

Grundy County Board of Health

Tuesday, May 12th, 2026

Called to Order: 7:01am

The Grundy County Board of Health (LBOH) met on Tuesday, May 12th, 2026, at 7:00am in the Conference Room at the Grundy County Annex Building in Grundy Center, IA. Per the Iowa Public Information Board, Chapter 21: Electronic Meetings for a Governmental Body will 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 in 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: Tom Boheman, BS, Chairperson; Joan Blair, BSN, MPH; Nick Buseman. Appointed board members present via zoom: Mike Nelsestuen, ARNP. Also present in person: Katie Thornton-Lang, GCPH Administrator; Jordyn Beeghly, GCPH Program Coordinator; Carie Sparks, Grundy County Sanitarian; Heather Bombei, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services Community Health Consultant; Lon Larson; Darren Hasselman; Pat Galles. Also present via zoom: Heidi Nederhoff, Grundy County Board of Supervisors (BOS).

The minutes from March 10th, 2026, regular meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Blair; seconded by Buseman; carried. The minutes were approved with one correction on first page to be adjusted. Minutes were signed by chairperson and will be uploaded to public health portion of county website following meeting.

Lon's Plumbing & Heating Septic System Installer Certification Request: Board listened to ordinance and expectations of renewing license and motion was made for renewal by Nelsestuen; seconded by Buseman; carried.

Septic Leech Field Variance Request for Jacob Ascher & Brooke Meyers: Board listened to request and motion was made for approval by Blair; seconded by Buseman; carried.

Driver's License/Environmental Health/Planning & Zoning Positions: Board reviewed recommendations on positions to make to BOS. Specific information was discussed between presented options 1 and 2 for position(s). Motion will be for option 1 with option to review in the future. Motion by Nelsestuen; seconded by Buseman; carried. Blair makes it known for the record that she prefers presented option 2 for the Environmental Health department.

see attached

Environmental Health Updates: Environmental Health Specialist/Sanitarian, Carie Sparks, updated board on environmental health matters and updates, specifically on Holland resident matter. She is currently looking for guidance on next steps. A citation is recommended as the situation is worsening and becoming a public health nuisance. More information will be disseminated at scheduled July meeting.

Landfill Commission Updates: No updates beyond the March and April commission meeting minutes that were distributed via email and reviewed by the board prior to meeting.

GCPH Department/Policy Updates: Beeghly and Thornton-Lang have both completed the newly elected and appointed officials training required for board members by the state, so they know what is required. Beeghly and Thornton-Lang attended the Public Health Conference of Iowa on April 8th; various sessions were attended and Thornton-Lang moderated session on the opioid settlement funding/programming. Partner Presentations will be held in August, and Thornton-Lang will set things up for that and report back in July. Annual Evaluations for Environmental Health and Public Health Administrator's will be held by board in July. More information will be disseminated for such.

IHHS Merger/Alignment Updates: Information on alignment townhall's have been emailed to BOS and Board, as updates were available.

Public Health Report for March/April 2026:

Local Public Health Services (LPHS) Grant

- FY27 grant application due 3/10/26; submitted 3/4/26.
- FY26 grant dollars expended in middle of March; activities will continue with billing to the county.
- Thornton-Lang currently attending LEAD training program through IHHS (April-May): Lead through Engagement, Activities and Discovery; purpose is to make better administrator in various ways.
- GCPH continues to participate in community meetings/discussions including but not limited to Grundy County Community Partners (board), Grundy Center Wellness Committee (board), Child Passenger Safety State Advisory (board), Black Hawk/Grundy Mental Health Center (board), NEI3A (board), Northeast Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Alliance (participant). For specific updates on any of these collaborative matters, please contact GCPH Administrator, Thornton-Lang. April was Child Abuse Protection Awareness and Sexual Assault Awareness Month; proclamations were given to BOS and courthouse lights changed for both in coordination with Community Partners. Health Week will be in June in coordination with Wellness Committee; GCPH will be hosting a Wellness Walk, with more information to come. (Through Grundy Center wellness Committee; Grundy Center Health Week)

- Internships:
 - Currently working with a Masters of Public Health student from University of Iowa College of Public Health (UofI/CPH) who is assisting with upcoming CHA-CHIP in Spring (former BA intern with GCPH); will be finishing up in May.
 - Currently partnering with UofI/CPH on various initiatives; will be finishing up in May.
 - UofI/CPH Intern reached out to do a variety of projects for experience (not required for school course).
 - Bremer County-led project with 6 other counties for various initiatives in summer.
- Disease Outbreak Updates
 - Thornton-Lang completed Advanced EPI training in March; it is recommended to repeat training every 3-5 years.
 - Isolated case of Crypto opened/closed on 4/23/26.
 - 2 EPI-linked cases of Crypto (household).
 - First opened on 4/28/26, closed on 4/29/26.
 - Second opened 4/30/26, closed in May.
 - Isolated case of Crypto opened on 4/30/26, continue to work on as of this report.
 - LTC Outbreaks = no reports.
 - School 10% Absenteeism = March saw 3 reports in buildings for various symptoms.
 - Diseases of Interest = information shared with local healthcare partners/stakeholders via email, as available:
 - Measles outbreak in US continues, as does planning and webinars/information sharing for such.
 - Please visit [Measles Cases and Outbreaks | Measles \(Rubeola\) | CDC](#) for updated national numbers/information.
 - Please visit [Disease Information | Health & Human Services](#) for updated state numbers/information.
 - Measles is the most transmissible disease of all known communicable diseases and prior to widespread immunization was responsible for 48,000 hospitalizations and 400-500 deaths per year, mostly among children (CDC).
- Household Sharps Program: Received 0 containers during reporting period. GCPH continues to distribute information on updated procedures via email communications to local partners/stakeholders, as well as on social media.
- Grundy County Child Passenger Safety Program (GCCPSP): No updates.
- Healthy Habit All-Stars (HHAS):
 - Concussion and Bike Safety scheduled with all schools.
 - Completed lessons in April at Grundy Center and Gladbrook-Reinbeck Kindergarten classrooms, with others scheduled in May.
- Bike Rodeos:
 - Beeghly provided assistance for such to INRCOG at Grundy Center Elementary.
 - Beeghly is scheduled to assist at May events, as well.

