



**STORY COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH**
STORY COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
900 6TH STREET
NEVADA, IOWA 50201

Minutes

AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE FULL MEETING MAY BE FOUND IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT, OR BY VISITING WWW.STORYCOUNTYIOWA.GOV

DATE: August 3, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Zoom Meeting

Dr. John Paschen, Chair
Mark Speck
Dr. John Kluge
Dr. Louisa Tabatabai
Dr. Molly Lee Vice-Chair
Lisa Heddens (Ex-officio)
*Absent

STAFF PRESENT: Kimberly Grandinetti, Environmental Health Director; Matthew Cory, Environmental Specialist, Stephanie Jones, Recording Secretary

OTHER PEOPLE PRESENT: Les White, Ryan Doyle, Leanne Harter, Jana Larsen, Sandra King, Sherry Zook, Heather Bombei, Megan Thompson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. John Paschen called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA MCU

Motion by Speck, Second by Lee to approve agenda with moving Item 7 and Item 8 to after the COVID report from Public Health. (MCU)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Kluge, Second by Lee to approve June 1, 2021 and June 22, 2021 Minutes

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Kluge, Second by Tabatabai to approve the following consent agenda items:

Amended Pool and Tattoo Inspection 28E Contract

FY22 Grants to Counties Contract

Amendment #2 of FY21 Public Health Services Extended Contract

Amendment 1E of Immunization Services Contract

Personnel Actions for step increase plus longevity for Stephanie Jones @\$21.76/hr, effective 12/19/21, and step increase for Taylor Jorgensen @25.91/hr, effective 5/22/22. (MCU)

5. PUBLIC FORUM: None



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6. ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

2020 Needs Assessment Presentation

Les White presented a summary of the needs assessment, which was completed by the Story County Quality of Life Alliance group. The focus was on what the most important health and human service needs of the people of Story County are and why. Data was collected through surveys, focus groups, and a panel of experts. The top six health and human service needs that were found most important included:

- Mental Health Services
- Food Security
- Housing
- Childcare
- Suicide Prevention
- Income

Next steps include sharing and discussing the report with the community and enhancing community engagement in addressing the top needs.

Board of Health Member Term Expirations

Paschen stated that Tabatabai's term expires at the end of the year and she is not planning to renew. Speck stated that he will probably allow his term to expire at the end of the year as well. Discussion took place about the application process for filling the openings.

Soils Testing

Paschen introduced Kimberly Grandinetti who is the new Environmental Health Director. Grandinetti stated that she had an opportunity to review the septic ordinance, spoke with the DNR and Ethan Anderson, and decided that now is a good opportunity to point out concerns she has about continuing to do soil evaluations. Grandinetti stated that she has experience and training with soils, and is comfortable doing the testing. However, there could be liability issues if she misidentified soil or made a mistake on a loading rate. Grandinetti stated that in time she will learn more, and get used to the soils, but currently, liability to the county is her primary concern. The other concern is that the Iowa Code does not allow competing with the private industry. The county charges \$100 for soil evaluations, and private industries charge much more than that. Moving forward Grandinetti would like to have third party evaluators become the primary evaluators. Grandinetti stated that there could be some instances where she would complete evaluations and provided examples, but generally the soil evaluations would be done by third parties. Grandinetti also suggested raising the fees to be sure department costs are being covered, and that no ordinance changes would be needed. Heddens asked if the costs of soils is passed onto the homeowner. Grandinetti confirmed the cost would go to the homeowner. No action taken.

7. AGENCY AND DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS



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Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA)

Megan Thompson provided an update on the following programs:

- WIC benefits are now in person, rather than over the phone.
- New Iowa law requiring the owner/operator of any public water system to notify consumers prior to discontinuing fluoridation of its water system.
- WIC, Child Health and 1st Five participation
- Child Care Nurse Consultant – COVID related calls are starting to pick back up.

Story County Public Health

Les White provided an update on COVID stats for the county.

- 14 day positivity rate is 8.2% (175 cases).
- 7 day positivity rate is 8.6% (83 cases).
- 6 in the hospital and of those, none are vaccinated.
- IDPH is only updating COVID data weekly, with no indication that will be changing. Mary Greeley can access data from a different location and share more frequently, but then the numbers would be different which could create confusion.
- The term quarantine is no longer being used. Isolation is the best practice, but not enforceable.
- 214 positive cases since July 1, 2021. 61% are fully vaccinated (18 years and older) and 51.4% of the entire population fully vaccinated, including doses administered and individuals with series completed.
- Vaccine Complete Rates.
- Online scheduling continues to be offered for vaccines, or appointments can be made by phone. Currently working with United Way to provide gift cards to those who get vaccinated.
- National Night Out.
- COVID clinics for Ames and Huxley schools, as well as the Ames Farmers Market in August.
- Home test kits are available and can be picked up at Public Health.

