



PUBLIC HEALTH

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

March 1, 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: Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS; Melanie Wellington, MD, PhD; Bonnie D. Rubin, MLS, MBA, MHA; MS. ABSENT: Zachary Pollock, PharmD; Joni Bosch, PhD, ARNP

Staff: Danielle Pettit-Majewski, Director; Sam Jarvis, Community Health Manager; Kristin Meyer, Fiscal Manager; Rob Thul, Environmental Health Manager; Alissa Sotzen, Account Clerk I; Susan Denny, Secretary II

Others Present: Lynn Rose, Assistant County Attorney, Dalton DePoorter, private citizen.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Wallace to approve the January 18, 2023 meeting minutes; seconded by Rubin. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Regular Meeting Date and Time: March 22, 2023 in Conference Room 203 at the Health and Human Services Building.

Citizen Comments / Questions / Issues: None

New Employee Introductions: Veronica Bair, Clinical Services MCAH Coordinator was not able to attend the meeting for introductions. She is planning to attend the next meeting. Wallace requested a list of current employees. Rubin agreed and also suggested sharing BOH contact information with the other BOH members. Wellington asked about accessing Public Health folders. Pettit-Majewski suggested discussing that option at a future meeting and asked Rose for advice on discussion of subjects that are not on the agenda. Rose suggested adding discussion about access on the agenda for the next meeting in order to adhere to the open meetings format. A discussion item on the subject will be added to the next meeting agenda. BOH contact information will be sent to BOH members.

DISCUSSION / PRESENTATION(S):

- **Legislative Priorities:** Pettit-Majewski reported on "Funnel Week" at the Iowa Capital. She attended Public Health Day on the Hill on February 28, 2023 sponsored by Iowa Public Health Association (IPHA). Pettit-Majewski was not optimistic about the upcoming session. She spoke with Lina Tucker Reinders,

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Executive Director of IPHA about public health focus on HARM reduction and bills in committee that were of concern and will impact communities served by public health. She noted bills proposing reductions to SNAP household allowance limits and anti-LGBTQ bills in this session including a contentious bathroom bill that was moved through in subcommittee. Pettit-Majewski was able to meet with several legislators including Representative Adam Downer, Senator Janice Weiner and Senator Dave Jacoby. She added there were also bills proposing immunization limits and removing public health authority in the event of disasters. Pettit-Majewski expressed concern for the current session. Rubin commented members of IPHA should be receiving emails from their advocacy group. Pettit-Majewski reported the IPHA policy platform was to strengthen the public health workforce. She discussed current bills proposed for the session, such as raw milk, adding there have been no outbreaks related to raw milk in Iowa as it is illegal. Rubin asked if the Board of Health should issue position statements on any topics under consideration. Wallace suggested sharing position statements such as the Johnson County BOH position statement on raw milk with other local boards of health to use as their own and inform legislators as they have in the past. He recommended reviewing BOH position statements for updates on statistics or other relevant changes. Pettit-Majewski responded she meets with a public health directors group headed by Kevin Griemes, Director Siouxland District Health Department and will send the position papers to him for distribution to other public health directors. Wallace added at a recent IPHA meeting there was discussion about expanding policy information to share with the American Public Health Association (APHA). More discussion related to immunizations and education followed. Rubin suggested reviewing a proposed position paper related to sexual health at the next meeting. Pettit-Majewski will include the reproductive rights proposed position paper and include review dates for other past position papers for the next meeting. Rubin asked that the minutes reflect members receiving advocacy reports from IPHA should identify topics going forward they feel could qualify for future position papers.

- **Handbook Updates:** Pettit-Majewski reminded BOH members of a discussion approximately a year ago concerning adding additional personal days off for staff, which was not possible under the Johnson County Employee Handbook policies. However, recent changes at the county level addressing worker recruitment and retention include all individuals upon date of hire until their fourth anniversary will now receive three weeks of vacation rather than two weeks and also in the first year of employment staff are able to borrow up to forty hours of vacation. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors approved any employee who has a child born after January 1, 2023 will receive two weeks of paid family leave. Adoptive placement also qualifies. These updates will be included in the Johnson County Employee Handbook review by the BOH in June.

- **COVID-19 Update:** Jarvis reported the state released information approximately ten days ago on actions taken to address COVID-19. The Community Health team is also meeting to address actions by JCPH to deal with the pandemic. He added currently Johnson County continues to be in the low community level status. There have been roughly sixty cases per one hundred thousand reported to JCPH in a seven day period. Iowans are still testing positive for COVID-19, but they are seeing less positive cases; in part due to rapid testing and other factors. Overall the state provided updates on what they will be doing with COVID-19 reporting and shared analysis of what would happen with vaccines. He noted infrastructure that is in place will not be impacted by the May 11, 2023 Public Health Emergency end date. Vaccines will mainly continue to be available at no charge, except for some insurance plans requiring co-pays until later this fall when they will be subject to commercialization. JCPH will continue to share and allocate vaccines to providers as conditions return to pre-pandemic when providers will be more likely to return to a business model. Jarvis reported the most significant change is the state will discontinue COVID-19 reporting as of April 1, 2023. JCPH will refer residents to the state Respiratory Virus Report (previously the Influenza Report) after that date. The RVR report is typically released weekly. Rubin asked what is reported to the RVR and are the results broken down by type. Jarvis responded influenza, other Corona viruses that are not COVID-19, RSV and a few other fringe viruses they are surveilling. He added the report is broken down

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and made very clear that Corona viruses being reported are not COVID-19. Discussion followed regarding JCPH outreach and scheduling for influenza vaccinations.

