



## PUBLIC HEALTH

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Danielle Pettit-Majewski, BS, MPH, Director

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

### JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH November 15, 2023 MEETING MINUTES 4:00 pm

**Call to Order:** Zachary Pollock, PharmD, MS, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

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

**Staff:** Danielle Pettit-Majewski, Director; Sam Jarvis, Community Health Manager; Kristin Meyer, Fiscal Manager; Rob Thul, Environmental Health Manager; Roberta Sloat, Clinical Services Manager; Nate Savage, Emergency Preparedness Planner; Alissa Sotzen, Account Clerk I; Susan Denny, Secretary II

**Others Present:** David VanCompernelle, Assistant County Attorney

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Wallace to approve the September, 2023 meeting minutes with edits for Clerk II position motion wording; seconded by Wellington. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next Regular Meeting Date and Time:** December 20, 2023 in Conference Room 203 at 4:00 pm in the Health and Human Services Building.

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

#### **Staff Updates:**

1. Clinical Services, Jessica Erhart, Dental Assistant (not available for introduction at this meeting. Erhart will be introduced to the BOH at the December meeting)
2. Clinical Services, Tammy Forseen, Registered Dental Hygienist as of October 9, 2023. Forseen gave a brief history of her background and experience.
3. Clinical Services, Veronica Bair, MCAH Coordinator resigned effective September 29, 2023
4. Clinical Services, Mallory Holub, ITS Health Educator reduced hours as of October 2, 2023
5. Clinical Services, Lonise Norfleet, former Administrative Assistant, is now Clinical Services Supervisor effective October 23, 2023

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

- **IHHS Integration and Alignment:** Pettit-Majewski updated the BOH on the status of the IHHS integration and alignment. Currently, a recommendations report from Health Management Associates (HMA) was scheduled to be submitted in October. The report is on the Governor's desk and not currently

available. She added that per Dr. Robert Kruse, State Medical Director, there will be further opportunities for local feedback. Pettit-Majewski will continue to update the BOH on any developments.

- **University of Iowa Bid on Mercy Hospital:** Wellington discussed the pending University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) bid to purchase Mercy Hospital. She suggested the BOH discuss drafting a statement to the community stressing the need for a local health option and to advocate for community health, stressing potential benefits of a not-for-profit entity. Members discussed the content of a possible statement, the status of Mercy Hospital staff pensions and community response and concerns. Pollock suggested engaging with Mercy Hospital and UIHC leadership. Wallace pointed out the BOH's minimal involvement in the issue but will work with Wellington to draft a report for BOH review at the December meeting. Pettit-Majewski stressed that both the University and Mercy have been good community partners to JCPH.
- **State Tuberculosis Updates:** Jarvis reported an increase in latent and active tuberculosis (TB) cases in the state for the last year and a half noting several factors contributing to requiring more contact and hands-on time for Disease Prevention Specialist staff. He described setbacks such as missed appointments and other challenges to providing treatment. Community Health staff are working with community partners such as Blackhawk County Public Health to review past cases and explore solutions collectively. Discussion followed regarding connections to TB with sexually transmitted infections (STI's) such as syphilis. Jarvis will provide updates on progress in finding solutions for this growing concern.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Expenditures Over \$3,000:**

- **23-22 RFA CHAMP Software:** Pettit-Majewski asked for approval to purchase software to increase effectiveness of the Electronic Health Record (EHR) to work with multiple programs. She explained the current software, Ahlers, does not work with all the programs being used in JCPH divisions. Pettit-Majewski reported JCPH has explored two other software programs, Patagonia and CDP with price points of approximately fifty thousand dollars for the first-year subscription. CHAMP software is priced competitively. She stressed the cost of EHR's are high and is looking at limitations in the number of licensed users and availability of onboarding and training included in programs. Pettit-Majewski added JCPH has had experience with the Nightingale Notes system, which is part of CHAMP software. She provided the pricing options available for CHAMP software including ten licenses, onboarding and training for one year versus discounts available with a three-year subscription. She recommended moving forward with a one-year option and budgeting for the following year. BOH members asked if negotiating for the discount would be possible with the first-year option, support plans and online help, and the number of licenses needed for staff access. Meyers provided details of the type of support offered with the subscription, superuser support, obstacles in the state mandated system (FOCUS), and the anticipated response to the purchase by the BOS. Wellington recommended communicating the potential discount pricing to the BOS and negotiating with CHAMP on pricing packages. Pollock supported being fiscally responsible and exploring different options for approving the three-year subscription if questions and expectations are provided by the company. Meyer and Pettit-Majewski will research and confirm support, billing questions, and budget updates for the BOH.

