



## PUBLIC HEALTH

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Danielle Pettit-Majewski, BS, MPH, Director

Board of Health  
Joni Bosch, PhD, ARNP  
Vice Chair, Zachary J. Pollock, PharmD, MS  
Chair, Bonnie Rubin, CLS, MBA, MHA  
Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS  
Melanie Wellington, MD, PhD

### JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH January 18, 2023 MEETING MINUTES 4:00 pm

**Call to Order:** Bonnie Rubin, CLS, MBA, MHA, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

**Roll Call:** Zachary Pollock, PharmD, MS; Bonnie D. Rubin, MLS, MBA, MHA; Joni Bosch, PhD, ARNP.  
**ABSENT:** Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS; Melanie Wellington, MD, PhD

**Staff:** Danielle Pettit-Majewski, Director; Sam Jarvis, Community Health Manager; Kristin Meyer, Fiscal Manager; Rob Thul, Environmental Health Manager; Roberta Sloat, Clinical Services Manager; Jamie Gade, Public Health Systems Analyst; Haley Wilson, Public Health Systems Analyst; Lisa Parlato, Chronic Disease Prevention Specialist; Giselle Coreas, Health Planner; Ari Guzman, Public Health Associate; Deb VanderGaast, CCNC; Alissa Sotzen, Account Clerk I; Susan Denny, Secretary II

**Others Present:** Lynn Rose, Assistant County Attorney

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Bosch to approve the November 18, 2022 meeting minutes; seconded by Pollock. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next Regular Meeting Date and Time:** February 15, 2023 in Conference Room 203 at the Health and Human Services Building. Pollock will not be attending.

**Citizen Comments / Questions / Issues:** None

#### **New Employee Introductions:**

- Sloat reported Veronica Bair, MCAH Coordinator was hired on November 21, 2022. Bair has background experience as a dietitian. She was not able to attend the meeting, but will meet the BOH members at the next scheduled meeting in February.
- Jarvis introduced Haley Wilson, Public Health Systems Analyst, hired December 19, 2022. Wilson provided BOH members a short history of her background in the Peace Corps, International Affairs and Anthropology. Wilson is the sixth and final applicant hired in the Community Health division in 2022.
- Sloat also introduced Deborah VanderGaast, Child Care Nurse Consultant hired January 4, 2023. VanderGaast gave a short history of her background with child care facilities and experience in child disability services.
- Sloat also reported Cristina Perez, Assistant Health Educator resigned effective December 27, 2022. Kathryn Edell, Health Educator resigned effective January 3, 2023. Pettit-Majewski added JCPH is working with IDPH to find solutions for continuing ITS services until those positions are filled.

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- Meyer reported Ramonda Shelton, Clerk II resigned effective January 6, 2023.

Rubin added a public thank you to Meyer for her efforts and energy as an Interim Director during Pettit-Majewski's leave of absence and welcomed Pettit-Majewski back. Pettit-Majewski also thanked Meyer for providing support during her absence.

**DISCUSSION / PRESENTATION(S):** Jarvis reported COVID-19 numbers are slowly improving; in the last two weeks they have seen roughly one hundred cases, but also seeing a stair step decline in cases overall. He noted cases are under-reported due to different types of current testing methods. University of Iowa partners report Influenza, RSV and COVID-19 cases are distributed evenly, and they are still seeing a decline in cases. Quarantine continues to be advised for positive cases and there are still small outbreaks at long-term care facilities. Another round of free rapid tests through the federal administration was recently initiated. JCPH continues to promote available on-site testing and mitigation measures as well as updates on COVID-19 bi-valent vaccine eligibility. Jarvis is unsure how the end of the public health emergency proclamation will impact operations, but staff is monitoring issues with payer or eligibility changes that may arise. Bosch commented immunized adults over age sixty-five should have a decreased risk of serious health and hospitalization percentages and asked about those numbers in Johnson County. Jarvis responded overall in Johnson County for the primary series that age group has an over ninety-five percent vaccination rate. In terms of boosters, closer to fifty percent and bi-valent is slowly catching up to that. He added recently staff are receiving inquiries about availability of a second bi-valent booster, which as yet is not available. Rubin asked how staff is communicating with the University on COVID-19 cases at the beginning of the new term. Jarvis responded JCPH staff are addressing communication challenges and meeting with University of Iowa partners such as Student Health and the Campus Health Officer typically every week.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Expenditures Over \$3,000:** None

**Applications, Contracts and Agreements:** None

**OTHER**

- **Election of Officers:** Chair and Vice Chair

Bosch nominated Rubin to be Chair. Rubin nominated Pollock to be Vice Chair. Rubin added Wallace will continue as the BOH Medical Director.

**Motion** by Bosch to approve Rubin to serve as Chair for 2023; seconded by Pollock and **Motion** by Rubin to approve Pollock to serve as Vice Chair for 2023; seconded by Bosch. The motions passed unanimously.

- **Board of Health Meeting Schedule for 2023:** Meyer asked BOH members to approve meeting dates for 2023, noting Pollock will not be attending the February scheduled meeting. Meeting dates will be scheduled for the third Wednesday of every month unless alternate dates are approved. Rubin proposed alternative dates for the March meeting due to Spring Break when she will be unable to attend. Members were asked to check calendars and inform Pettit-Majewski, Rubin or Meyer as soon as possible if they have a conflict with any future meeting dates to ensure a quorum.