Immunization (I4) Grant

- FY27 grant application due 4/30/26; submitted 3/23/26.
- FY27 projected amount: \$8585 (same as FY26).
- Respiratory Virus Campaign: No updates.
- Healthy Habit All-Stars (HHAS): No updates.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant

- FY27 projected amount: \$15,733.11; FY26: \$14,752.62 +\$980.46.
- Grant Required Deliverables:
 - Monthly Radio Checks: completed in timely manner during reporting period
 - Point of Dispensing (POD) Workbook: Due date of 10/31/25; completed and submitted 10/8/25
 - Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA): Due date of 12/1/25; completed/submitted 11/20/25
 - National Incident Management System (NIMS): Due date of 12/1/25; completed/submitted 11/20/25
 - Training Record
 - Certificates
 - NIMSCAST
 - PHEP meetings have been held via zoom.
 - Department is continually working on updating PHERP plans for county/department.
 - Medical Reserve Corps. (MRC): GCPH has been approached by Service Area to possibly help in creation of SA-wide MRC program in the future.

6-Year Emergency Response Grant (6yrH5N1)

- No current updates.

Opioid Settlement (COOP)

- Finished teaching LifeSkills at end of March; having two of us teach, despite weather changes for schools, made it easier to get done on time.
- Funding explanation from monthly reports will be discussed at scheduled July meeting.

County Wellness Program

- No current updates on initiatives.

Social Media Stats

- Reporting period March/April 2026: 8322 individuals reached via Facebook and Instagram (X/Twitter stats not available).
- Beeghly completes social media stats weekly, monthly and yearly.

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

- Video link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1POVwOC14tIjLGaVs6eAPJ2fw-zlFHxa-/view?usp=sharing>
- Audio link:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15rIZEQV8ZJjUh3sinHZZHXOFpdrLDidB/view?usp=sharing>
- File link:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16P6uxvhBQxXmMY0mcTbtt2JJB7TAXMFg?usp=sharing>

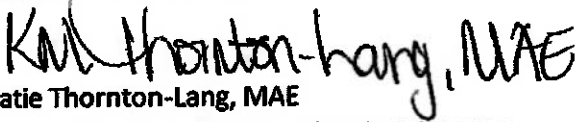
Meeting adjourned at 8:00am; motion by Blair, second by Buseman; carried.

Next Regular Scheduled Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 14th, 2026, 7:00am, Grundy County Annex Building Conference Room/Zoom/Phone Conference

Scheduled Upcoming Meeting Topics:

Annual Evaluations for Environmental Health and Public Health
August Partner Presentation Discussions
Policy Updates

Respectfully submitted,


Katie Thornton-Lang, MAE
Grundy County Public Health Administrator

Tom Boheman, BS
Grundy County Local Board of Health Chairperson



Grundy County Board of Supervisors/Local Board of Health Information Sharing
Meeting/Work Session Tuesday, April 14th, 2026

Discussed Position Options (using quality improvement tool: PICK Chart)

- Keep Driver's License, Planning and Zoning, and Environmental Health position the same but pull out all administrative duties and add supervision (\$74-77K, this includes salary, FICA, IPERS, and INS). Add an assistant at 16-29 hours per week. This position would support the above role administratively (Example: \$25 per hour, 25 hours per week, \$4000 for IPERS=Approximately \$36K per year). **Approximate total cost for this option: \$113K**
- Merge Environmental Health and Planning and Zoning to create a new FTE (\$92K, this includes salary, FICA, IPERS, and INS). Driver's License becomes part-time with the potential to move up to three days per week (\$41K, this includes salary and IPERS). **Approximate total cost for this option: \$133K.**
- Merge Driver's License and Planning and Zoning position to create a new FTE. Either contract out or post job for Environmental Health at 20 hours per week.
- Merge Driver's License and Environmental Health position to create a new FTE. Either contract out or post job for Planning and Zoning at 20 hours per week.
- Merge Custodian and Environmental Health position to create a new FTE. Hire another Custodian at 20 hour per week. DL and PZ would stay together as one position. Approximate total cost EH and Custodian: \$113K (Salary, FICA, IPERS, INS).
- Do nothing.

What makes this decision difficult:

- Unknowns about county budgets and budget cuts.
- Unknowns about public health alignment regarding environmental health.
- Have to do the best with the information in front of us and to meet the needs of the residents of Grundy County.