

**IOWA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
5/11/2022  
MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Donald Macfarlane, MD, PhD, Chair  
Andrew Allen, Vice Chair  
George Kovach, MD  
Leone Junck  
Sandra McGrath, RN  
Michael Wolnerman, RPh, CCIM

Members Absent: Nick Ryan, JD  
Kierstyn Borg Mickelson  
Chelcee Schleuger, RN, BSN

Staff Present: Heather Adams, Assistant Attorney General;  
Kelly Garcia, Interim Director  
Sarah Reisetter, J.D., Deputy Director  
Ken Sharp, Division Director  
Iesha Smith, Recording Officer  
Amy Van Maanen

Staff Absent: None

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Donald Macfarlane called the video meeting to order at 10:03 AM. Roll call was taken to determine if a quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes from 3/9/2022**

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

**Director's Report – Kelly Garcia, Interim Director**

Director Garcia provided an update on the work being done related to suicide prevention and behavioral health as a follow-up to the information shared at the March board meeting. Two messaging campaigns were launched in early May. One message targets young Iowans who feel like they might harm themselves to let them know there are people who care. This message was placed on Snapchat, TikTok and gaming apps. The other message focused on adults encouraging them to have a conversation when someone in their life seems troubled. Both messages direct individuals to Your Life Iowa. Videos of the messaging campaigns were shared with the board. A media kit is available on the Your Life Iowa website.

Director Garcia also shared that later this month the department will host team members from the CDC who are coming to review Central Iowa data related to the suicide deaths that occurred earlier this year. The department is working in partnership with Polk County Public Health. The CDC will recommend prevention strategies based on their findings.

Information regarding the Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) at the Department of Human Services was shared. Many residential providers have terminated their contracts for services due to a variety of factors. Staffing crises are adversely impacting essential bed capacity. Shelter and QRTP providers cannot accept placements or are limiting placements. This results in expensive and bad outcomes for Iowa youth. These permanent closures accounted for an unexpected loss of approximately 50 QRTP beds and 25 shelter beds. Three major facilities have closed in the last two years.

Conversations are occurring with the Department of Public Safety to create a tool kit for parents around what is appropriate use of screen time and how to keep your kids safe when using social media.

Director Garcia mentioned we are looking internally at the HHS system to stress the importance of taking care of your mental health and ensuring the HHS teams have access to resources and know they can get the help they need. A new three digit number, 988, launches this summer as the national suicide crisis line

#### **Alignment Update – Sarah Reisetter, J.D., Deputy Director**

Director Garcia tasked Sarah Reisetter to lead the next phase of aligning the Department of Public Health and the Department of Human Services. In March, work began to discuss what needed to be accomplished by 10/2022. Twenty discrete projects were identified: guiding principles for alignment projects; workspace consolidation; leadership and employee change management/transition support; tables of organization; communication plan; mission, vision, guiding principles for new agency; branding strategy; information sharing opportunities across agencies; updated cost allocation strategy; state budget development; HHS budget bill drafting; legislatively directed transition plan; formal consolidation bill draft; major impact areas work groups; department policy/handbook comparison and updates; website development; essential IT priorities; essential human resource priorities; and project governance strategy.

Sarah provided a brief description of each of the projects. Photos of various work sessions were shared.

#### **Health Equity Update – Olivia Walker, Health Equity Coordinator**

Health equity is defined by the department as attaining the highest possible level of health for all people. It means achieving the environmental, social, and economic and other conditions in which all people have the opportunity to attain their highest possible level of health. Elements of the department's health equity framework involve work in the following areas: organization culture, internal policies and procedures, data equity framework, planning and performance improvement, and partnerships and community engagement. Olivia also shared health equity is a part of each domain in the public health accreditation standards. Information was added to the department's strategic plan to support how we measure our health equity efforts.

In the HHS functional organizational chart, health equity is placed in Strategic Operations in order to provide support across the new HHS system.

#### **Legislative Update – Maddie Wilcox, Legislative Liaison**

Legislative session is still underway as the Legislature works through remaining priorities. The House HHS budget passed out of the House and is eligible for consideration in the Senate, but no formal action has been taken. The House HHS budget includes alignment language to merge IDPH and DHS into one agency. Major Legislative Win: Governor signed SF 2345 (Newborn Screenings) into law. The Chapter 4 Rules are before you today for Notice of Intended Action as part of our bill implementation work.

**Administrative Rules – Iowa Department of Public Health [641] – Notice of Intended Action**

**Chapter 4, “Center for Congenital and Inherited Disorders”**

The proposed amendments eliminate portions of the rules that are outdated and no longer needed or used, and updates the remaining portions to modern radiation therapy standards.

No action was required.

**Chapter 11, “Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome”**

The proposed amendments eliminate portions of the rules that are outdated and no longer needed or used, and updates the remaining portions to modern radiation therapy standards.

No action was required.

**Chapter 42, “Permit to Operate Ionizing Radiation Producing Machines or Administer Radioactive Materials”**

The proposed amendments eliminate portions of the rules that are outdated and no longer needed or used, and updates the remaining portions to modern radiation therapy standards.

No action was required.

**Chapter 73, “Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children”**

The proposed amendments eliminate portions of the rules that are outdated and no longer needed or used, and updates the remaining portions to modern radiation therapy standards.

No action was required.

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

**Chapter 154, “Medical Cannabidiol Program”**

The proposed amendments eliminate portions of the rules that are outdated and no longer needed or used, and updates the remaining portions to modern radiation therapy standards.

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

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

Michael Wolnerman, chair of the committee, provided a report on the committee’s actions for May. The committee approved the following:

- One - one year license;
- Two - two year licenses;
- Two – three year licenses;
- One - Deemed status; and
- One - license revision.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Sandra McGrath, seconded by Michael Wolnerman, all members present voted to unanimously to adjourn at approximately 11:40 AM.