



## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

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**Danielle Pettit-Majewski, BS, MPH, Director**

**Board of Health**  
**Joni Bosch, PhD, ARNP**  
**Zachary Pollock, PharmD, MS**  
**Bonnie D. Rubin, MLS, MBA, MHA**  
**Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS**  
**Melanie Wellington, MD, PhD**

### **JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**January 19, 2022**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**4:30 pm**

**Call to Order:** Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS, called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

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

**Staff:** Danielle Pettit-Majewski, Director; Kate Klefstad, Clinical Services Manager; Sam Jarvis, Community Health Manager; James Lacina, Environmental Health Manager; Kristin Meyer, Business Manager; Kritzia Rodriguez, Dietitian; James Bechtel, Systems Analyst; Alissa Sotzen, Account Clerk I; Susan Denny, Secretary II.

**Others Present:** Lynn Rose, Assistant County Attorney, Lora Shramek, Human Resources (via Zoom)

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Rubin to approve the December 21, 2021 meeting minutes; seconded by Bosch. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next Regular Meeting Date and Time:** February 16, 2022 at 4:00 pm in Conference Room 203 at the Health and Human Services Building.

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

**New Employee Introductions:** Klefstad introduced Kritzia Rodriguez, part-time Clinical Services Dietitian for WIC support. Rodriguez gave a brief history of her experience and background. BOH members welcomed her to JCPH.

Wallace introduced new BOH member Melanie Wellington, MD, PhD. Wellington is a physician scientist working as an Associate Hospital Epidemiologist at University of Iowa Children's Hospital, specializing in children with infectious disease issues as well as scientific research to treat those infections.

#### **DISCUSSION / PRESENTATION(S):**

- **Administrative Division Report-Community Communication:** Meyer reported on "Call Tracking" to collect data on interactions between administrative staff and the community. Over 21,000 interactions from phone and later in-person communications were tracked since April 2020. She thanked James Bechtel, Systems Analyst for his involvement in the data collection creation process. Meyer described criteria followed, outcomes and how the data was used to develop staff scheduling needs, specialized messaging and phone transfer systems. She highlighted high volume community concerns such as vaccine schedules, availability and testing. She presented slides showing charts comparing results by time frames from April through June, 2020, April through June 2021 and October through December, 2021. Meyer and Bechtel responded to BOH member questions about developing "hunt groups" which are extensions that connect to pertinent staff groups and how data collected influences information posted on social media.

## Johnson County Board of Health Meeting Minutes January 19, 2022

They plan to continue to improve data collection and analysis of client interactions for increased efficiency and customer satisfaction.

- **COVID-19 Update:** Jarvis reported on new rapid test availability through COVIDtest.gov. The site is up and running to provide the public with four free tests per household. Jarvis highlighted administration staff distribution of self-tests to community partners as well as citizens. JCPH is also a drop-off location for samples to be sent to the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) via courier. He reported plans to deploy the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) for the next four weekends to assist the SHL in processing of tests. Jarvis noted continued high numbers of positive COVID-19 cases. There were 2,800 positive cases reported in the last week. Returning University of Iowa students will also likely impact case numbers, but as rapid testing becomes more prevalent, numbers of positive case reporting may show an artificial decrease since those results are not reported to the state. He added reported positive cases could potentially be secondary infections, but this is not being distinguished. Booster clinics are being planned with the Visiting Nurse Association and school districts in the next weeks. Discussion followed concerning mitigation, positivity rates and booster timelines. Johnson County continues to maintain a high rate of vaccination.
- **Request to Integrated Testing Services (ITS):** Pettit-Majewski reported Kathryn Edel, Health Educator, submitted a proposal for \$135,000 in ITS funding to purchase a mobile clinic. This additional funding would be used to leverage the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds of \$75,000 that have already been awarded by the County to Public Health. The ITS funding, if awarded, must be expended by the end of March 2022. Pettit-Majewski expects to receive notice of the amount of ITS funding very soon and then will proceed in procuring a vehicle. The mobile clinic will be used for ITS services, vaccinations and oral health. A mobile clinic will assist in reaching rural and vulnerable populations, expanding the reach of JCPH services and addressing transportation barriers in the community. Pettit-Majewski responded to comments concerning Medicaid transportation issues and contract stipulations. Wallace and Rubin asked if JCPH was aware of the University of Iowa mobile clinic, the University of Iowa Dental School and the Blood Bank mobile clinics. They suggested contacting the University fleet services for more information on vehicle types. Pettit-Majewski shared that the mobile clinic would be used for outreach services, flu clinics and oral health treatments. Rubin asked if service areas would include Iowa, Poweshiek, Wapello, Louisa and Washington counties. Pettit-Majewski confirmed those are the service areas for ITS. She responded to questions about storage for the mobile clinic, licensure, destinations and amenities and staff travel schedules.

### ACTION ITEMS

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

### Applications, Contracts and Agreements:

- **22-01 Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) Application:** Jarvis reminded the BOH the Federal CDC PHAP application renewal is due. Currently JCPH is hosting CDC associate Hannah Tice until October 2022, when her two year tour ends. Jarvis hopes to have another associate in place at that time. As an accredited health department, Jarvis believes JCPH has an increased chance to continue the CDC PHAP. Tice is primarily working on the Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan and has assisted with several COVID operations. Rubin expressed support for the program. Jarvis responded to questions regarding evaluations, work group meetings and program results. Pollock suggested an exit interview strategy for the CDC associates.

**Motion** by Bosch to approve the CDC PHAP host site application submission, seconded by Pollock. The motion passed unanimously.

- **22-02 NACCHO Grant:** Jarvis asked BOH to approve a NACCHO Vaccine Confidence grant application submission for funding not to exceed \$75,000. These grants provide support for local health departments to improve COVID-19 vaccine confidence and address misinformation. JCPH will implement the CDC's Rapid Community Assessment (RCA) to identify areas of intervention to inform other actions for messaging, communication and access. If awarded, the bulk of the award would fund a sub-contractor to coordinate the effort by building a diverse team of community members and staff liaisons. Wellington suggested using Johnson County booster rates to qualify for additional funding since higher Johnson County vaccination rates exceed parameters in the application. Discussion followed addressing community involvement and techniques.

## Johnson County Board of Health Meeting Minutes January 19, 2022

**Motion** by Bosch to approve the application for NACCHO Vaccine Confidence Grant request, seconded by Wellington. The motion passed unanimously.

### **OTHER**

- **Election of Officers:** Wallace asked BOH members for nominations for the 2022 Board of Health Chair and Vice Chair positions.

**Motion** by Rubin to nominate Wallace for BOH Chair, seconded by Bosch. The motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** by Bosch to nominate Rubin for BOH Vice Chair, seconded by Wallace. The motion passed unanimously.

- **BOH Meeting Schedule for 2022:** BOH members approved the 2022 meeting schedule.

- **22-03 Request for Board Action: Personal Day Amendment:** Pettit-Majewski reminded the BOH that in October, the WELLBQ survey illustrated public health staff had increased needs for mental health days in response to the stress of the COVID-19 pandemic compared to other Johnson County staff. Management identified this finding as an area of concern and explored solutions to improve staff recovery. She cited activities such as speakers addressing workforce stress at the fall staff retreat, limiting after hours emails and overtime. Other ideas explored were to develop a condensed work schedule, increasing remote work opportunities and requesting staff respond to a survey for input on how to improve staff morale. A common response in the internal JCPH survey was adding more personal days. Pettit-Majewski stated that amending the JCPH employee handbook to allow for two additional personal days for the current year would relieve mental health stress for JCPH staff. The policy would be reevaluated at the December 21, 2022 BOH meeting. Rose asked Lora Shramek, Human Resources for comment. Shramek clarified the BOH had adopted the Johnson County Handbook many years ago and believes the BOS would have to approve the amendment. Rose suggested the request be tabled until next month to allow time for more legal research and clarification on issues such as equal protection and autonomous authority of the BOH. Pettit-Majewski suggested inviting Becky Nowachek, IDPH BOH liaison to provide an overview of BOH authority next month.

