

Bremer County Board of Health
415 East Bremer Avenue
Waverly, IA 50677
(319) 352-0130

The Bremer County Board of Health regular meeting was called to order by Chair Sally Yungtum at 6:30 PM on July 12, 2023.

Present were members: Amanda Gesme, Dewey Hildebrandt, Dr. Courtney Bochmann, Dr. Joe Sampson, and Sally Yungtum.

Motion by Hildebrandt, second by Bochmann, to approve the July 12, 2023 agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bochmann, second by Sampson, to approve the minutes from the May 3, 2023, regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

No public comment was received.

Amanda Kirchhoff, Operation Threshold, presented an update on Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Women, Infant, Children (WIC) services. Kirchhoff started the update by stating that nationally, the WIC program has seen a declining caseload since 2010. To increase the caseload of WIC participants locally, WIC has and continues to do community outreach with around 75 community partners ranging from local public health departments to pediatrician offices and attends community events in Bremer County. Kirchhoff then shared updates on WIC's goal of decreasing childhood obesity through increasing breastfeeding education and support to mothers. Kirchhoff reported that in Bremer County, the "Ever Breastfed" rate was 73% compared to 69% for Iowa. Additionally, Kirchhoff shared the unduplicated WIC participation data for Bremer County. From FY2022 to FY2023, there was an increase of 113 individuals served which could be attributed to COVID being over and the changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The WIC program is in Bremer County on the third Tuesday of every month at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Waverly from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ainsley Oldenburger, Allen Women's Health & Child Protection Center presented a calendar year 2022 update on Allen Child Protection Center (ACPC), Iowa Healthy Pregnancy Program, and Family Planning Services. The ACPC assists children and adults who may be victims of abuse or witnesses to crime. The ACPC programming includes mental health, outreach, and drug-endangered children's services. In 2022, 795 patients were served in the 27 Northeast and North Central Iowa regions, a 23% increase from 2021. The Iowa Healthy Pregnancy Program provides services to Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, and Grundy counties. This program strives to reduce the rate of low-birth-weight babies by providing individualized prenatal health education and other supports such as oral health services, mental health support, breastfeeding education, and referrals. In 2022, 485 new patients were served in the four-county area. Oldenburger ended the update with statistics on family planning services. Family planning services serve the same area as the Iowa Healthy Pregnancy Program. In 2022, 1,062 women and men in the area were served with the following benefits: cancer screenings, sexually transmitted infection treatments, mammograms, and counseling on reproductive life planning.

Jackie Preston and Lindsay Wolff, Pathways Behavioral Services, Inc., presented an FY 2023 Substance Abuse Prevention Contract update for Bremer County. During the FY, students in the Janesville school district completed ten lessons of the LifeSkills program. Due to scheduling, priorities, and legislative changes in Iowa, school districts in the county that had previously

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participated in the LifeSkills program declined to participate in FY23. Additional activities included reducing the use of drinking by those under the age of 21 through “event alcohol restrictions” at select Bremer County events. Pathways also worked to increase knowledge about problems caused by underage drinking through community presentations and providing updates to stakeholders in the county.

Lindley Sharp, Bremer County Health Department (BCHD), presented a department update that primarily covered the State of Iowa Government Alignment and Iowa Health and Human Services Delivery Alignment. Sharp explained that in 2022, Governor Reynolds announced plans that the State of Iowa was going to begin a comprehensive assessment of state government to find ways to operate more efficiently and effectively. This resulted in 37 cabinet-level departments being consolidated into 16, eliminated 500 unfilled positions, and is projected to save the state over \$214 million over four years (see [Senate File 514](#)). Before this, the Iowa Departments of Public Health and Human Services started to investigate how to align and integrate these two departments. In March 2022, the project resulted in a fully aligned Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS). As of July 1, 2023, the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services now includes the Departments of Human Services, Public Health, Aging, Human Rights, Early Childhood Iowa, Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services, Child Advocacy Board, and consumable hemp registration. During the summer and into the fall of 2023, Iowa HHS began to study the delivery of health and human service programs throughout the entire state by hiring Health Management Associates (HMA). The assessment by HMA includes areas of local governmental public health, environmental health, I-SMILE, WIC, maternal and child health, family planning, tobacco community partnerships, emergency preparedness regions, DCAT, mental health delivery regions, certified community behavioral health centers, integrated provider networks, aging and disability resource centers, area agencies on aging, ECIs, community action agencies, local public health delivered Medicaid services, and community partnership for protecting children. HMA will complete its assessment and provide recommendations and rationales for at least two proposed options for service delivery maps and at least two proposed funding models for the local HHS system by the end of October 2023.

Sharp presented the Bremer County Health Department Budget and Finances report for May 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023. Motion by Hildebrandt, second by Bochmann, to accept budget and finance report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The next regular Board of Health meeting will be held on September 13, 2023, at 6:30 PM at the Bremer County Health Department office located at 403 3rd St. SE, Waverly, IA 50677.

Motion by Gesme, second by Sampson, to adjourn the July 12, 2023, regular meeting at 7:40 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lindley Sharp

Lindley Sharp, Secretary