

**IOWA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
3/9/2022  
MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Donald Macfarlane, MD, PhD, Chair  
Andrew Allen, Vice-Chair  
Kierstyn Borg Mickelson  
George Kovach, MD  
Leone Junck  
Sandra McGrath, RN  
Nick Ryan, JD  
Chelcee Schleuger, RN, BSN  
Michael Wolnerman, RPh, CCIM

Members Absent: Lisa Czyzewicz, LPN

Staff Present: Heather Adams, Assistant Attorney General;  
Kelly Garcia, Interim Director  
Ken Sharp, Division Director  
Amy Van Maanen, Recording Officer

Staff Absent: Sarah Reisetter, J.D., Deputy Director

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Ken Sharp called the video meeting to order at 10:04 A.M. Roll call was taken to determine if a quorum was present.

**Election of Officers**

On a motion by Michael Wolnerman, seconded by George Kovach, all members present voted unanimously to approve Donald Macfarlane as the chairperson of the State Board of Health.

On a motion by Michael Wolnerman, seconded by Sandra McGrath all members present voted unanimously to approve Andrew Allen as the vice chairperson of the State Board of Health.

**Approval of Minutes from 1/12/2022**

On a motion by Leone Junck, seconded by Nick Ryan, all members present voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

**Director's Report**

Director Kelly Garcia provided information regarding the work being done related to suicide prevention. An unprecedented number of suicides (10) occurred in Polk County within a 30-day period. Work quickly began to discuss and determine needs and next steps. The department met with federal partners including CDC, SAMSHA, ASTHO, who provided the department with resources and connections to augment the work being done by Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Department of Human Services (DHS).

After initial conversations with Polk County, IDPH identified funding to work quickly on a statewide messaging campaign to target two audiences and direct them to Your Life Iowa for suicide and mental health support. The target audiences are 10-24 year olds and “influencers” in their lives (i.e. parents, grandparents, mentors, coaches, cousins). Social media platforms are being used for public service announcements in addition to connected TV. Work is also being done to develop digital toolkit which will allow the department to share the messaging materials with other agencies, groups, and schools

It is anticipated that this work will grow as more structure is added to the Iowa Plan for Suicide Prevention, 988 is implemented, and the ongoing technical assistance and community support the department provides through the Suicide Prevention Director.

Director Garcia provided an update on alignment. For more than a year, the IDPH and DHS have been working with a vendor, Public Consulting Group, to assess the coming together of the two agencies. It is anticipated that the release of the final change package with a functional organizational chart will occur by the end of this month. Communications will occur to walk our stakeholders through the recommendations, to understand what’s included and to understand the next steps on this multi-year path. Sarah Reisetter, deputy director, will lead the transition work.

Director Garcia also shared that the department was unable to hire a medical director and will be working on reposting the job.

#### **Legislative Update**

Maddie Wilcox, legislative liaison for the department, highlighted the newborn screening legislation. This legislation would expand testing as recommended by Center for Congenital and Inherited Disorders Advisory Committee. This passed out of the Senate yesterday and is up for debate in the House. The other legislation highlighted was related to sports wagering. IDPH will receive a \$1.75 million appropriation from sports wagering receipts. These funds will go to the department’s prevention and treatment of problem gambling work.

#### **Epidemiology Update**

Michael Pentella, M.D., Director, State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL), provided a presentation on the SHL’s response to the Omicron surge. In January 2021, SHL began sequencing. Approximately 5% of specimens are sequenced. This is done to understand what variants are circulating in the state. The SHL has sequenced close to 12,000 samples. Dr. Pentella shared it took two weeks for Omicron to spread compared to the 12 weeks it took for Alpha to spread, and seven weeks for Delta to spread. At the end of February 2022, SHL identified the BA.2 variant. Since July 2021, SHL has shipped 449,792 test kits and has processed 230,979 saliva samples. On 1/18/22, Iowans requested 27,800 test kits. Over 1.7 million tests have been performed since 3/2020. Board members expressed appreciation for Dr. Pentella and his staff.

#### **Administrative Rules – Iowa Department of Public Health [641] – Adopted and Filed**

##### **Chapter 9, “Outpatient Diabetes Education Programs”**

The proposed amendments reflect revisions related to an external organization’s name and credential designation. Clarifying revisions are also being proposed for acronyms and a few other items.

On a motion by George Kovach, seconded by Leone Junck, all members present voted unanimously to approve.

Chapter 78, “Personal Responsibility Education Programs and Title V State Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Grant Program Funding and Restrictions”

The purpose of the proposed changes is to adopt the requirements of 2019 Iowa Acts, House File 766, Section 99.

Andrew Allen recused from the discussion and vote.

On a motion by George Kovach, seconded by Nick Ryan, all members present voted unanimously to approve.

Chapter 80, “Local Public Health Services”

The proposed amendments streamline Chapter 80 by focusing the use of Local Public Health Services funds on Public Health Systems work and emphasizing core public health functions, essential services and public health interventions. The proposed amendments also serve to advance population health at a systems level while providing the opportunity to protect and improve the health of every Iowan.

On a motion by Chelcee Schleuger, seconded by Nick Ryan, all members present voted unanimously to approve.

Chapter 154, “Medical Cannabidiol Program”

The proposed amendments implement necessary updates to the rules to formalize waivers currently in effect, reduce compliance burden for licensees and the department, reduce barriers for veteran participation and provide additional authority to certifying practitioners.

One comment was received regarding the notice of cancellation. Additional language was added to identify when the cancellation becomes effective after receiving the notice. Discussion occurred regarding the addition. It was suggested that this be clarified further. No vote was taken and this will be reviewed again at the 5/11/22 meeting.

**Substance Use/Problem Gambling Treatment Program Committee Report**

The committee approved the following at the 2/9/22 meeting:

- Two – Two year license.

The committee approved the following at the 3/9/22 meeting:

- One – 270 day license;
- One – One year license;
- Two – Two year license;
- One – Three year license;
- Three – Deemed status; and
- One – Denial.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Sandra McGrath, seconded by Nick Ryan, all members present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 A.M.