



DRAFT MINUTES
Board of Health
Wednesday, February 26, 2025 @ 4:00 PM
Health & Human Services Building – Community Room
303 West Chapel Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533

**Iowa
County
Wisconsin**

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| 1 | Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joan Davis at 4:00 PM. |
| 2 | Roll Call and Introductions: Committee members present: Joan Davis, Tom Howard, Gerald Galle, Dody Cockeram, Bruce Paull, and Sue Steudel. Others Present: Iowa County Health Department Director Debbie Siegenthaler, John Meyers, Iowa County Board Chairman, Medical Advisor Dr. Peter Mullin, Leah Walrack, PHN, and Kelly Deterding, LTE PH Nurse. Attending via zoom: Andrea Larson. Guests present Ruth Schriefer, Laura Blalock from the Family Resource Center. |
| 3 | Approve the agenda for this meeting: Stangel moved to approve the agenda for this February 26, 2025 meeting. Paull seconded the motion. Motion passed. |
| 4 | Approval of the minutes from the November 20, 2024 prior meeting: Howard moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2024 meeting. Stangel seconded the motion. Motion passed. Paull suggested that Iowa County Board of Health meeting minutes be posted on the county website in a more timely manner following the meeting. Director Siegenthaler agreed to send the draft minutes to the county clerk to be posted. |
| 5 | Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the Committee. No action will be taken. No reports/addresses. |
| 6 | Board of Health Community Lay Member Re-appointment – Tom Howard. Director Siegenthaler explained that, by Wisconsin state statute, county Boards of Health shall include three community lay members. Procedurally, the board makes a motion to appoint a citizen lay member, votes on that motion, and sends that recommendation for action to the County Board which makes the appointment. Tom Howard agreed to serve as a lay member for another three-year term. This appointment would expire on March 23, 2028. Cockeram made a motion to recommend Howard for this appointment. Galle seconded the motion. Motion passed. |
| 7 | Presentation: Friend of the Family Resource Center Award – Ruth Schriefer, Chair, and Laura Blalock, Director, Family Resource Center. Ruth Schriefer, Board of Directors Chairperson for the Iowa County Family Resource Center, stated that each year, the Center presents an award to a person or agency that excelled in promoting healthy families in Iowa County. She described a number of projects and initiatives that the Health Department has collaborated with the Resource Center on. Laura Blalock, the Center's Director presented this year's award (plaque) to the Iowa County Health Department "For your ongoing collaborations, contributions, and support toward our mission of offering innovative programs and resources that capitalize on strengths, support growth, and promote healthy families in Iowa County". Leah, Debbie and Kelly accepted the award and thanked them very much. |
| 8 | Presentation: 2024 Annual Report of the Iowa County Health Department – approval: Director Siegenthaler presented the Iowa County Health Department's 2024 annual report to the Board. She emphasized several areas of the report regarding work done on communicable diseases, grant work, Healthy Iowa County Initiative, former PHN Geana Shemak's work on the website, the 2024 fiscal summary, social media use, the environmental water lab, and other areas. Stangel made a motion to accept the Health Department's 2024 report. Motion was seconded by Cockeram. Motion passed. Director Siegenthaler explained that this report would be submitted to the Wisconsin State Department of Health Services (per statutory requirement) and will be added to the county health department's website. |

9	Presentation: COVID-19 Pandemic – A cumulative Report of the Iowa County Response – Kelly Deterding, LTE PHN: Kelly Deterding presented the Iowa County Cumulative Report of the Iowa County Response to the Pandemic. “The Iowa County Cumulative COVID-19 Pandemic Report has been compiled for the purpose of documenting the journey of the Iowa County Health Department from March of 2020 when the pandemic was declared to May 2023 when the declared public health emergency ended. The value of this report is meant to lie within the historical documentation of the pandemic as experienced at the local level including the organizational response, operational continuity and service delivery. Moving forward with hope, this report will also include the lessons learned about best practices and future preparedness and resilience”. Kelly described the components of the report, various metrics concerning the spread of the disease and the Health Department’s response and including the Dodgeville Police Department’s Pandemic After Action Report. Deterding stated that the local government archivist at the State Historical Society was very receptive to receiving this report for its historical relevance. The report will be shared with partners and the County Board.
10	Public Health Program Updates: Public Vending Machine – dispersal statistics: Director Siegenthaler presented an updated summary of products dispersed from the two vending machines (totaling 732 items in three months!). Well Water Lab: Environmental Health Literacy Grant Activities – National Groundwater Awareness Week (March 9-15): Director Siegenthaler and Leah Walrack stated that the Health Department would be partnering with Lafayette County on nitrate testing as Lafayette County has a certified nitrate lab. The reason is that more nitrate testing will be required of businesses and the lab we currently use at UW Oshkosh will be challenged to meet the needs. Partnering locally is also a major advantage. Leah Walrack updated the Board on the recently received grant activities. This funding allows the Health Department to finance ten nitrate level tests to mark National Groundwater Awareness Week. Leah further informed the board that the standard recommendations for water testing was yearly for nitrate and bacteria testing and every five years for lead and arsenic testing. Leah informed the board that Jeremiah Yii, a toxicologist with the Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health at the State Department of Health Services would give a public presentation on PFAs on March 12 at 6:00 pm at the Health and Human Services Building, Community Room. Communicable Disease: respiratory disease (covid, influenza, pertussis, measles, TB), H5N1 (Avian Influenza): Director Siegenthaler stated that Wisconsin cases of influenza and pertussis have peaked for this season and that Iowa county has had six cases of pertussis (which she characterized as a lot for this small county). She explained that Wisconsin is now formally enrolled in a national milk testing program (for H5N1 surveillance), and that nationwide, wastewater surveillance continues (including at a number of sites throughout Wisconsin). Administrative: 2024 Year-end Budget Summary (tentative): Director Siegenthaler provided the Health Department’s 2024 Financial Summary to the Board. Highlights included a levy request of \$352,568; and that the actual tentative 2024 levy request of \$333,763 is \$18,805 to the good. She attributes the good financial shape of the Health Department was largely due to the several competitive grants the Health Department was successful in securing. Mandated Services Summary: Director Siegenthaler included the Health Department’s Schedule of 2025 Services/Programs for the Board. This review provided a summary of those services/programs that are statutorily mandated, the FTE burden involved with each of them, the funding source, and the consequence of not providing them. In summary, a Health Department workforce of 14 FTE staff would be necessary to accomplish/implement mandated services in Iowa County, although the Iowa County Health Department currently has only 4.2 FTE.

11	Monthly Report (programmatic stats): Health Department 2025 stats through January were previously distributed to Board members.
12	Next Meeting Date: The next meeting of the Iowa County Board of Health is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 4:00 PM.
13	Adjournment: Galle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cockeram seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Tom Howard, Iowa County Board of Health Secretary

Posted by County Clerk's Office on 3/6/2025, Barbara Weinbrenner