

MINUTES

Linn County Board of Health Meeting
March 23, 2022, at 4:00 PM
1020 6th Street SE, Cedar Rapids, IA [conference room #234 A/B]

Contact: Kim Honn, 892-6000

*Indicates Action Items

1. Call Meeting to Order – Karl Cassell, Chair

Mr. Cassell, Board Chair, established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Board Member: Karl Cassell, Dr. Arnold, Tawnya Salsbery, Stacey Walker (via phone), Cory Speth – Legal and Kim Honn - Recorder

LCPH Staff Present: Pramod Dwivedi, Eric Bradley, Amy Drahos, Amy Hockett, Ruby Perin, Dustin Hinrichs, Heather Meador, Amy Drahos, Anna Herber-Downey, Ann Olson, Julie Stephens

Guest: Diana Strahan

2. Recognize Guests and/or Staff – Dr. Pramod Dwivedi

Staff Recognition

Kim Honn promoted to Office Manager.

Anna Herber-Downey new HIV/HCV/STI Outreach Coordinator hired in January.

Guests

Diana Strahan with HACAP

Michaela Ramm with The Gazette

3. Public Comment – Limited to Three Minutes Each

None

4. Approve Agenda *

Motion made to approve the agenda as presented

****MSC Arnold/Salsbery**

- BOH member/s excused absences
 - **Erica Bernard**

5. Approve February 23, 2022, Meeting Minutes *

Motion made to approve February 23, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.

****MSC Arnold/Salsbery**

6. Assessment & Health Promotion Presentation – Amy Hockett, Branch Supervisor
Ms. Hockett shared a presentation on the primary areas of focus of the branch and the staff. This branch leads collations such as Together! Health Linn initiative collaborating with multiple community partners in different disciplines. They completed the 2018-2021 Community Health Improvement priorities, started work on the Preventing Violence Among Young Lives (PREVAYL) grant, investigating technology platforms to support My Care Community. Contract work with IDPH on the Care for Yourself and Fresh Conversations – Older Adults. To name a few community collaboration initiatives such as mental health prevention and services, active living/food system, substance use, and many others. The agency’s epidemiologist is in this branch and supports syndromic surveillance – Mercy, emerging issues reports, health profile, community health status assessments and data sharing.
7. BOH Committee Reports:
- a. Finance and Administrative Review – Karl Cassell, Committee Chair
 - i. February 2022 Finance Statements *
Motion made to approve the February 2022 Finance Statements as presented.
****MSC Arnold/Salsbery**
 - b. Policy and Government Relations Committee – Tawnya Salsbery, Committee Chair
 - i. Orientation/Information for the Board of Health *
 - ii. 2019 Novel Coronavirus (SA-CoV-2) Response After Action Report *
Motion made to approve the Orientation/Information policy for Board of Health and the Response After Action Report.
****MSC Arnold/Cassell**
8. Health Director Report – Dr. Pramod Dwivedi
 Health Director provided an overview of past month’s activities.
- **Jo Bridgewater, Community Health Care Coordinator, received the 2022 Health Equity Advocate of the Year award through the Iowa Public Health Association.**
 - **Heather Meador, Clinical Services Manager, received the Leadership in Learning award through the Grantwood Area Education Agency.**
 - **Discussions in process for the 4th rendition of the agency’s Strategic Plan focusing on health equity.**
 - **Offered made for the Health Equity Program Manager position and was accepted; final announcement will be made soon.**
 - **ARPA Funding: agency submitted two applications for consideration by the Board of Supervisors, one on technological system integration of different platforms and the other was for a mobile clinic. Health Director was part of subcommittee to review at least 10 applications for ARAP funding.**
 - **Working to become an Academic Health Dept. – working with U of Iowa College of Public Health focusing on health equity.**
 - **National Public Health week is coming up, from April 4th – 10th. Some of the Board members comments/quotes will be provided to the community.**
 - **Had a meet and greet with the new Linn County Attorney, Nicholas Maybanks.**
 - **Steve O’Konek, current EMA Director, is retiring at the end of March. Participating in the EMA Director’s recruitment.**

- The Harm Reductions Lock Boxes were installed at public health on 10th Avenue, the mental health access and at the Iowa Harm's Reductions Center.
 - Mr. Cassell asked about the process of letting the public know the boxes are available. Ms. Meador provided how this will take place.
- COVID 19 work is operationalized; the dashboard will be decommissioned, effective 4/1/22 agency will stop sending the COVID-19 positive letters, the weekly conversations with hospital have ended. The cases are listed in the report with graphical information since March of 2020. Vaccination rate is inching up at about 70% fully vaccinated; meaning two vaccination and not boosted and 65% overall population.
- Still hosting State Hygienic Lab as a testing site pickup/drop off.
- Clinical work is continuing; immunizations, STI, refugee/immigration activities.
- Geneva Tower response was a great partnership. At the very beginning, Julie Stephens and Heather Meador were on-site to assist.
- Food safety, septic and water quality, and air quality work moving forward; see report for details.
- Health Director met with both US Senators representatives and House representatives; discussed loan repayment plan for the public health workforce and long-term funding to support critical public health infrastructure.

9. Board of Health Attorney Report – Cory Speth

None

10. Next Meetings:

Board of Health Meeting – Wednesday – April 27, 2022, at 4:00 PM

- **Finance & Administrative Review committee April 21, 2022, at 2:30 PM**
- **Policy & Government Relations committee meeting April 21, 2022, at 3:00 PM**

11. Adjourn

With no further business meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM