



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 22, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

4:00 pm

Call to Order: Bonnie Rubin, CLS, MBA, MHA called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

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

Staff: Danielle Pettit-Majewski, Director; Sam Jarvis, Community Health Manager; Kristin Meyer, Fiscal Manager; Rob Thul, Environmental Health Manager (via ZOOM); Roberta Sloat, Clinical Services Manager; Susan Vileta, Health Educator; Abby Kore, Public Health Nurse; Veronica Bair, MCAH Coordinator; Alissa Sotzen, Account Clerk I; Susan Denny, Secretary II.

Others Present: Lynn Rose, Assistant County Attorney; V Fixmer-Oraiz, BOS; Jan Stephen, Good Neighbor Iowa; Linda Quinn, Good Neighbor Iowa.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Wallace to approve the March 1, 2023 meeting minutes with page four edits; seconded by Wellington. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Regular Meeting Date and Time: April 26, 2023 in Conference Room 203 at the Health and Human Services Building. Rubin reminded BOH members the scheduled July meeting is cancelled unless an emergent reason to meet arises.

Citizen Comments / Questions / Issues: None

New Employee Introductions: Sloat introduced Clinical Services new staff Veronica Bair, Maternal Child Adolescent Health Coordinator hired November, 2022 and Abby Kore, Public Health Nurse hired in early March, 2023. Bair and Kore both gave BOH members a summary of their background and experience.

DISCUSSION / PRESENTATION(S):

Good Neighbor Iowa: Jan Stephen and Linda Quinn provided a presentation for Good Neighbor Iowa on behalf of the One Hundred Grannies organization. The Good Neighbor team focus is to reduce public exposure to pesticides on school grounds, parks, childcare centers and other public areas, especially children who are at increased risk of exposure recognized by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Iowa Department of Public Health developed the Good Neighbor Iowa policy and includes reducing exposure to pesticides outdoors as well as indoors. Despite the risks to child health, they have found it difficult to encourage pesticide-free lawn care at daycares and child centers locally for reasons including aesthetics, staffing shortages or awareness issues. Stephan and Quinn requested a letter of support for their mission from the Johnson County Board of Health. Quinn provided sample letters of support from Black Hawk County and Linn County acknowledging not using pesticides especially in areas frequented by children should be adopted as best practices. She stressed these letters of support may act as stepping stones to encourage other entities to get on board with the policy. She added all public schools in Johnson County have pesticide-free lawns and playgrounds using integrated pest management both outdoors and indoors as of approximately five years ago through parent involvement. Public parks and sports fields in the city of Iowa City are also pesticide-free as well as all county and state parks in Iowa, except for invasive species and habitat conversion. There are currently programs partnering with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources providing incentives for Iowa homeowners to reduce pesticide use to improve water quality using rebates for implementing natural maintenance. Bosch commented on insecticide use and its relation to Parkinson's disease. Wellington asked about requirements in disseminating information only from Good Neighbor Iowa if an entity is pledging support. Quinn suggested a colleague who will be attending the April 26, 2023 BOH meeting would be able to provide more clarity on that policy issue. Discussion followed regarding how the BOH can provide support for the program.

- **COVID-19 Update:** Jarvis provided a brief update on how staff are continuing to support vaccination promotion and data collection and continued protection for long term care facility staff and patients. Rebecca Nielsen, Emergency Preparedness Planner and Karrey Shannon, Community Health RN continue to reach out to community partners to locate and plan off-site COVID-19 vaccine clinics before the public health emergency proclamation ends. He reported many partners are not planning additional clinics due to already high vaccination rates, he added Nielsen and Shannon continue allocating vaccines currently and likely through the fall when more information for the federal plan for commercialization. He added Moderna announced they will continue to provide vaccines at no charge. As more information becomes available Jarvis will be able to understand JCPH's role in vaccine promotion, education, etc. He also reported the state will be transitioning their Influenza Surveillance Report to the Respiratory Surveillance Report and will be directing to that report for case reporting when it's available. Staff continues to reach out to the State and Federal partners for guidance on next steps. Discussion followed concerning the pandemic vs endemic status of COVID-19, SNAP threshold changes and other developments in Public Health issues.

- **Electronic Storage for BOH Document Review:** Pettit-Majewski listed options considered to establish an accessible site for BOH documents and is recommending Microsoft Teams. Johnson County is currently transitioning to Microsoft 365. Pettit-Majewski met with Bill Horning, IT Director to discuss options. Horning suggested creating a team of staff and BOH members. Initially

Pettit-Majewski considered an initial team involved with BOH documents, but adding more team members when working on position papers or other projects involving more staff and contacts. She also would like input from Rose for potential violation of open meetings laws when working on edits for documents together. Rose clarified whether the group was working on the substance of a document as a matter of writing opposed to having discussions about the document which would possibly present issues. Rose discouraged the use of comment boxes which could become a discussion. Rose admitted that view was a very conservative legal approach but would avoid having a closed meeting in violation of the open meetings law if three or more members were “conversing” at the same time. She stressed it would not be a violation of the law to read the draft on the computer screen and dial a member’s phone to discuss a paragraph for example. Discussion of various scenarios to maintain compliance. Pettit-Majewski proposed working in teams of two to avoid violating the law. Rose agreed that approach would be a great problem-solving approach and suggested having staff present to the entire BOH for review and discussion in an open meeting. Wallace commented that approach has been used in previous position papers. Pettit-Majewski added she does not have a timeline until the transition is complete. Horning is willing to help to build the team platform and there will be training available. Bosch asked about whether the program could interface with Apple products. Pollock wondered if BOH members would need to have Johnson County Microsoft 365 accounts. Pettit-Majewski reminded him that BOH members are already added to Johnson County’s Outlook program through their personal emails, but are in the system. Wellington commented BOH members may need Microsoft 365 accounts. Pettit-Majewski will follow-up on access questions and timelines with Horning.