**Motion** by Rubin asking if all BOH members were in favor approving the proposed meeting schedule, with alternate March date to be determined. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Update: Community Status Assessment** – Sam Jarvis and Jamie Gade presented the finalized one hundred twenty-seven page Community Status Assessment report for the overall Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan process. Jarvis asked for feedback, questions or concerns from BOH members. He pointed out highlighted changes compared to the previous health assessment report from 2015. Some of the highlights reported were trends identified through data sharing with the Iowa

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Department of Public Health (IDPH) and feedback from the core committee as part of the infrastructure for the MAPP process, which guided results and design. Jarvis and his team are pleased with the Qualtrics program for data collection and onboarding with partners. BOH members discussed survey results such as gaps in respondents' age, sex and other factors. Jarvis agreed there were several areas needing improved response. Rubin asked if the report will be shared through the website or any other ways to reach partners and community. Jarvis described various ways the team is discussing how to share the report. Rubin would like to share the report with the Dean of the College of Public Health and the Student Strike Force. Gade added there will be a few edits in the report but believes it will be ready at the end of the week and will make the report available. Rubin added the report was enlightening, especially regarding food security issues and the graphics were easy to read and understand. Rose suggested adding the Iowa City Business Partnership as an additional sponsor.

- **FY22 Annual Report** – Meyer presented the FY22 Annual Report created by Sarah Grunewaldt, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator. Meyer pointed out an omission on page three of the report involving Community Health volunteer numbers and hours and the dollar value to JCPH, which has since been corrected. Not included in the packet is a one page FY22 Annual Report summary in a condensed format. Pettit-Majewski believes the summary will be useful for presenting at events such as Day on the Hill and distributing to community partners. JCPH staff and BOH members discussed the report details and public health issues. The report is available on the JCPH website. Copies of the Annual Report as well as the Community Health Assessment will also be made available and discussed with the Board of Supervisors.

**Motion** by Bosch to accept the FY22 Annual Report with noted corrections; seconded by Pollock. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Reports / Inquiries:**

**County Attorney:** Rose reported the Board of Supervisors in their first of year exercises added Royce Ann Porter and V Fixmer Oraiz as liaisons to the BOH. She encouraged meetings with the liaisons including both the department head and the BOH chair. Pettit-Majewski noted there is a scheduled meeting for the following Tuesday. Rubin commented there is typically only one liaison assigned to the BOH, but last month two were approved. Rose explained the parameters for assigning liaisons. She believes the assignment of two liaisons to the BOH could be due to the processing of significant funds or because this board is involved in a wide array of issues that affect the county and therefore is appropriate in this case. Rose also reported she had started working with Pettit-Majewski and Jarvis on the open records and response policy for the public health department prior to Pettit-Majewski's leave. Jarvis provided her with a draft but she is waiting for potential legislative changes to Chapter 22 of the Iowa Code. Rose will wait to see what those changes will be in order to incorporate the most current statutory requirements in the Public Health policy and in updating the County policy.

**Members, Board of Health:** Bosch commented on changes in JCPH office arrangements and loss of privacy for staff who are now sharing offices. Bosch asked if BOH members could do anything to mitigate the unease due to the rearranging of divisions. Pettit-Majewski responded there is a meeting scheduled with the County and OPN Architects where she hopes to get more information. She added at this point space is limited by the footprint of the building and changes were made based on the department as a whole, the needs of the community and people being served. Pettit-Majewski added this is the second plan and incorporates feedback from staff. BOH members and staff discussed personal experiences with department changes and impacts on staff morale.

Pollock asked about the status of a discussion in a previous meeting to invite a group regarding pesticide issues. He also reported on new research recently released for the most livable states as far as cancer incidents, treatments and other factors. He noted in the report Iowa is faring quite poorly. He would like

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the BOH to consider inviting someone to speak about the report in relation to public health at a future BOH meeting. Meyer will follow-up with the group addressing pesticide issues to schedule a presentation. Rubin reminded BOH members and staff an opposing viewpoint was also of interest for a presentation. Pollock commented a rebuttal or defense opportunity would be fair. Bosch suggested scheduling presentations on the pesticide issue first as there may be related issues that can be addressed in the cancer related presentation. Pollock will follow-up with possible presenters to speak about the livable states report. JCPH staff will follow-up to invite an opposing viewpoint on the pesticide issue. Bosch and Pollock discussed the impact COVID-19 and decreased trust in the healthcare system might have influenced those seeking cancer treatments and how decreased preventive screenings and preventative care nationally and globally compare to local Johnson County trends and other factors.

Rubin reported the College of Public Health Strike Force is working with the University Response Department to explore creating a functional drill for a severe weather tornado.

**Director:** Pettit-Majewski expressed gratitude for her team, especially Meyer for leading the department in her absence. She added since there was no meeting in December, two monthly narratives were included in the meeting packet. Pettit-Majewski reported JCPH was awarded the Child and Adolescent Health grant in December. Management will meet with OPN tomorrow for updates on the building renovation schedule. She thanked Rubin and Pollock for taking on the Chair and Vice Chair leadership roles. Rubin asked if any staff in JCPH submitted abstracts for the Public Health Conference of Iowa (PHCI) in March through Iowa Public Health Association (IPHA). Jarvis responded three abstracts were submitted but none were accepted. Rubin reported the Strike Force Team abstract was accepted and offered to follow-up whether the conference is being offered virtually.

**Motion** by Bosch to adjourn; seconded by Pollock. The motion passed unanimously.

Rubin adjourned the meeting at 4:56 pm.

Approved by Board of Health Action on

March 1, 2023

Signature on file

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Date

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Bonnie Rubin, CLS, MBA, MHA, Chair

Submitted by:  
Susan Denny  
Secretary II