

Grundy County Board of Health

Monday, November 14th, 2022

Called to Order: 7:00am

The Grundy County Board of Health (LBOH) met on Monday, November 14th, 2022, at 7:00am in the Conference Room at the Grundy County Annex Building in Grundy Center, IA. Per the Iowa Public Information Board: Electronic Meetings for a Governmental Body, minutes must include a statement explaining why an in-person meeting was impossible or impractical. Currently, LBOH meetings are offered in-person or via zoom for members and the public. This is due to the pandemic and wishing to support social distancing and safe protocols/mitigation efforts. Future meetings will only be held in said circumstances where such a meeting in person is impossible or impractical. Zoom/conference call attendance will still continue to be available to board members and to the public. Appointed board members present in person: Lexie Hach, MA, Chairperson; Jessica Eilers, RN. Also present in person: Carie Sparks, Grundy County Sanitarian, Barbara Smith, Grundy County Board of Supervisors (BOS); Katie Thornton-Lang, Grundy County Public Health (GCPH) Administrator; Michelle VanDeest, GCPH Office Coordinator. Appointed board members present via zoom/conference call: Crystal Petersen, RDN, LD, Vice-Chairperson; Julie Johnson, PsyD, LMHC; Nick Rains, PA-C, ATC.

Regular meeting of the LBOH was called to order by Hach. The minutes from September 12th, 2022, were reviewed. Motion to approve the September 2022 minutes by Eilers; seconded by Johnson, carried; the minutes were approved as written. Minutes were signed by Chair, Hach, and will submitted to IowaGrants.gov following meeting.

LBOH Member Updates: The board discussed member updates, including those ending their terms and support for possible new members that were shared with BOS. Eilers has decided not to return to board after term ends at end of December. She states it has been an honor to serve and she would be more than happy to serve in the future. Support from LBOH for Tom Boheman as new LBOH member; bio was emailed to board prior to meeting. Thornton-Lang will send this information to BOS for recommendation for appointment.

Landfill Commission Updates: Ryan Bingman shared an update provided to the board in a separate document that was shared with board prior to the meeting: *The Grundy County Landfill Commission held a meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 13, 2022 in the Grundy County Courthouse. The group reviewed bills with no concerns or objections. There was a brief discussion on the hours this past month being over budget due to the part-time employee working on the weekends. Additional discussion was about purchasing a new or used tractor and truck. It was the recommendation to get some pricing and have it presented to the Board of Supervisors for the next budget year. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.* Jim Ross was a previous representative for LBOH and is interested in representing this again - [] Unfortunately, due to conflict, LBOH will need to find someone else. Hach will ask Bingman to continue or ask for suggestions.

Environmental Health Updates: Sparks shared an annual update provided to the board in a separate document that was shared with board prior to meeting: *This year started off with a dismissal of the lawsuit; Melcher vs. Grundy County, Grundy County Board of Health, and Carie Sager (Steinbron), County Sanitarian. Greg and Lisa Melcher had filed a lawsuit against said defendants after the installation of their new septic system that was installed in 2017. They also had gone to court with the installer, Cooley Pumping. They lost that case and after consideration of the case, dismissed the suit against the county. There have been 30 water tests done so far this year since January. That is down a little from previous years. I plan to get more information out to the public to let them know of the grant money available to them to have their wells tested, rehabilitated or even plugged. There is plenty in that grant also to use for advertising and outreach as well. The state has also added chlorination of wells to the list of items that are covered in the grant. In order to be eligible for reimbursement, the chlorination must be performed by a person who is certified to work on wells in the State of Iowa. The well owner would have the well service provider send an invoice and form that shows the work that was done and then the cost for that work is reimbursed directly to the well owner once we have confirmation that payment was made to the service provider. 25 Septic systems have been permitted, installed and inspected this year so far. November and December are sometimes busy months for installs so may have more in the coming weeks. I still have Radon test kits available in my office. They are \$7 each and that includes the kit, lab fees and mailing. I am still providing septic pumper truck inspections annually for the Iowa DNR. I do those in March and have the invoice and report sent to DNR before the end of May. Cooley Pumping and Lon's Plumbing and Heating are two that I do the inspections on. I am having surgery on Friday December 9th and will be out of the office for several weeks. After a few weeks, if approved I will be checking emails and returning phone calls as I am able to do so. Sparks states that she use to have to do water testing for foster families and there have not been many, if any, requests since COVID; not sure who to reach out to if this is still something that needs to be done, which Sparks is willing to do. There is various funding available for Sparks to test and such. Hach suggests working with GCPH to create environmental health campaign; movie theater contact will be sent to Sparks from Thornton-Lang. Hach suggests separate meeting in January to address this. January is radon action month; GCPH will help promote this. It was discussed that Sparks/environmental health department has a subcommittee for having someone who is cross-trained for this job within the county (that is not with zoning/sanitation). Also discussed: inquiry if there is a 28E agreement with another county in the absence of the environmental health specialist; Sparks states that there is template from another county that can be shared with county attorney, Erika Allen, for future. Hach asks if graphs for septic could be done for next year's annual review.*