Pettit-Majewski then asked Rubin if the BOS liaison V Fixmer-Oraiz could be introduced before having to leave the meeting. Fixmer-Oraiz along with Royceann Porter, BOS are assigned as liaisons to the BOH. They meet with Rubin and Pettit-Majewski every two weeks and added they are very excited to learn more about public health and is planning to attend BOH meetings regularly. BOH members thanked Fixmer-Oraiz for coming to the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Expenditures Over \$3,000: None

Applications, Contracts and Agreements: None

(Pollock left the meeting at 4:56 pm)

OTHER

- **Renewal of Position Statement on E-Cigarettes:** Vileta reminded BOH members this position paper was introduced several years ago and has been updated since then. Vileta reported Johnson County and Story County are currently the only Iowa counties who have an E-Cigarette Prohibition wherever smoking is not allowed, neither are E-Cigarettes. Vileta highlighted variables common in populations who smoke traditional and E-Cigarettes. In her community and especially school presentations, Vileta also focuses on dispelling the myth that smoking acts as a stress reliever. Vileta noted changes since the last version included the amount of policy increase around the country, locally and statewide. Also that E-Cigarettes remain one of the most used products still since around 2014 and Iowa’s rates are still slightly higher than the national numbers. Wallace thanked Vileta for updating the paper’s citation list. He also asked how the updated paper should

be disseminated, how and to whom. Vileta responded on the importance of policy systems and environmental changes. She also stressed the importance of social changes and mores and also working to influence politically with prevention partners; one of who has a grant focusing on substance abuse policy in schools and another looking at alcohol abuse policy, prohibiting two for one coupons, etc., that are not being enforced. Vileta is looking at working with prevention partners as well as restaurants and bars to strengthen policies that already exist in order to make it more normal to not see those activities in public places. She also reported on the tobacco prevention grant status for Johnson, Iowa and Poweshiek counties and gave a brief report on her activities with the grant, including education about the products being sold, prevention strategies and use by mainly seventh to ninth graders in schools. Vileta talked about CDC goal areas and policy options for individual businesses and multi-unit housing that may want a comprehensive non-smoking policy. Cessation with health care agencies and implementing evidence based processes. Vileta responded to questions and comments from BOH members and additional ways to use the position paper.

Motion by Wellington to accept the updated position statement on E-Cigarettes seconded by Wallace. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Position Statement on Access to Sexual Reproductive Services, Safe Abortion Care and Post Abortion Care:** Rubin informed BOH members the position paper in their packet was written nearly two years ago and was outdated. She suggested rather than focusing on this position paper, to use it to start a conversation because there is so much more that is part of this topic. She would like to have a discussion as a board whether there is something they would like to address and if so how and what to focus on considering current legislative activity at state and national levels.

Discussion included healthcare professionals, legislative processes and timelines, limited access to abortion services, family planning, impacts on maternal mortality and vulnerable populations, etc. to decide on the focus for a position paper. Family Planning and Reproductive Health and LGBTQ Issues will be considered topics for two position papers. Rubin summarized the discussion results as Wellington will be looking at the LGBTQ issues, JCPH staff will prepare a draft statement for Reproductive Health or Equity and a separate statement regarding Child Health and Family Health Equity. Wellington suggested prioritizing Reproductive Health Equity and LGBTQ Issues given the current political climate. More discussion followed.

Reports / Inquiries:

County Attorney: Rose reminded the BOH members the guest presenters for tonight's meeting had a specific ask for the Johnson County Board of Health to generate a letter of support including a policy. As the BOH, Rose reminded members they have a wide range of options about how you choose to respond, choosing not to do anything to doing exactly as asked. She would encourage the BOH to remember they have very wide latitude and the prior practice of this board has been to take well-articulated position statements based on the science and the evidence available and looking at it through a public health lens. Rose stressed science and evidence.

Johnson County Board of Health Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2023

Members, Board of Health: Wallace reminded everyone the Public Health Conference of Iowa is next week. Wallace also stressed Public Health advocates and does not lobby. Wellington recently has been working with a student from U of I College of Public Health on her Masters of Public Health practicum experience where she has gathered data on the advantages of issuing HPV P vaccinations at age nine rather than age eleven. Wellington explained the advantages of the earlier age and would like to invite her student to present at the next BOH meeting.

Director: Danielle reminded BOH members to read updates provided in the narrative in their packets.

Rubin adjourned the meeting at 6:04 pm.

Approved by Board of Health Action on

April 26, 2023

Date

Submitted by: Susan Denny
Secretary II

Signature on File

By Dr. Pete Wallace for Bonnie Rubin, CLS,
MBA, MHA, Chair