ACTION ITEMS

Expenditures Over \$3,000:

- **RFA 23-01, Purchase of Ultra Cold Vaccine Freezer:** Jarvis requested approval to purchase an Ultra Cold Vaccine Freezer with COVID-19 funding. He informed the BOH in late November, early December the state issued notice it would provide an amendment specifically for vaccine equipment which included roughly twenty-six thousand dollars for refrigerators, ultra-cold freezers as well as temperature monitoring. Jarvis included specifications in the BOH Packet for the Ultra Cold Vaccine Freezer he would like approved for purchase, which was also recommended by the Johnson County Emergency Management Director, Dave Wilson. The estimated cost of the unit is approximately thirteen thousand dollars, which would be fully covered by the state amendment. He noted the unit is currently on back-order. Rubin asked if JCPH has any operable vaccine freezers. Jarvis confirmed JCPH has one available as well as several with community partners. He added this freezer would be placed at Johnson County Emergency Management which he also has access to and hopes to use for COVID-19 vaccines in able to push out smaller quantities in anticipation of less mass vaccinations.

Motion by Wallace to approve purchasing Ultra Cold Vaccine Freezer; seconded by Wellington. The motion passed unanimously.

Applications, Contracts and Agreements: None

OTHER

- **Proposed Board of Health Meeting Date Changes:** Rubin reminded BOH members there was some discussion about whether to schedule March BOH meetings during spring break. She added it seemed the consensus would be to move March meetings to the week after spring break. Pettit-Majewski clarified the proposed meeting schedule was to move only the March meetings to the fourth week of that month moving forward and maintain regular meetings on the third week of all other months, unless there were conflicts. BOH members also requested a calendar invite for future meetings. A second proposed change for the current schedule was to move the April BOH meeting from April 19, 2023 to April 26, 2023 due to schedule conflicts. The last proposed change was to cancel the July 19, 2023 meeting (unless there is an urgent matter to discuss). She noted the Board of Health currently meets more than the required minimum six times per year. Wellington commented she is not opposed to the April meeting date change, but may not be able to attend.

Motion by Wellington to approve three proposed changes to the 2023 Board of Health meeting schedule including: changing March 2023 and all future March meetings to the fourth Wednesday of the month due to Spring Break conflicts; move the April 19, 2023 scheduled meeting to April 26, 2023; cancel the scheduled July 19, 2023 meeting (unless there is an emergent issue for discussion) and receive a calendar invite sent to members for all BOH meetings; seconded by Wallace. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports / Inquiries:

County Attorney: Rose noted earlier in the meeting discussion regarding the Johnson County Employee Handbook, approved in August of 2022 that the BOH at that time decided to review it each year. In light of the newly approved meeting schedule Rose would recommend that any changes to the JC Employee Handbook after August 2022 be presented to the BOH at the scheduled June 21, 2023 meeting so the board has an opportunity to see any changes before voting again in August to approve the JC Employee Handbook again.

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Members, Board of Health: Wallace reported he is still on the Iowa Public Health Association (IPHA) Board of Directors with Jarvis, as well as named an Affiliate Representative to the Governor’s Council (ARGC) for the APHA and representing Region Seven for Missouri, Iowa Nebraska, and Kansas (MINK). Pettit-Majewski, who was formerly on the committee added Wallace will be reviewing policies that APHA puts forward for Iowa.

Rubin reported the College of Public Health Strike Force is planning a spring break trip to Des Moines. Their schedule includes meeting State Emergency Management personnel, a drill with the 71st Civil Support Team (CST), visiting the Iowa Laboratory facility and other activities. Rubin noted she is excited to visit the Department of Criminal Investigation laboratory and Homeland Security State Emergency Operations Center and finally the State Public Health Department.

Wallace also reminded staff and BOH members the Iowa Governor’s Conference will be at the end of March. Pettit-Majewski will not be attending, Jarvis reported a team of seven will be attending for JCPH.

Director: Pettit-Majewski reported Community Health staff Jennifer Miller, Amelia Slaichert and Rachel Quinn have been filling in to provide free and confidential rapid HIV and HEP-C testing while ITS positions are being hired. Susan Vileta met with fraternity and sorority coordinators at University of Iowa on a focus area. Last year she worked with them focusing on vaccinations. Chuck Dufano using GIS mapping to find the best clinic locations has resulted in an increase in kept appointments in satellite offices in North Liberty and Coralville. Jesse Bockelman and Tim James presented to the University of Iowa Public Health students on the JCPH food program. Mike Casella and Pettit-Majewski are working with Human Resources to look at hiring and recruitment practices aligning with Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) standards. Rubin suggested a contact for Casella and Pettit-Majewski to follow-up with. Pettit-Majewski also reported JCPH has a sub-contract with Adolescent and Child Health Services with Hawkeye Area Community Action (HACAP).

Motion to adjourn by Wallace; seconded by Wellington. The motion was unanimous. Rubin adjourned the meeting at 4:44 pm.

Approved by Board of Health Action on

March 22, 2023

Date

Submitted by:
Susan Denny
Secretary II

Signature on File

Bonnie Rubin, CLS, MBA, MHA, Chair