Environmental Health Position Discussion: A 28E agreement was drafted by county attorney, Allen, to support continued Environmental Health position through LBOH and BOS. Job description templates were also shared from other counties to LBOH for BOS to possibly use in the future for Environmental Health Specialist position. Auditor, Rhonda Deters, pointed out an

update needed to the agreement: "I note that in the Agreement between Grundy County Board of Health and Grundy County for Environmental Health Services in Grundy County it lists the address for notices at 701 G Avenue. I believe that this should be changed to 706 G Avenue." Hach has suggestions to add to agreement which will be shared with administrator to assist with further development. Current job description suggestions/template will be shared with BOS/Sparks following meeting by Thornton-Lang

GCPH Structure Updates: GCPH job descriptions for GCPH Administrator and Office Coordinator were updated based on suggestions from LBOH. Updates were motioned for approval by Eilers, seconded by Johnson; job descriptions are approved.

Household Sharps Program Discussion/Action for Approval: GCPH Household Sharps Program policy was updated based on suggestions from LBOH. Updates were motioned for approval by Petersen; seconded by Johnson; program policy is approved.

Public Health Report for September/October, 2022:

GCPH received a donation from Terry and Nancy Haren in memory of Dr. Buchanan who once served on LBOH. This donation was used to purchase programming educational materials.

The FY23 budget and proposed FY24 budget will need to be discussed at an upcoming meeting in December for the LBOH to review and approve.

Local Public Health Services (LPHS) Grant

- Monkeypox cases continue to rise. No reported cases in Grundy County, as of this report. Hach can provide further updates.
- There was one identified case of E. coli during reporting period, which was EPI-linked to a household member. Both cases were resolved and closed on 10/6/22.
- Possible Internships: GCPH has been reached out to by a handful of interested interns from University of Northern Iowa (UNI) and University of Iowa (UofI) colleges of Public Health for spring 2023. Currently, GCPH administrator is meeting with interns to decide which may work for individuals and department. GCPH will take on no more than 2 interns at one time.
- Household Sharps Program: received 5 containers during reporting period.
- Grundy County Child Passenger Safety Program (GCCPSP): A local childcare center emailed requesting educational materials for families on child passenger safety. Infographs were emailed to share. Inspection/education referral from Head Start.
- Healthy Habit All-Stars (HHAS) – Hand Hygiene/Staying Healthy: GCPH administrator presented program in four kindergarten classrooms during reporting period: AGWSR, Timothy Christian, Gladbrook-Reinbeck, and Grundy Center. BCLUW and Dike-New Hartford are scheduled for November.
- GCPH continues to participate in community meetings/discussions including but not limited to Grundy County Community Partners, Grundy Center Wellness Committee (board), Child Passenger Safety State Advisory (board), Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health Center (board), NEI3A (board).

- GCPH administrator was asked by State of Iowa to join committee for LPHS Collaborative, which will be a three-year commitment.

