

# The Public Health Herald

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

I love September. Can I just say that? We get a long holiday weekend, I get to celebrate my birthday (Labor Day baby 😊) – and we also get to celebrate my fellow Virgos Kristin, Lakeshia, Amy P., Hayley A., Kristy, and Fatoumata. I see you September Libras too Jamie and Beth. In September we get the beautiful last few moments of summer, while looking forward to the crisp jeans and sweatshirt weather of fall. Best of both worlds, in my opinion. It also seems to be a time for transition – switching out the wardrobe, getting to eat more comfort foods (peek my favorite chili recipe below), I no longer have to feel the pressure to continue watering my garden, and it FINALLY starts getting cool enough for my husband to stop saying “I hate summer” every other minute. It’s really the little things. Transition can be frightening, but it can also be wonderful. This September we’ll say goodbye to Veronica and hope that her new adventure brings her joy. We’ll say hello to Hianca and hope she’ll feel at home in our team. Speaking of teams, GO HAWKS! I feel fairly confident at the time of this writing that we’ll have a win on Saturday, September 2nd against Utah State...but if I’m wrong, I’ll look dejected when I see you on the 5th 😊.

Regardless, I look forward to the month ahead. There’s a Cy-Hawk trophy to win back and great work to be done. And I’m grateful for this team I get to do great work with. You all are really the best.

In health,

*Danielle*

## PHAB UPDATES

A quick PHAB update with the current leaderboard. As Mike is a long way from 1st grade math, he made an error when he announced our current point leader. Keep up the good work Domain 4 JCPH 4 ALL! you’re in the lead with 60 points followed closely by Domains 6 & 8.

### PHAB LEADERBOARD

Last update: just now

1	JCPH 4 All (D4)	60
2	D6 aka Meal Team Six	50
3	This Could Have Been An Email (D8)	50
4	Introverts' Nightmare (D3)	45
5	99 Problems But This Domain Ain't 1 (D9)	35
6	Access Advocates (D7)	35
7	PHAB 5 (D5)	35
8	Health Hustlers (D1)	25
9	Tenacious-D (D10)	25
10	The H.E.A.T (D2)	25

## Danielle's Chili Recipe

### Ingredients

- 1-1/2 lb ground turkey or beef
- 1 c. diced onion
- 1 pkg. celery, diced
- 1-1/2 green pepper, diced
- 1 qt. tomato juice
- 28 oz. can of diced tomatoes
- 8 oz. can mushrooms
- 1 15 oz. can kidney beans
- 1-1/2 tsp. dried basil
- Worcestershire sauce to taste
- 1-1/2 tsp. Tabasco
- 2 Tbsp. Chili Powder
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 1 tsp. dried thyme
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

### Directions

1. Brown together until meat, onion, celery, & green pepper until cooked through & vegetables are caramelized.
2. Add remaining ingredients.
3. Bring to a boil & simmer on low for a few hours.

Note- I just dash in Worcestershire Sauce until I'm happy. Probably about a tsp or a little more. This makes a LOT & freezes well.



**FOODS & CORE COMPETENCIES**  
**Friday September 8th**  
**10:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Nutrition Ed Room.**

Contribute a dish that starts with "C" as we launch the Workforce Development survey & core competencies!

Award for best, blind voted "C" dish!

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## 10 YEARS OF I-SMILE @ SCHOOL

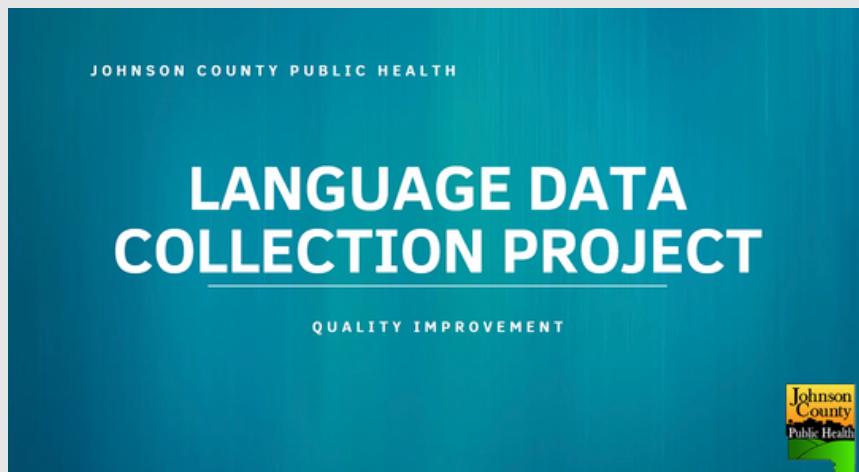
JCPH started participating in the I-Smile @ School program in 2013. Since then Dental Hygienists have placed **33,402** sealants! The program started with just 3 schools & 71 students. This school year we'll be serving 16 schools with over 700 students.

