**Louisa County Board of Health**

Meeting Minutes January 11th, 2022

**Members Present**: Randy Griffin, Lynn Mincer, Joellen Schantz, Tim Verink

**Members Present via Zoom**: Jacinta Wangui

**Excused/Absent**:

**Staff Present:** R. Smith

**Guests:** Jim Rudisill, Brian Thye

**Guests via Zoom:** Bruce Hudson

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Griffin at 1329.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve January 11th, 2022 agenda by Schantz, 2nd by Verink. All approved, so carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Schantz to approve November 9th, 2021 board minutes, 2nd by Verink. All approved, so carried.

**Election of Officers**

Schantz motioned to leave current officers in place as they are now, officer positions reviewed as: Griffin – Chair, Schantz – Vice Chair, Verink – Secretary, R. Smith – Secretary Pro Tem. Mincer seconded the motion, all approved, so carried.

**Signatory Authority**

After discussion, motion by Mincer to give R. Smith signatory authority for the board, 2nd by Verink. All approved, so carried.

**Environmental Health Update**

New Business: Thye presented EH finances, stats, and the system installation report through December 2021.

Unsewered Communities Program:

Hudson and Thye presented a new grant opportunity for homeowners that is aimed at addressing septic issues in the approximately 350 unsewered communities in Iowa. The grant would allow homeowners who meet certain criteria to apply for funding to install septic systems on their property. The roll of the county would include routine septic applications, inspections, and approvals as needed to ensure the systems meet Iowa Code requirements; the homeowner would be responsible for all grant applications and funding would be received directly by the homeowner. Current communities approved by the Iowa DNR as unsewered and able to apply for the grant include Cairo, Cotter, Elkrick Junction, Hawkeye Woods, Sand Run, Toolesboro, and Wyman, however, Thye stated other properties could be approved at the discretion of the Iowa DNR. Hudson stated that the grant information is new and rapidly changing, but at this time, funding is planned to be on a first come, first served basis in the state. Hudson encouraged the board to reach out to the targeted communities about this opportunity once more was known about the grant.

*Hudson and Thye exited the meeting.*

Budget Review:

R. Smith presented the proposed FY23 EH budget; after discussion, motion by Schantz to approve the FY23 EH budget as presented, 2nd by Verink. All approved, so carried.

Old Business:

None

**Public Health/Home Health Update**

New business/Financial Report:

Smith presented financial and home visit caseload data through December 2021, noting the caseload is down. Smith has spoken with local providers about the ability to accept referrals and plans to advertise for home health services.

2021 Mosquito Surveillance Report:

Smith presented the report from ISU, noting that the species being targeted were again not found in Louisa County this year. However, the species continues to be found in nearby Des Moines and Lee counties. R. Smith plans to continue trapping efforts in Louisa County as requested by the ISU grant program.

Administrator Review:

R. Smith notified the board it was time for her annual review. Process discussed, determined that Verink and Wangui would do the sit-down eval this year at a date to be determined and present their findings to the board. Staff evals will be completed and given to a BOH member.

Budget Review:

R. Smith presented the proposed FY23 PH budget; after discussion, motion by Schantz to approve the FY23 PH budget with a change to increasing the employee medical exam exp. line to $250 and by following the FY23 county-wide BOS wage increase for all dept. employees, which is yet to be determined. Second by Verink, roll call vote: Verink aye, Schantz aye, Mincer aye, Wangui aye, Griffin aye. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Approval of Infection Control Policy:

Policy tabled from last meeting. Wangui states she had reviewed the policy and after verifying a separate employee needlestick policy was in place, recommended to approve the policy. Motion by Mincer to approve the Infection Control Policy as presented, 2nd by Schantz. All approved, so carried. R. Smith to email policy to Wangui for signature.

COVID-19 Update: R. Smith updated the board on current COVID stats including case counts, variants, vaccination rates, and the latest update to isolation/quarantine guidance.

R. Smith also discussed the proposed CMS regulation mandating healthcare workers be vaccinated for employment. The mandate has been on hold and is pending Supreme Court ruling. R. Smith explained. If approved, the final language would determine the complexity of the mandate from a business standpoint; fully vaccinated vs. up-to-date.

Implemented at the first of the year, COVID vaccine is offered on Thursdays only at the PH dept. due to decreased demand and to limit waste. All three vaccine types are offered.

R. Smith also notified the board that she has been working with IT on a new phone system project that will be funded with additional COVID funds specifically for PH department IT upgrades.

**Public Input**

No public in attendance.

**Meeting**

Next BOH meeting: Tuesday, February 8th @ 1330; IDPH CHC Consultant B. Davis plans to be in attendance.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion to adjourn by Verink at 1524.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Roxanne Smith*

Secretary Pro Tem

Motion to Approve:

1st: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_