



APPROVED MINUTES
Board of Health
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 @ 5:00 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 Linda Pittz at 5:00 PM
2	Roll Call was taken. Committee members present (either via videoconference/teleconference or in person at H&HS Building): Linda Pittz, Tom Howard, Bruce Haag, Sue Steudel, Joan Davis, Kim Allen, and Jeremy Meek. Others Present: Iowa County Executive Director Larry Bierke, Iowa County Health Department Director Debbie Siegenthaler, Medical Advisor Dr. Peter Mullin, Geana Shemak, Iowa County HeART Program Coordinator, and Bruce Paull.
3	Approve the agenda for this February 17, 2021 meeting. Davis moved to approve the agenda. Howard seconded the motion. Meek abstained. Motion passed.
4	Approve the minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting. Howard moved to approve the minutes. Haag seconded the motion. Meek abstained. Motion passed.
5	Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the board. No action will be taken. None.
6	Recognition and Appreciation of Bruce Paull's service to the Board of Health and HeART Program: Director Siegenthaler thanked Paull for his great support of the Health Department and their events and programs held in the past. She recognized his involvement in the HeART program and said he was instrumental in forming the coalition for that program. Chairman Pittz stated the Board's appreciation to Paull for his service and said that there would be a formal certificate of recognition forthcoming.
7	Election of Vice Chair. Chairperson Pittz opened the floor for nominations for vice chair due to the resignation of Bruce Paull. Howard nominated Judy Lindholm. This nomination was seconded by Haag. A voice vote was taken and Lindholm was voted as vice chair unanimously. Pittz stated that Lindholm's election as vice chair was contingent upon her acceptance of the position.
8	Program Updates. HeART Coalition: Geana Shemak updated the Board on the HeART (Healthy Aging in Rural Towns) Coalition on its ongoing activities in providing increasing support and services to Iowa County's aging population. The COVID-19 pandemic has created some challenges as many of the strategies had to be put on hold. However, the Coalition has adapted their strategies to meet the current needs of the elderly, specifically targeting social isolation and loneliness; an issue even before the pandemic but certainly exacerbated by the stay at home orders. The Coalition created four ads that ran in the Shopping News, distributed resource cards through public libraries Book-it and Bag-it program, prescription services, Meals and Wheels services, and other venues. Four hundred activity bags have been put together and distributed to Meals on Wheels and Sun program participants, LTC and assisted living facilities, and others where they could be useful. Two classes (Arena and Mineral Point) have been held featuring smart device interactive demonstrations via app on a device. PALS (Physical Activity for Lifelong Success) will be held once more vaccines are administered. Shemak stated that Habitat for Humanity, Aging in Place, and a Veteran's Program have been implemented. As an example, HeART grants help offset the cost of installation of grab bars at targeted locations. She stated that a multi-generational playground funded via a \$95,000 grant was being planned by city administrators in Mineral Point. She said that the program was considering purchasing quality of life cards to encourage engagement of multi-generational communication in cooperation with public libraries in the county. Shemak described a Facebook outlet explaining HeART programming. Davis contributed that some

	students have been preparing greeting cards for Cecile McManus to distribute to county Meals on Wheels participants and requested that Shemak discuss further employment/expansion of this initiative with Davis. COVID-19: Director Siegenthaler stated that the county has come a long way in a year and feels that we have made excellent progress. She described keeping up the daily Iowa County COVID-19 update report on Facebook, the weekly-updated COVID-19 Dashboard (maintained by Shemak), and stated that the average number of new cases reported per day has decreased from the 30's in November to around three currently. The county is averaging 104 tests/day and needs to do a minimum of 35 as a satisfactory level. She stated that the community-spread metric is still significant at 44%. Director Siegenthaler described the school indicator Dashboard as critical to informing Iowa County School Guidance. The Dashboard shows the new case rate at 16.8 cases/10,000 population today as compared to a high in November of 178/10,000 cases. She said a metric that was closely followed was the tracking system of cases in school age children showing the number of cases by age group which was an important metric. Siegenthaler stated that the guidance on mass gatherings was recently updated to reflect 25 people maximum for indoor gatherings, 50% or less capacity maximum for arena venues, and 50 for outdoor. It also contains general guidance for other social interactions. She displayed for the Board the DHS website which tracks vaccine administration – Iowa county has reached 19% first dose (4705 residents) and the state as a whole has 12.7% first dose vaccinated. This site also profiles age/race/ethnicity and Siegenthaler is satisfied that Iowa County has been doing well in all respects, as has SW Wisconsin. All Health Department clinics have been transferred to Lands' End Comer Center and Siegenthaler again expressed appreciation for the partnership with them that provides for this. Siegenthaler stated that a call for volunteers has resulted in nearly 100 people responding so far. She stated that we are only getting a fraction of the vaccine requested (1200 requested and 140 received last week; 1200 requested and 300 will be received next week). She said the effort to vaccinate will soon include other frontline personnel (teachers, etc.) as being in the next eligible group of vaccine recipients. Overall, Siegenthaler voiced satisfaction with progress to date and stated that we could have the capacity to do 80-85% of the county population in a month, if we could receive sufficient vaccine to do so. She then commented on recent CDC recommendations that fully vaccinated people do not need to quarantine if they are exposed, that the demand for diagnostic testing has dropped off to the point that regional testing is now done in Lancaster and Platteville. Davis questioned if the county is assured that second doses will be sufficiently available to satisfy the need for such and Siegenthaler explained the process that the Wisconsin Immunization Registry follows to assure timely availability of second doses. She also stated that the Health Department clinics have had no problem with no-shows regarding second doses, and that Upland Hills would continue with their own vaccination clinics. Influenza: Director Siegenthaler stated that Australia has experienced a very “light” influenza season and that the United States usually follows/mirrors their season. She postulated that one reason may be due to all the prophylaxis and preventative measures the public have been practicing due to Covid-19. Dr. Mullin agreed with that assessment. Report shared highlighting the data on influenza surveillance in Wisconsin this season as compared to multiple previous influenza seasons. Staffing and Capacity Updates: Director Siegenthaler stated that the Health Department has created a pool of LTE vaccinators (project positions) and has 13 vaccinators on board now but need to add a few more and have about 10 people in the queue to select from. Recent approval of an additional LTE position description occurred so the process of hiring these additional vaccinators can proceed. She stated that there are grant funds available for capacity funding specific to vaccination and contact tracing.
9	Monthly Reports. Director Siegenthaler had previously provided committee members with copies of the updated 2021 Health Department Monthly Report and the Department's January 2021 bills. There was no discussion.
10	Next Meeting Date. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 12, 2021.

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Adjournment. A motion to adjourn was made by Davis and seconded by Meek. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

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