**33,402**  
sealants placed  
since 2013

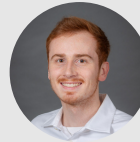
## FIRST QI PROJECT COMPLETED

The QI Committee is excited to announce that the first QI project has been completed! Sam and the management team created a QI project to go along with the language data collection project being done in cooperation with the Board of Supervisors. Due to the action plan created for this project, 100% of JCPH staff participated in collecting data on the languages we use to provide services to the public. Please click the image below to see the storyboard Sam created to highlight the work done for this QI project.

Remember to reach out to your manager and your division's QI representative if you have an idea for a QI project!



## NEW STAFF



Name: Nate Savage  
Title & Division: Emergency Preparedness Planner-Community Health  
What are you currently reading? Blink by Malcom Gladwell  
Something everyone should know about me: Go Pack Go! I'm an avid Green Bay fan.



Name: Jessica Erhart  
Title & Division: Dental Assistant- Clinical Services  
What did you want to be when you were growing up? A veterinarian, I love animals.  
Favorite Movies: Harry Potter or Lord of the Rings  
Dream Vacation: New Zealand or Brazil

## GO DEB GO!

From Roberta- I just wanted to share this picture of Deb doing important work for children and families! She's out there championing for a good cause quite regularly, and this is just one of those causes! I'm proud of the excellent work Deb does for JCPH and for families and children across Iowa!

Standing up for libraries and books at a protest I co-organized against a Moms for Liberty event



QCTIMES.COM

**Bettendorf library (inadvertently) hosts both sides on book-ban issue**

One attendee said the Iowa and Illinois Quad-Cities are "like a completely different world."





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## UPDATE FROM MEETING WITH KELLY GARCIA:

On Thursday, August 24th, IHHS Director Kelly Garcia attended the first hour of our Iowa Counties Public Health Association (ICPHA) meeting to discuss the alignment assessment. She shared the June-October timeline for the assessment that is being conducted by a third party vendor, HMA. If that timeline seems fast, it's because it is. They need to have all their ducks in a row before Session starts, because likely there will need to be Code changes to implement whatever plan is proposed.

First of all, thanks to everyone who provided feedback via townhall meetings, surveys, or panel discussions. The presentation she provided was the same she'd been sharing as she's met with folks across the State, and she stressed a focus on equity, solving root causes of issues, and avoiding duplication. She expressed a desire to get away from a grant-funded programs, and move toward a system similar to what Indiana recently implemented.