Discussion took place about if an individual tests positive for COVID, if the person will receive instructions to isolate. Treasa Ferrari stated that only the test result is provided via email. Ferrari stated that COVID is now being treated like the flu. Best practice is to stay home, but each individual is responsible for that decision.

Paschen asked if Public Health is still being notified of positive tests and what they are doing with that information. White stated that IDPH is not requiring contact tracing, and no follow up is being completed. White stated that since contact tracing is not being recommended, no follow up is being done. Paschen asked if the Board of Health would like contact tracing completed, who would do it. White stated that Public Health would do contact tracing if it was requested. Contact tracing is not required, nor is the IDPH doing contact tracing, and most counties are not. White clarified that COVID is now being treated like the flu, and contact tracing is not done for the flu, so that is the direction Public Health has been following. Ferrari asked if contact tracing is done, what would be done with the information and would individuals be made to stay home if tested positive? Schools have announced they will no longer do contact tracing, and it is up to the parents whether to keep kids home, but can go back to school if feeling better, even if not tested. White feels that calling the individuals that test positive to provide education may be more helpful than actual contact tracing. Heddens was concerned about how people would know if exposed if contact tracing is not being done. White stated that it is the responsibility of individuals to let those they have been around know if they have tested positive.



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Lee felt that part of the education could be to recommend to the individual that they should notify those they have been around about a possible exposure. Paschen feels that public health should call individuals that test positive and provide education on recommendations. White stated that there are still some temporary nurses on staff and they could be responsible for contacting the individuals that test positive and COVID funds could be used.

Additional discussion took place on the following:

- Performing rapid tests at schools. Ferrari stated she spoke with the State Epidemiology office and was told that rapid tests are not being recommended because a physician's order is required and there is a lot involved to overseeing. Instead it was recommended that sputum kits be provided to schools to be sent home with parents to administer.
- Mitigation efforts regarding masking. White stated masks are recommended, especially for unvaccinated individuals, as well as while indoors. Best practice is to stay home if sick, wash hands and social distancing. The CY-Ride campaign is still being done, posters have been delivered to city halls and libraries.

Lastly, Ferrari stated that the senior foot clinics have now restarted. There have been a few summer diseases including: E.coli, crypto, and a few tick diseases.

Action Plan for Possible COVID Recommendations

Recommendations to Story County Schools for COVID Prevention

Paschen stated that the greatest majority of students will not be eligible for vaccinations and he would like the BOH to recommend schools to follow CDC guidelines.

Ideas discussed:

- Include a link to current CDC information.
- A straight forward/strong message.
- Stay home when ill.
- Intended target for a recommendation. (Schools)
- Ways to get information to the public. (Letter to schools, social media, press release)
- Whether or not a recommendation should be made to the general public or only schools. (Schools)

Motion by Paschen, Second by Kluge that the Board of Health recommends that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> be followed when school starts. The Board of Health emphasized the use of masks for everyone at school, whether vaccinated or not, and further recommends that all staff and students who can be vaccinated, be encouraged to get vaccinated. The Board of Health also reminds parents to keep children home when ill.

Voting Aye: Kluge, Tabatabai, Lee, Paschen

Voting Nay: Speck



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YSS

Ryan Doyle presented the Quarter 4 Report and provided an update on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (Sexual Resistance Avoidance Education Grant, Community Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Grant), and Substance Abuse Prevention and Community Outreach completed. Hemp retailers currently in Story County that is consumable, but not smoked or inhaled. Discussion took place about differences in Cannabidiol, THC, and marijuana.

Story County Environmental Health

Kimberly Grandinetti provided an update on her first week as Director. Provided information on well and septic permits issued, and also that the Grants to Counties FY21 report has been completed, with \$9,324.12 claimed during quarter 4. Overall, for FY21 \$30,300.00 was awarded, with \$20,302.60 claimed. 58 pool inspections were completed with 2 re-inspections (23 violations and 5 closures). A new pool ordinance is desired to be in effect before next pool season, review will begin on that process soon. Grandinetti invited the board to come along for a site visit if anyone is interested in learning more about what staff does.

8. COMMENTS:

Staff: Cory thanked Stephanie Jones and Taylor Jorgensen for their help while the department was short staffed.

Board: Heddens thanked the entire Environmental Health department for their work. Lee thanked Environmental Health and Public Health. Tabatabai thanked everyone and stated that her time on the board has been very educational.

ADJOURNMENT 3:53 p.m.


Approval of Minutes

Chairman 10/5/21
Title and Date