

The Public Health Herald

FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's August, so you might be enjoying the last vestiges of summer, getting so freaking ready for your kids to go back to school, counting down the days until the first Iowa Football game (29...) or questioning WHY you planted so many tomatoes in May. Or quite possibly, all of the above. Sarah told me I had to be brief this month because she's tight on space, so here we go. If you haven't already, please take 15 minutes and provide feedback on the HHS assessment so they can understand the value of keeping local public health local. The survey is available at https://healthmanagement.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aa46cNAcZT5hAeG and will be open until August 11.

On page two of the herald I've included a legislative update talking about a few topics covered this past session as well as trends that Public Health is seeing in the future. Its important to our work that you're aware what's going on. Please let me know if you have questions or thoughts you'd like me to share with the IPHA Advocacy Committee.

Thank you to Giselle for the great "Buddy System" idea!! If you haven't already, reach out to your buddy and schedule some time. I enjoyed my time with Haley Wilson this month, and hope you all take advantage of this opportunity to get to know your colleagues. They're pretty cool people, not that I'm biased. Thanks to everyone who is participating in your PHAB domain meetings. I know schedules are hard to accommodate and folks are trying their best, and I appreciate it. Your feedback makes us better. I appreciate you all.

In Health,

Danielle

PHAB UPDATES

Now that everyone has had their first PHAB Domain meeting Mike will start holding "lunch-n-learn" style events to provide greater understanding of all things PHAB.

With so many new faces since our accreditation journey our first event will be "The PHAB Manual: The Step-by-Step Guide to Understanding Domains/Standards/Measures" where he will highlight the important aspects of the Version 2022 Reaccreditation manual. Now, before you scroll past this and onto the other great content within the Herald ask yourself the following questions:

1. Should I attend? (**hint: yes!**)
2. Is this required? (**hint: no, but refer to question 1 above**)
3. Will my Domain Lead pester me about attending? (**hint: yes, they probably will**)
4. Will it make Mike's day? (**hint: you're darn tootin'**)
5. Will there be food? (**hint: yes! And it's B.Y.O. work-safe B[everage!]**)

The following dates/times were selected based on the Leave Calendar and CS meetings to allow for the greatest attendance:
 8/23/23 – 9-9:30am
 8/25/23 – 8:45-9:15am
 Location: 117B



Boardy, the beloved JoCo mascot, is missing. Follow along at <https://findboardy.wordpress.com/>.



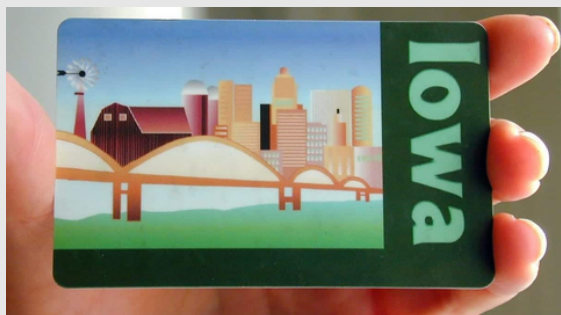
The Public Health Herald

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

From IPHA Advocacy Committee meeting on July 20, 2023.

Taylor McDonald, our contract lobbyist for IPHA, gave us an overview of the last Legislative Session. She highlighted three main public health issues, the first being the sale of raw milk. This was an interesting issue because folks in agriculture and the Farm Bureau were against it as well. There was discussion around tracking outbreaks as they arise, and also tracking time spent on dealing with investigations. Disease investigations is one of the very few things the BOH is required to do by code, so having an ability to calculate the cost of this legislation might be helpful in the future.

The other issue was removing the requirement to provide sex education around HIV and HPV in schools. There is no prohibition, but there is no longer a mandate. This was done intentionally so the grassroots could pressure school boards on the curriculum they want to see in schools. As we saw with the bathroom bill this session, we know Moms for Liberty will show up to these meetings, and there was encouragement for Public Health to show up too. Iowa is first in the nation for neck and throat cancers, and HPV can be an effective prevention strategy. The encouragement from IPHA is to build those relationships with our local school boards now so we can be looked to as the subject matter experts.