**Motion** by Wellington to approve payment for the CHAMP software and training fees as long as questions about user support, number of licenses, and testimonials are answered favorably, approving the three-year option contingent on JCPH negotiations with the software package; seconded by Wallace. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Applications, Contracts and Agreements:**

- **23-23 RFA MRC NACCHO Grant:** Savage described the MRC Operational Readiness Award offered by NACCHO. JCPH has been awarded this grant for five years in a row. The ten-thousand-dollar grant would be used to expand the capabilities of the MRC by creating an up-to-date MRC registry including addressing issues with the student population, adding more members to represent the community, and increase recruiting from University of Iowa colleges such as pharmacy and dentistry. Funds would also be used for orientation of new recruits, support for translation services, outreach and media content and

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member trainings. Savage responded to questions and comments on the previous five-year reporting and added he would like to increase the number of rural recruits as well as student numbers.

**Motion** by Wallace to approve the application for the MRC NACCHO Grant; seconded by Wellington. The motion passed unanimously.

**Reports / Inquiries:**

**County Attorney:** None

**Members, Board of Health:**

Wallace reported attending the American Public Health Association (APHA) conference in Atlanta November 12-15 as Iowa's representative. Wallace described highlights including meeting a woman from Little Rock, Arkansas forming a coalition of organizations to expand and understand access to youth, particularly underserved youth in the field of mental health and will try to contact organizations in Iowa. He added there was a great deal of discussion regarding lobbying and advocacy differences and the need to be as involved as possible. Although Public Health is very involved there is still more to be done. He also reported policy discussions concerning aspects of what is happening in the middle-east, including demand for a cease-fire between HAMAS and Israel. He noted the presence of a large group of protestors with signs in the audience. No decision was made on a policy after lengthy discussion, except for a humanitarian statement. He added the APHA is a very active, industrious and involved group of people. He also noted APHA Executive Director Dr. George Benjamin, MD is very impressive. There were twelve thousand attendees at the conference.

**Director:** Pettit-Majewski reminded BOH members the October and November narratives are included in the current packet and highlighted division activities such as working with On Media for advertising to promote vaccinations for COVID19, RSV and Flu at Iowa football games and other events. Susan Vileta, Community Health Educator worked with the City of Coralville who voted to adopt tobacco and nicotine free parks, open spaces and trails effective October 2024. Disease Prevention Staff completed immunization audits of K-12 students in Johnson County per Iowa code. Laura Sneller, Environmental Health Specialist has completed her food program training and is now able to perform independent inspections in the field. The recent All Staff Retreat held at the Kirkwood Room in October included training from Terry Whitson, HR Staff Trainer who previously had provided leadership training for management staff. Whitson worked with staff on personal expectations. Several staff attended Pink Book training, addressing the epidemiology and prevention of vaccine preventable diseases, in Des Moines. Pettit-Majewski has been working with Lynnette Jacoby, Director of JC Social Services and V. Fixmer-Oraiz, BOS to implement a Universal Basic Income pilot program. They are scheduled to present the proposal to the BOS on December 6, 2023 to see if there is interest in replicating the research. The strategic planning team has been working on goals, priorities and objectives developing a rough draft for the JCPH Strategic Plan for 2024-2029. They expect it will be ready by the end of the month.

Wallace confirmed that AmeriCorps volunteers are working with Savage through University of Iowa.

Pollock adjourned the meeting at 4:58 pm.

Approved by Board of Health Action on

December 20, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Submitted by:  
Susan Denny  
Secretary II

Signature on File

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Zachary Pollock, PharmD, MS, Vice Chair  
or authorized BOH signature