

Mitchell County Board of Health Meeting

02/13/2026

11:59-1:20

MCHHCPH Conference Room

Call to Order: The Mitchell County Board of Health meet on Friday, February 13, 2026, in the Mitchell County Home Health and Public Health conference room. Jolene Norby called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm. Others present at the meeting were Sandy Offen, Pam Marzen, Terri Tesch, Dr. Kelly Ross, Janet Borchering, James Meineke, Laura Huisman, Sasha Giles, Amanda Baer, Lorelei Cash, Wendy Noel and Christine Hackenmiller.

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

Review and Approval of past minutes: Dr Ross made the motion to approve December 19, 2025, minutes as printed, motion seconded by Janet and passed unanimously.

Introductions and welcome: New board member, James Meineke was introduced and welcomed.

Elect 2026 Board of Health Officers: Jolene nominated Terri to serve as Chair of the Board. Terri Tesch accepted the nomination. Motion carried unanimously. Janet nominated Jolene to serve as Vice Chair. Motion carried unanimously. Jolene nominated Janet for Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

North Iowa Community Action Service Update, Lorelei Cash and Wendy Noel: Wendy, Director of 1st Five and Family Planning, provided an update to the Board on services offered and distributed informational packets. She explained that 1st Five typically partners with healthcare providers to share information about services; however, several daycare centers have recently reached out requesting information as well. Wendy expressed interest in having staff attend community events, such as family fun nights, to set up informational tables and distribute materials. She also noted ongoing collaboration with WIC to help share information about available services. Wendy has talked about Family Planning services available. Lorelei, Director of WIC and Maternal Health, provided an update to the Board on services offered. WIC is currently in Mitchell County on the 1st Wednesday of the month, and they also offer a Tela-WIC option for those unable to make it to a face-to-face visit.

Environmental Health: Amanda deferred to the report and was open to questions. She reported that she has been tracking the water tests since the beginning of the year, and a color-coded map has been created to provide a clear visual of results. Reminder postcards have been ordered and will be mailed to encourage residents to annually test their water. Elevated nitrate levels continue to be found in some areas, and Amanda plans to partner with Mitchell County Conservation to assist with mitigation efforts. Radon testing is also being tracked to monitor trends. Higher radon levels are being identified more often within city limits. Plan is to follow up with residents who received inconclusive results, and new test kits will be provided to those individuals. Iowa remains one of the leading states for high radon levels. Several new bills have been brought to Amanda's attention and will require a close watch as these could have an impact on the dynamics of her office.

Public Health/Home Health Business Operations: Expense/Revenue Reports: Laura deferred to the report regarding the budget and grant financials. Overall, the budget is looking good: currently under on expenses and over on revenues. A new nurse has been hired, Samatha Groh, she will be starting full-time on Tuesday, Feb. 17. Samantha will be utilized for two and half days with home health and the remaining time with public health. The Public Health position is newly created to assist Jessa.

Laura asked for approval in these areas:

1. Approve Delegation of Signatory Authority for FY 27 Local Public Health Services Grants.
2. Approve Delegation of Signatory Authority for FY27 Immunization Services Grant
3. Approve Delegation of Signatory Authority for FY27 Public Health 6-year Emergency

Motion to approve delegation of signatory authority for FY 27 grants was made by Pam; the motion was seconded by Sandy and passed unanimously. Terry will sign.

4. Approve Home Health Aide Services and Training Program updated Policy. Actively hiring for PRN aide; it is not a requirement for a home health aide to be CNA. Policy change will state that home health aides can be trained internally. Policy will cover the list of competencies that will need to be covered and completed prior to patient care. Motion to approve the updated Home Health Aide Services and Training Program policy was made by Terri; the motion was seconded by Sandy and passed unanimously.

Public Health Updates. Laura deferred to Jessa's report and expanded on a few points in her report. LR Falk contacted Public Health to participate in a company Safety Day event. Jessa provided a Stop the Bleed training, a mental health presentation targeted toward construction workers, and NARCAN training. Approximately 80 employees attended the event.

Home Health Update: Sasha deferred to the report and updated on census as of today. Current census 70 and 7 referrals on the board. Unfortunately, our HHCAHPS rating went down from 4 to 3. Sasha continues to follow up with patients and reminds them to take the survey. Sasha has begun meeting with the aides on a weekly basis and a combined nurse/aide meeting once a month. She plans to add additional topics to the weekly meetings such as Stop the Bleed training with aides, a Skills Fair scheduled for March, fall prevention education in partnership with Fox, hospice education, and a mock survey with Annette planned for July. Sasha has signed up for the Spring Conference coming up in March.

QAPI Update: Sasha deferred to her report. QA meeting was held on January 15 with members from Fox Rehab in attendance.

Agency Other: Laura highlighted an upcoming Family Drug & Alcohol-Free Night event - North Iowa Bulls hockey game at the Mason City Arena on March 20, 2026. Free tickets will be available for Mitchell County residents. Sponsored by the Mitchell County Substance Abuse Coalition and Mitchell County Public Health.

Public Comment:

Pam asked about the phones.

Next Meeting: April 10, 2026

Meeting adjourned: 1:20 pm