**Motion** by Rubin to table the request for BOH Action 22-03 Personal Day Amendment until the February 16, 2022 Board of Health meeting, seconded by Bosch. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Budget Updates:** Pettit-Majewski reported the proposed Communications and Information Specialist decision packet approved by BOH was not approved by the BOS. JCPH staff will be meeting with BOS communications staff for potential assistance. She will be looking at internal staff and subcontracting opportunities to meet JCPH communication goals. Both Linn County Public Health and Polk County Public Health have similar positions.

Pettit-Majewski reported the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) was estimated at 2% on the JCPH FY23 budget proposal, but could potentially be changed to 2.25%. She does not expect this to impact the approved JCPH FY23 budget.

**Chronic Disease Prevention Specialist:** Pettit-Majewski reported the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded job description presented at the November BOH meeting for a Chronic Disease Prevention Specialist has been finalized and is ready for BOH approval.

**Motion** by Wallace to approve the Chronic Disease Prevention Specialist job description, seconded by Bosch. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Reports / Inquiries:**

**County Attorney:** Rose updated BOH members on the BOS face covering policy pertaining to Johnson County employees. The current policy will be extended to May 15, 2022, but she added the date could change depending on COVID-19 data and information available. Rose and Susie Nehring, Assistant County Attorney have recommended to the BOS that the vaccine and testing policy, which was due to begin on January 31, 2022, be suspended due to the recent Supreme Court ruling that the OSHA vaccination and testing mandate exceeded its boundaries to regulate public health. Rose noted the ruling did not say that state and local governments and private employers could not promulgate such policy and because of this, she and Nehring are recommending to the BOS to form a working group to explore moving ahead with a vaccine and testing policy. She noted the Johnson County employee pool is over 90%

Johnson County Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
January 19, 2022

vaccinated and only a small number are non-compliant. She reported Johnson County is working with NOMI Health to provide testing services at the nearby CARQUEST building.

**Members, Board of Health:** Bosch thanked JCPH staff for all their work throughout the pandemic. Rubin reported she is a faculty sponsor for developing the University of Iowa College of Public Health Student Strike Team. This team is being organized to deploy to public health departments or other organizations offering public health assistance. Currently the Student Strike Team is working to find student volunteers to assist the State Hygienic lab in receiving, processing and assembling COVID-19 self-testing kits. Rubin added she met with Jarvis and Rebecca Nielsen, Emergency Preparedness Planner to involve JCPH.

**Director:** Pettit-Majewski reported Becky Hackett-Leas, I-SMILE and Oral Health Coordinator and Klefstad attended the Williamsburg City Council meeting and encouraged them to fluoridate their water. Meyer, Nielsen and Jarvis met with community hospital partners to increase capacity of Test Iowa kits at the UIHC (University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics) clinics. Survey results from Environmental Health Food Program for food safety are posted on the website and social media. Pettit-Majewski received a letter from Kelly Donham with Rural Health and Safety of Eastern Iowa of the transitioning of their service organization and thanked the BOH and BOS for their support. Pettit-Majewski, Meyer, Lacina and Klefstad will travel to Linn County Public Health to tour a renovation by OPN Architects in order to explore design options for JCPH. Rubin requested updates on GIS mapping progress.

Wallace adjourned the meeting at 5:59 pm.

Approved by Board of Health Action on

February 16, 2022

Signature on File

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Date

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Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS, Chair

Submitted by:  
Susan Denny  
Secretary II