

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 6:28 PM on March 1, 2023.

Present were members: Amanda Gesme, Dewey Hildebrandt, Dr. Courtney Bochmann, Dr. Joe Sampson, and Sally Yungtum. Ange Miller, Bethann Thompson, Lindley Sharp, Lindsey Lambert, and Scott Dickinson were also in attendance.

Motion by Hildebrandt, second by Gesme, to approve the March 1, 2023 agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Hildebrandt, second by Gesme, to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2023, regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

No public comment was received.

Scott Dickinson, Waverly Pathways Behavioral Services, presented an update on the Pathways behavioral and mental health services, as well as offered answers to any questions that the Bremer County Board of Health (BOH) members may have. Yungtum asked Dickinson if he could give an overview of what they are seeing at their facility and what is going on currently with their behavioral health. Dickinson responded by stating that they are overwhelmed and constantly short-staffed. Dickinson also stated that their next opening to see a patient for behavioral or mental health isn't until April and they are having to consistently push appointments out because they do not have enough providers to accommodate the number of patients they are providing care for. Hildebrandt then asked if it was Dickinson's opinion that more people are struggling with their mental and behavioral health to which Dickinson responded "Yes". Dickinson stated that right now, patients are only able to be seen approximately once a month versus once a week or every two weeks. Dickinson also shared with the BOH members that they are beginning to see patients from other counties as many other facilities have stopped intakes or drastically slowed intakes down. Dickinson then shared Pathways' list of services and informed BOH members of a new grant that they have received that will assist them in hiring new people and staff, creating and implementing new programs, and will be able to be used for uninsured patients. Dickinson stated that Pathways has also purchased an additional building in Waverly that will be used as their new children's building. This facility will be kid-friendly, have different child-specific therapies and programs, and structured parenting coaching. Right now, the blueprints for the building are still being drawn up and worked on as there will be renovations needed to be made before the new facility can open. Hildebrandt also advised Dickinson to contact Jan Heidemann with Bremer County to inquire if there is any additional funding available for the new Pathways Children facility. Lastly, Dickinson did distribute handouts that listed the services that Pathways offers and a flyer asking for donations to help Pathways furnish their new children's mental health building in Waverly.

Lindsey Lambert, Bremer County Building and Zoning, provided the Bremer County Board of Health with an update regarding Grants to Counties. Lambert stated that the second quarter grant had been submitted and shared all well-water testing results with the BOH. Lambert also shared that a workshop for well-owners was held at the Waverly Public Library and good education was given during that time to the private well-owners. Lambert's department also sent out postcards in the mail to private well-owners and approximately 115 people responded requesting

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testing as a result of those postcards. Additionally, new homeowners folders were sent out containing information regarding the care and maintenance of private wells.

Angela Miller, Bremer County Health Department, presented an update following the Vaccine for Children (VFC) virtual site visit. Miller stated that the Bremer County Health Department passed the visit and evaluation and no recommendations were made. Miller also shared that the main thing that these visits investigate is the storage and handling of vaccines.

Lindley Sharp, Bremer County Health Department (BCHD), presented a department update for the dates covering January 1, 2023, through February 28, 2023. Sharp shared the different essential public health services and activities that the Bremer County Health Department focused on during January and February. Sharp and the BOH members had a brief conversation regarding a phone call that the health department received where an individual was inquiring about prescription drug disposal. It was determined by BOH members that this topic is something that the BCHD can work on educating the public more on. Sharp discussed the continued success of the Bremer County Health Department Diabetes Prevention Program. Sharp coached 2 sessions of the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) for a cohort of 5 prediabetic individuals. The cohort for these 5 individuals started in July 2022 and will end in June 2023. Bochmann suggested that in the future, it would possibly be beneficial to invite successful DPP participants back to speak to the new cohort(s). In addition, the Bremer County Health Department also served 69 persons at various foot clinics during January and February 2023 and served 2 persons through their Loan Closet Program. The BCHD Deputy Administrator administered 1 COVID-19 vaccine.

Sharp presented the Bremer County Health Department Budget and Finances for July 2022 through February 2023. Motion by Hildebrandt, second by Bochmann, to accept the July 2022 through February 2023 budget and finances as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Sharp presented the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Bremer County Health Department Budget. Sharp stated that she does not believe that the health department will end up needing the full \$90,000 in their General Fund, which is currently stated in the FY23 budget. Sharp requested that the BOH allow her to amend and adjust the general fund at her discretion and without the requirement of a special meeting being held. Motion by Bochmann, second by Hildebrandt, to accept the Fiscal Year 2023 Bremer County Health Department Budget with the allowance for the BCHD Administrator to amend the FY23 General Fund, not to exceed \$90,000, at her professional discretion. The motion carried unanimously.

Sharp presented the Bremer County Health Department Continuity of Operations Plan. Motion by Hildebrandt, second by Sampson, to approve the Bremer County Health Department Continuity of Operations Plan as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Sharp presented the Bremer County Fiscal Year 2024 Public Health 6-Year Emergency Response Contract Application. Motion by Bochmann, second by Gesme, to approve the Bremer County Fiscal Year 2024 Public Health 6-Year Emergency Response Contract Application as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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The next regular Board of Health meeting will be held on May 3, 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 Bochmann, to adjourn the March 1, 2023, regular meeting at 7:46 PM.
The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lindley Sharp

Lindley Sharp, Secretary