

## MINUTES

Linn County Board of Health Meeting  
May 26, 2021 at 4:00 PM  
Harris Building - Conference Room #234A/B  
1020 6<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Cedar Rapids  
Contact: Kim Honn, 892-6000  
\*Indicates Action Items

1. Call Meeting to Order – Leslie Wright, Chair

**Leslie Wright, Board Chair, established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.**

**Board Present: Ms. Wright, Dr. Levett, Karl Cassell, Tawyna Salsbery, Stacey Walker (via phone), and Cory Speth - Legal**

**LCPH Staff Present: Pramod Dwivedi – Health Director, Larry Hlavacek, Jim Hodina, Tricia Kitzmann, Jennifer Post and Seth Zimmermann**

2. Recognize Guests / Introductions of new staff – Pramod Dwivedi

Mr. Dwivedi introduced new staff

**Mr. Hodina, Environmental Public Health manager, introduced Seth Zimmermann who joined us on April 19<sup>th</sup> as an Environment Chemist. Mr. Hlavacek, Administration manager, introduced Jennifer Post who joined the agency on April 19<sup>th</sup> as a Clerical Specialist.**

3. Public Comment – Limited to Three Minutes Each

**None**

4. Approve Agenda \*

**Motion made to approve agenda as presented.**

**\*\*MSC Cassell/Levett**

- BOH member/s excused absences

5. Approve March 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes \*

**Motion made to approve March 23, 2021 minutes as presented.**

**\*\*MSC Cassell/Salsbery**

6. BOH Committee Reports:

- a. Finance and Administrative Review – Karl Cassell, Committee Chair

- i. March Finance Statements \*

- ii. April Finance Statements \*

iii. Amendment #2 \*

**Motion made to approve the March and April Finance Statements as presented.**

**\*\*MSC Levett/Wright**

b. Policy and Government Relations Committee – Tawnya Salsbery, Committee Chair

i. Policies x 3 \*

1. PO-AD-005-03 Purchase Order Policy \*

**Motion made to approve policy as presented.**

**\*\*MSC Levett/Cassell**

2. PO-AD-011-01 Financial Management Policy \*

**Motion made to approve policy as presented.**

**\*\*MSC Cassell/Levett**

3. PO-CA-005-01 Promote and Implement Strategies to Improve Access to Health Care Services \*

**Motion made to approve policy as presented.**

**\*\*MSC Salsbery/Levett**

7. Health Director's Report – Pramod Dwivedi

- **Jim Hodina, Environmental Public Health Division Manager, is retiring after 15 years with the agency.**
- **NACCHO handout of proposed limits on public health authority. Any feedback from the Board would be interesting to hear at a later time.**
- **Received word that our submitted reaccreditation documents will be reviewed soon.**
- **NNPHI Strategic Scholars; there is six staff participating in the training.**
- **Performance Management: developing key performance indicators (KPIs) for the agency wide priority on mental health.**
- **Participated in a virtual meeting with Vice-President Harris and Surgeon General in regards to encourage vaccinations.**
- **Participated in a PSA with Mercy Medical Center and Unity Point hospitals to encourage vaccinations.**
- **Met with City of CR officials to talk about health equity. They were receptive, but unsure if it will translate into resources. Will also meet with other officials in Marion and Hiawatha. He requested any Board members to join him in these conversations. The Board will support any way they can to help the agency's initiatives. Stay tuned...**
- **Freedom Festival Tribute to Heroes (FFTH) – public health was nominated, selected and honored at a dinner with the two area hospitals to accept the award on behalf of the front line workers. Health Director will be one of the Freedom Festival Parade Marshalls on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.**
- **State of County Address by Supervisor Walker had a very good and encourages the Board to listen.**
- **Face Covering Ordinance – no need to discuss. BoS rescinded the Regulation.**
- **On June 7<sup>th</sup> the county buildings are opening back up.**
- **COVID 19 – vaccinations; staff is working with community partners. Hesitancy continues to be an issue. Agency continues to vaccinate the public by appointment only.**
- **Receiving lots of media requests and on our website, PDFs for COVID-19 Vaccine Basics in multiple languages.**

- Ms. Kitzmann shared the agency will be doing some more outreach clinics in June, July and August. Agency received grant funding for vaccine hesitancy, will see a push on that soon.
  - Health director was asked to write an Op-Ed, which he did.
  - Contact tracing; number of cases, tracing and monitoring, are listed in the report.
  - Vaccination table, in the report, indicates how the community is doing thus far.
  - No Long Term Care Facilities outbreaks at this time, which is great news.
  - Activities in the clinic beyond COVID is listed in the report.
  - Agency is very busy with operational work.
  - Air Quality permitting activity can be found in the report.
  - Staff were very busy in April with food safety inspections and complaints. Staff is meeting all or exceeding DIA's performance measures, which means the staff is working very hard.
  - Reported the septic permit activities and turnaround time of 10 days, which is impressive.
  - The Board is encouraged to read the other activities that is keeping staff very busy.
  - Feed Iowa First Garden; staff is growing peas, peppers and other vegetables in the garden across the street. This is a good mental health activity for staff.
  - Grow Solar climate change in public health, which is an idea moving forward.
    - Mr. Hodina shared we are partnering for the first time with Johnson County,
  - City of Mt. Vernon mulch fire; there were concerns of it heading to Cornell College and the Mt. Vernon Schools. Staff and City of Mt. Vernon got the first under control before the wind shifted. Also, there were air quality issues at the Hiawatha mulch pile called Boomerang.
8. Board of Health Attorney Report – Cory Speth
- **Mr. Speth updated the Board on the Bylaws Section 4.4.14: in regards to voting via telecommunication; Governor issued a State Public Health Emergency Declaration that addressed this and is set to expire on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Speth will look into email voting prior to a Board meeting in person and let the Board know at the next meeting.**
9. Next Meetings:
- Board of Health Meeting – Wednesday – June 23, 2021 at 4:00 PM**
- **Finance & Administrative Review committee June 17, 2021 at 2:30 PM**
  - **BOH Policy & Government Relations committee meeting June 17, 2021 at 3:00 PM**
10. Adjourn
- With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:59 PM**  
**\*\*MSC Cassell/Levett**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Kim S. Honn - Recorder**