The last bill that was discussed was the SNAP bill. This was a giant bill with a lot of information in it, so IPHA had to be choosy about which specific issues they wanted to tackle. Additionally, it is our policy to leave issues that are better suited to another organization in their lane. IPHA tackled this issue from the “cliff effect,” and encouraged the bill to increase the asset requirements so that we’re not forcing folks who need assistance to stay in the cycle of poverty. We did hear from Taylor that there has been an increase in utilization of food banks, as folks who are eligible for SNAP are opting out of the program due to the complicated requirements.

Taylor also gave us her predictions of what will be priorities in the 2024 Legislative Session. She predicted that there will be more tax cuts, an abortion amendment, an additional look at transgender issues that could restrict gender affirming care for adults and removing DEI positions at the regent’s level. I will be honest, I am not an attorney like Taylor is, so I didn’t understand everything she said, but apparently there are 3 levels of scrutiny, and the legislature want rational basis in the abortion laws. If it comes up next session, it could go on the ballot for the voters to decide on a Constitutional Amendment in 2024.

One of the current co-chairs for the Advocacy Committee will be doing her practicum with IPHA to ensure that we have good, actionable steps we can take when speaking to legislators about issues that impact public health. Changing some of the language we use often in public health circles might be less polarizing when speaking to others.

I’ll be sure to share with you as additional information comes out.

Danielle



The Public Health Herald

DIVISION UPDATES

Community Health:

- Giselle continues to promote the WellBQ to gather a snapshot of holistic county employee health. Thanks to everyone who has taken it so far, and if you haven't yet, there's still time!
- The Employee Wellness Room survey was sent out to take feedback from employees on what their top used or favorite equipment is. The next steps will be to measure the space and determine what all will remain or be stored. The temporary wellness space is tentatively where physical plant has their storage on the first floor in 119.
- The HealthyJoCo team is finalizing their context assessment which is primarily qualitative data regarding healthcare access. The team hopes to finalize the report and the site to share with the community.
- Amelia, Jennifer, and Rachel are finalizing a daycare outbreak guide as part of a student project. Ragan, previous epi team student member, created a guide for daycare providers and outbreak management.
- Karrey submitted for NACCHO's PAVE award for vaccines. The project seeks to increase LHD's capacity to increase vaccination uptake and address inequities in influenza and COVID-19.
- Susan and Haley submitted the PHEARLESS application along with CommUnity and Neighborhood Centers. The project proposal will center around mental health support and provide leadership training to all four participants as part of a year long cohort. Accepted applicants will find out end of August.
- Emergency Preparedness Planner interviews will occur end of July.
- Jamie returns from maternity leaves at the end of July, welcome back Jamie!

Environmental Health:

- July-
 - RAGBRAI Food Inspections-Oxford (Pass through), Coralville (Overnight), Iowa City (Pass through). Jesse, Tim, and Laura will conduct all inspections throughout the towns 7/28 & 7/29
 - Summer Feeding Program inspections completed. This is a joint inspection program between the Iowa Department of Education and JCPH.
 - GTC funds received for FY24 7/1/23.
 - EHS Tim working with Sarah and Clinical Services dietitians to post joint health and food safety content on JCPH social media pages.

Clinical Services:

- Had a successful Vaccines for Children (VFC) audit & Maternal Health chart audit.
- Interviews are being held for the MCAH Coordinator position.
- Catherine McCauley Center came to present on current immigrant & refugee issues.
- Hosted a two-part Vaccine Confidence training in partnership with the University of Iowa. Recordings are available to anyone who would like to participate.
- Fatou & Mallory are completing their phlebotomy training at the end of August, but because we have trained staff, we're open for business in ITS again!
 - In addition, they've confirmed locations for their harm reduction lock box.
 - They are working on building relationships with community partners & have several testing events coming up in August & September.



Thank you to JCPH staff who volunteered at the Johnson County Fair!



Forms & Events

Social Media & Print Material Request Forms- [HERE](#)

EVENTS:

Diversity Market
Saturday August 5th- 1 staff needed (PLEASE!)

*Details in the Events & Tabling Calendar, public folders.