been charging \$10 per sample on privates.

Laurie celebrated 30 years with the County last month!

- **Expense/Revenue Reports-** September & October- Dan Byrnes made a motion to approve these reports as presented and Jan Ellingson seconded it. All in favor. Motion carried.
- **Board of Health Chair Comments/Correspondence-**
Contracts Update all signed on 10/19/2023
 - Contract # 5885BT403, Amendment #17, Emergency Response CADE COVID & Confinement: This is to move \$9,182 in carryover funding from FY23 to FY24 and to close out the six-year Bioterrorism Response grant that ended in FY23
 - Contract # 5885BT103, Amendment #2, Emergency Response CADE COVID & Confinement: This is to move \$9,182 in carryover funding into the new six-year contract that started on July 1, 2023.
 - Contract # 5884BT103, Emergency Response Bridge Access Program: This is funding to help with COVID and flu vaccinations.

Two board members terms are expiring 12/31/23- Dan Byrnes & Lynn O’Hara.

Employee Review Process- This is a review for employees who work under a board. A form was renewed from Auditors office and each board member is asked to complete the performance evaluation and anonymously return to Jeanne. When they are all back, Jeanne and Dan will sit down with Laurie. Jeanne requests these to be returned no later than 11/28/23.

State Survey- Jeanne asks board members if they all received the six-question survey in their email that was due 10/31/23.

Resignation of Dr. Withers- Effective 12/31/23. A personal resignation letter was read aloud and is on file.

Full audio minutes are available at the Environmental Health office.

FUTURE MEETING: The next meeting for the Board of Health will be Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 9am in the Board of Supervisors Office.

ADJOURNMENT: Lynn O’Hara made a motion to adjourn at 10:40 a.m., Jan Ellingson seconded. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

APPROVED BY: _____ **DATE** _____

Jeanne Stein, Chairperson

MINUTES TAKEN BY: Mandy O’Neill