

Grundy County Board of Health

Monday, March 13th, 2023

Called to Order: 7:00am

The Grundy County Board of Health (LBOH) met on Monday, March 13th, 2023, at 7:00am in the Conference Room at Grundy Center Kling Memorial Library 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.

Zoom/conference call attendance will still continue to be available to board members and to the public. Meetings will be recorded and uploaded onto Grundy County Public Health (GCPH) Google Drive, with links available on minutes. Meeting recordings will be deleted off of Drive after no less than 1-years-time but will continue to be available upon request on GCPH Administrator, Katie Thornton-Lang's, county computer drive. Appointed board members present in person: Lexie Hach, MA, Chairperson; Crystal Petersen, RDN, LD, Vice-Chairperson; Tom Boheman, BS. Also present in person: Barbara Smith, Grundy County Board of Supervisors (BOS); Chase Babcock, Grundy County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Coordinator; Thornton-Lang; Michelle VanDeest, GCPH Office Coordinator. Appointed board members present via zoom/conference call: Julie Johnson, PsyD, LMHC. Also present via zoom: Heather Bombei, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (IHHS) Regional Consultant; Natalie Daugherty, University of Iowa (UofI) Intern.

The minutes from January 9th, 2023, were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Johnson; seconded by Boheman; carried. The minutes were approved as written. Minutes were signed by Chair, Hach, and will be submitted to IowaGrants.gov following meeting.

Grundy County Emergency Management Agency Presentation: Babcock, Grundy County EMA Coordinator, presented on program and collaborations. The EMA commission procedure was explained. Babcock states that the county's hazard mitigation plan is currently being updated. Babcock has visited all county schools to help with hazard assessments. Two schools have completed Active Threat and Stop the Bleed training (DNH & BCLUW); Babcock is currently working with other schools on completing trainings. Severe Weather Awareness Week is scheduled for the end of March; Grundy County will participate in the state-wide tornado drill on March 29th. Babcock explained the Alert Iowa communication platform, as well as the PrepWise for elderly preparedness (working with Grundy County Memorial Hospital/GCMH), and Prep Rally (K-3rd grade preparedness curriculum).

Landfill Commission Updates: Ryan Bingman, GCPH Landfill Representative, reports no updates at this time. Smith states that the engineering firm hired to safeguard the landfill has to do financial accountability to make sure the county has funds on hands to take care of landfill and all is set for Grundy County.

Environmental Health Updates: Carie Sparks, Grundy County Sanitarian, reports no updates at this time. She is waiting to hear back from county attorney, Erika Allen, regarding her job description and position updates.

Public Health Report for January/February, 2023:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Funding Updates

- The CDC is providing 28 million dollars to the State of Iowa for public health infrastructure updates, to which 40% has to go to local public health in some facet
- IHHS has decided to utilize this funding to advance a statewide and regional approach to public health
- Basically, this means “no check will be cut” to all individual 99 county health departments, but will be planning for regional staff to build Epidemiology (EPI) and Environmental Health areas needed to be improved

Local Public Health Services (LPHS) Grant

- 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), LPHS Collaborative (board).
- Internships: GCPH currently has two interns from the UofI College of Public Health: an undergraduate and a graduate student doing a hybrid in-person/virtual internship. Daughtry introduced herself to the board (via zoom) and discussed her work on a future Tuberculosis (TB) tabletop to address preparedness for this topic, as well as having TB resources available in Spanish.
- Monkeypox cases have slowed. The CDC is reporting every two weeks, as opposed to daily, for US case information.
- Disease Outbreak Updates
 - System Updates
 - IDSS Replacement
 - Currently starting with syphilis, e. Coli, and TB
 - Expecting end of 2023 or early 2024 for usage
 - Virtual direct observed therapy options, faxing options, etc.
 - IRIS replacement: up to 2 years down the line
 - All depends on federal COVID dollars coming to state.
 - Diseases of Interest: as needed shared with county healthcare partners (no concerns currently in county)
 - Drug-resistant shigellosis
 - Neisseria meningitidis
 - Chikungunya
 - Measles
 - Congenital syphilis
- School 10% Absenteeism
 - February had 1 district building submit 1 report that was non-respiratory related.

- Household Sharps Program
 - Received 2 containers during reporting period.
 - GCPH distributed information on new procedures via email communications to local partners/stakeholders, as well as on social media.
 - Smith states that the Landfill does prefer these to be brought out in April to coincide with their bi-yearly pick-up dates with the state.
- Grundy County Child Passenger Safety Program (GCCPSP)
 - Nationally certified child passenger safety technician, Thornton-Lang, was called upon to assist with children being transported safely home following discharge from hospital after January van accident in Grundy County. Provided family with two seats and brief education.
 - Provided education and installation for special-needs child with collaboration from Blank Children's Hospital.
 - Operation Threshold referred program to family and education/installation was provided to family.
- Healthy Habit All-Stars (HHAS) – Hand Hygiene/Staying Healthy
 - No updates until next fiscal year.

Immunization (I4) Grant

- Mandated Immunization Audits
 - Childcare center audits were completed in January
 - 637 total certificates audited
 - 100% total valid certificates
 - School audits completed October 2022
 - 2288 total certificates audited
 - 99.96 total valid certificates
 - TOTAL
 - 2925 certificates audited
 - 99.98% valid certificates
- A local long-term care center did experience an outbreak of Influenza A during reporting period. The facility worked with IHHS on this matter, and kept GCPH up-to-date on status throughout stated outbreak, which was resolved during reporting period.
- Healthy Habit All-Stars (HHAS) – Vaccination/Staying Healthy
 - No updates until next fiscal year.

Substance Abuse Prevention (SAP) Grant

- LifeSkills programming began at Timothy Christian and Gladbrook-Reinbeck in January. Grundy Center and Dike-New Hartford were completed 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).
- The funding received from the SAP grant has been utilized for activities. We will continue programming through the LPHS grant and county funds. We have SAP grant funding available to purchase educational materials, which will be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant

- PHEP meetings have been held via zoom.
- Medical Reserve Corps. (MRC)
 - 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 January/February 2023 (see attachment): 12,780 individuals reached. Facebook and Instagram stats were not available for the month of February.

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

- Video link:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eXh2yloseBfTz0OBPcZ6DARFE6R1OOna/view?usp=share_link
- Audio link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1htMd_nvmVO917d3mCU03vDWgNvly6-ds/view?usp=share_link
- File link:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10EbSvWjBEI8EVFmsa6WRLadFpLnTANW-?usp=share_link

Meeting adjourned at 7:51am; motion by Petersen, second by Johnson; carried.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: Monday, May 8th, 2023, 7:00am, Grundy County Annex Building
Conference Room/Zoom/Phone Conference

Scheduled Meeting Topics:

GCPH Structure Updates (as needed)

Policy Updates (as needed)

Respectfully submitted,



Katie Thornton-Lang, MAE

Grundy County Public Health Administrator



Lexie Hach, MA

Chairperson