Immunization (I4) Grant

- The LTBI (non-communicable) case that was identified in July, 2022 has been working with GCPH on medication administration and symptom tracking. Individual is non-English speaking, and GCPH Administrator is using electronic tools to work with.
- Mandated Immunization Audits
 - Completed in all county schools by 10/20/22 (required to complete by 10/28/22)
 - 2288 certificates audited, with a total of 99.96% valid
 - Childcare center audits have begun and are scheduled to finish by end of December.
 - Suggestion to share rates with local physicians/pharmacies; Thornton-Lang will do so following meeting
- Healthy Habit All-Stars (HHAS) – Vaccination/Staying Healthy: GCPH administrator presented program in three kindergarten classrooms during reporting period: AGWSR, Gladbrook-Reinbeck, and Grundy Center. BCLUW and Dike-New Hartford are scheduled for November. One school requested not to participate in this program.

Substance Abuse Prevention (SAP) Grant

- Red Ribbon Week educational materials were offered to and accepted by all county elementary schools.
- LifeSkills programming for fall continues in Dike-New Hartford and Grundy Center. Timothy Christian and Gladbrook-Reinbeck are scheduled to start in January. BCLUW receives similar programming from another entity, and AGWSR does not have this age group for programming in Grundy County (in Hardin County).

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant

- PHEP meetings have been held via zoom.
- The Grundy County Medical Reserve Corps. (GC-MRC) continues to help at various community events, as needed and desired. There are currently 26 active volunteers.

6YR Preparedness Grant

- GCPH continues to participate in phone conferences, webinars, and zoom meetings, as they are made available from local, state and federal partners. Individual inquiries via email, phone calls, and Facebook messenger continues to be a high priority, but have slowed down considerably. GCPH continues to work with local school inquiries and guidance, long-term care facilities on guidance and updates, as well as childcare center guidance and updates; all, as needed, mostly via email when new guidance is presented. Vaccine administration/distribution continues, with vaccines coming through GCPH. GCPH works with hospital, one clinic and all county pharmacies to ensure administration to community members. GCPH does not house vaccines; dosages are being distributed to pharmacies, hospital, and UnityPoint Clinic - Family Medicine in Grundy Center for administration. The county's COVID-19 website is still active and being updated as needed

(<https://tinyurl.com/38ffnwwz>). Positive cases, and vaccine rates including booster dosages, continue to increase in Grundy County. Available data continues to be tracked through the DOMO internal service by GCPH, as well as on state and federal websites. All vaccine updates and general COVID information continues to be shared with local partners and on social media platforms.

Social Media Stats

➤ Reporting period September/October, 2022 (see attachment): 21,088 individuals reached.

Recorded Meeting available via zoom for future viewing on Google Drive:

- Video link:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YO0uZp_Nlly9nxRK0LwVqUK6Vfhkxw6i/view?usp=share_link
- Audio link:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SRsCLNghM6CYjwnLS5XRyOMFdeFalgPO/view?usp=share_link
- File link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Br7sGLaFvAYJdroH-eTeJYd45zZNsGSx?usp=share_link

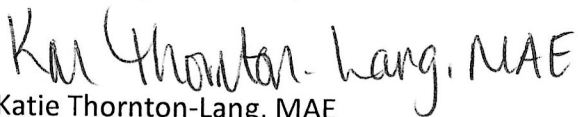
Meeting adjourned at 8:19am; motion by Eilers, second by Johnson; carried.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: Monday, January 9th, 2022, 7:00am, Grundy County Annex Building Conference Room/Zoom/Phone Conference

Scheduled Meeting Topics:

Budget Updates for FY23 & FY24
Chair/Vice-Chair Board Decision
Conflict of Interest Forms Updated
Signatory Updated
Operation Policy Update - Environmental Health included
Sanitarian Position Support Position Updated
Allen Women's Health Sharing
GCPH Structure Updates
Policy Updates (as needed)

Respectfully submitted,


Katie Thornton-Lang, MAE
Grundy County Public Health Administrator


Lexie Hach, MA

Chairperson