

# Mitchell County Board of Health Meeting

02/14/25

11:58 – 2:20

MCHHCPH Conference Room

**Call to Order:** The Mitchell County Board of Health meet on Friday, February 14, 2025, in the Mitchell County Home Health and Public Health conference room. Jolene Norby called the meeting to order at 11:59am. Others present at the meeting were Sandy Offen, Pam Marzen, Laura Huisman, Jessa Ketelsen, Terri Tesch, Janet Borcharding, Dr. Kelly Ross, Carla Miller, Wendy Noel, Vinton Buffenmyer, Lupe Bandello and Christine Hackenmiller. Absent: Brenda Miller, Sasha Giles and Amanda Baer

**Agenda:** Jolene asked for a motion to approve the agenda or if there are any changes. Terri made a motion to approve the agenda as written, the motion was seconded by Sandy and passed unanimously.

**Review and Approval of past minutes:** Janet made the motion to approve the December 13, 2024 minutes as printed, motion seconded by Terri and passed unanimously.

**Elect 2025 Board of Health Officers:** Sandy nominated Jolene as the Chair, Terri seconded the nomination. Nomination passed with unanimous votes. Jolene nominated Brenda as the Vice Chair, Sandy seconded the nomination. Nominations passed with unanimous votes. Unanimous to keep Terri as the secretary.

**North Iowa Community Action Services Update:** Carla Miller, Director of Health and Nutrition Services attended today's meeting presenting and highlighting a few of the services provided; Family Planning, Healthy Pregnancy Program and WIC. The WIC program is offering "Making Snacking Fun" which encourages children to help in the kitchen and making health choices. Mitchell County currently has around 156 enrolled in the WIC program. Starting in October of this year, WIC will partner with Mitchell County Public Health, sharing office space coming in on Wednesdays to offer services to the county. Healthy Pregnancy Program very important to our region as North Iowa has been declared as "desert area" for prenatal care. Through this program prenatal pills are available, insurance assessments, dental health screenings, and post delivery screenings. Face to Face visits for Family Planning are available in Franklin, Floyd and Cerro Gordo counties. Wendy Noel presented the First Five program. The programs' goal is helping families in the first five years with appropriate resources: appointments, transportation, follow-ups, up-dates to the Providers, etc. This program is considered short-term help, free to all, and is not based on income any child can receive support.

**Environmental Health:** Amanda absent. Discussion & Possible Action on Environmental Health Verification Signature for Valent: Jolene reported she and Jim Wherry worked on verifying what Valent was having Amanda sign. The document is verification of the origin of a product. Jolene asked if the Board was ready to make a motion to allow Amanda to sign or if the board wants to table it. Pam questioned how Amanda knows if the product was made in Osage or shipped up from Illinois or elsewhere. Sandy would like to table the discussion until Amanda is back. Discussion is tabled and Jolene will visit more with Jim on the subject. Discussion & Possible Action on 28E Agreement with Chickasaw County Public Health: Jessa reported that she has been fielding a lot of calls and emails during Amanda's maternity leave. She's been able to take care of the time of transfers but there are many other issues that she did not receive enough guidance and/or direction to comfortably handle the issues. She has reached out to Chickasaw County for guidance they have offered to sign a 28E Agreement. The County attorney has written up the agreement looking for Boards approval to sign. If the agreement is signed it will allow Chickasaw Co. to provide services within Mitchell County. Any services performed by Chickasaw would be covered under Amanda's budget. Once signed the agreement will always be in place for later use. Dr. Ross made a motion to sign the agreement, the motion was seconded by Sandy and passed unanimously.

**Home Health/Public Health Business Operations:** Expense/Revenue Reports: Laura deferred to the report and expanded on a few points in her report. Amendments have been approved. Laura proposed new agency rates and adjustments to the sliding fee scale. Terri made a motion to approve the increase in rates, the motion was seconded by Sandy and passed unanimously. Sandy made a motion to approve the new sliding fee scale as Laura proposed, the motion was seconded by Janet and passed unanimously. Letters stating the new rates will be mailed to all the private pay clients. Pam made a motion to approve delegation of signatory authority for FY26: Local Public Health Services Grant, Immunization Services Grant, and Public Health 6-year Emergency Response Grant, the motion was seconded by Janet and passed unanimously. These will be signed by Jolene. Approval of FY24 Annual Report is needed: Terri made a motion to approve the FY24 Annual Report as presented, the motion was seconded by Sandy and passed unanimously. The report will be available to the public, posted on the website and provided to the Board of Supervisors. Staffing Update: Two new nurses have been hired; Molly Schulz and Nancy Schroeder are currently both in

training. Grant Financial Updates: Laura deferred to the report and commented that the agency has received a couple of checks already from the Dairy Farmers Grant. Approval of FY26 Immunization Grant Application: Grant is completed for same amount as last year \$8080.00. The application needs approval before submitting it to the state. Janet made a motion to approve the application as written, the motion was seconded by Pam and passed unanimously.

**Public Health Updates.** Jessa deferred and expanded on a few points in her report. Name of Blood Pressure Clinics has now been changed to Wellbeing Community Health Clinics as she offers more services during these clinics such as illness discussions, vaccines etc. State will not pay for time/mileage of a blood pressure clinic alone. Starting in April, the Stacyville Wellbeing Community Health Clinic will no longer be held at the library and will move to the Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the Month after mass. Childcare audits which include preschools and daycares have been completed. Application has been submitted for Jessa to become a car seat safety technician. To become a technician, she will need to complete a 4-day class which she is currently on the waiting list to join. Once certified she will need to continue to keep it up to date. Agency received \$400.00 from Heartland Grant which was used to purchase 25 bicycle helmets from DeMaris Hardware. Agency also received 80 Helmets from Blank Children Hospital. These helmets will be given away at the bicycle rodeo that we will host in May. Jessa encouraged all Board of Health members to attend the Narcan training that she will host along with the CRC on March 13. She will also be conducting a "Friends and Family CPR" course at the CRC on March 15. General Assistance: The 13 Mental Health Disability Regions have been consolidated into 7 regions. Our County Social Services has applied for the contract to manage our region the state will award the contracts by the end of February. If not awarded our agency will be looking into replacing all those services provided. Training: New training in Public Health; year long professional development program hosted at the University of Wisconsin. There were 96 applicants of those 30 who were accepted into the program, Jessa is one of them.

**Home Health Update:** Laura deferred to the report

**QAPI Update:** Currently no updates.

**Agency Other:** Installation of the new windows will be soon. Updating the phone system currently looking at 2 different bids; Laura would like to see a comparison between the two bids. Jolene brought to attention that a few Board members received an email from a past county Supervisor; the email was regarding previous issues that had already been handled and cleared up. She wanted to make all aware that the email concerns were a non-issue.

**Public Comment:** Vinton Buffenmyer and Lupe Bandello from Nexair; a renewable energy developer joined today's meeting with the hopes of meeting the BOH chair and Pam and to answer questions. Information was shared and good discussions regarding wind farms, solar and battery.

**Next Meeting:** April 11, 2025, at 12:00pm.

**Meeting adjourned:** 2:20 pm