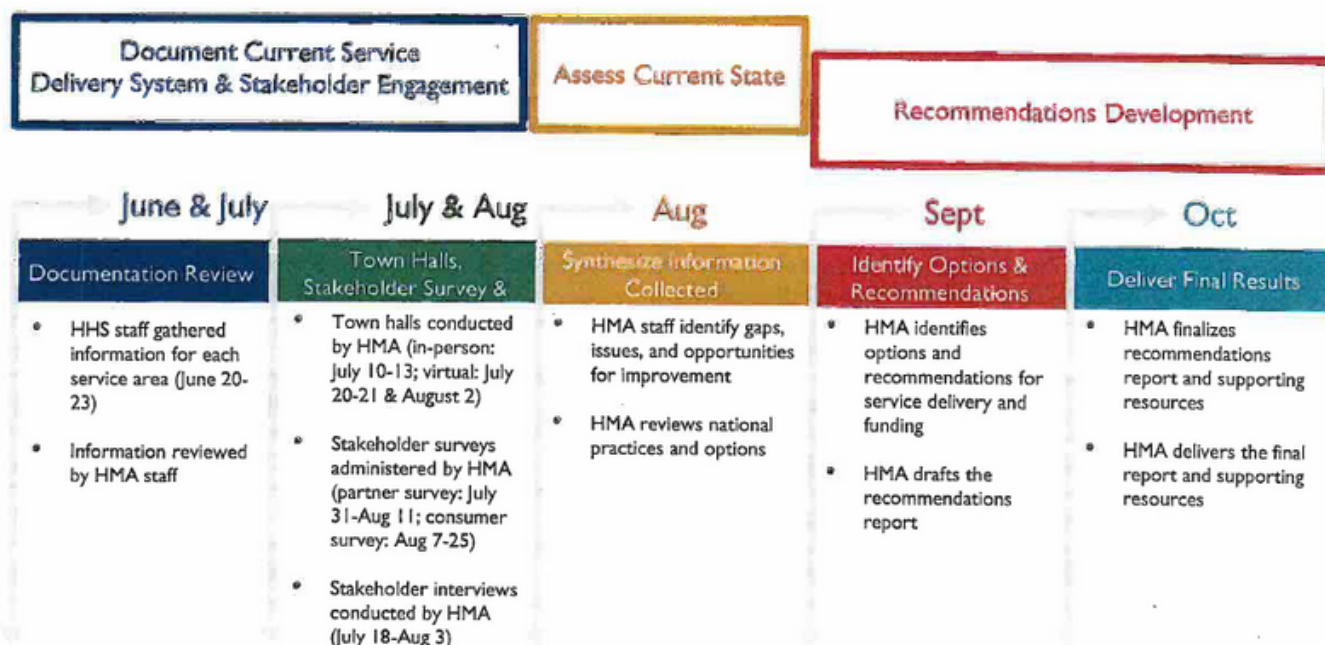
Some of the specifics that were discussed were expanding Medicaid to 12 months postpartum, having increased oversight for Managed Care Organizations, and having a presence in all 99 counties. However, what that presence looks like is to be determined. It may not look like having 99 local health departments, but instead having some programs that serve similar clientele be co-located. There was mention of additional funds to larger health departments for taking on administrative burden for smaller health departments, but not sure what that looks like yet. She stressed that there's no shortage of work, but they want to put the work in the right places.

One priority I asked about was parity in Medicaid reimbursement for dental care, and she came right out and said that wasn't realistic, but that they were working on it. Overall, I felt reassurance that she acknowledged there are folks who need assistance navigating these systems, and those who are closest to the work need to be at the table when decisions are made. Both she and Dr. Kruse stated there will be additional opportunities for us to provide feedback. Rest assured I will do so when the opportunity arrives.

I wish I could tell you what this will ultimately look like, but right now, I just don't know. I'll continue sharing information as it becomes available.

In Health,  
Danielle

### Iowa HHS Service Delivery Alignment Assessment June – October 2023



HMA conducts weekly meetings with HHS staff and bi-weekly meetings with the Alignment Assessment Executive Committee throughout the project period.

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## DIVISION UPDATES

### Community Health:

- JCPH received its first referral through UniteUs! Jennifer received a referral for the Certified Application Counselor Program. This program subcontracts a certified counselor to help persons navigate the insurance Marketplace,
- Congratulations to Amelia for passing exam and achieving the Certificate for Infection Control. Amelia received a NACCHO scholarship that provided reimbursement up to \$2,500 for exam fees and study materials (including books, membership fees, and/or training courses). NACCHO recognizes the growing local health department role in HAI prevention and response and that addressing the burden of HAI and AR will require improvements in infection control expertise, infrastructure, and practice.
- The department was awarded the Partnering for Action for Vaccine Equity NACCHO Award. Karrey, Nate, and Ari will be working to complete a rapid community assessment to better understand vaccine confidence for COVID-19 and flu and build partnerships with existing and new partners to support better access, education, and confidence for vaccination. NACCHO's PAVE project seeks to increase LHD's capacity to increase vaccination uptake and address inequities in influenza and COVID-19 vaccination coverage among racial and ethnic minority adults.
- The HealthyJoCo team have completed the first draft of the Community Context Assessment of the overall community health assessment and improvement plan. The team will be planning and scheduling the next steps to take the data and information to share with the community in order to identify health priorities.
- Nate Savage joins our team as the new Emergency Preparedness Planner. This role supports our Medical Reserve Corps volunteers for responding to public health and medical disasters, provides community education for personal preparedness, supports community wide trainings and exercises for disasters, and ensures the department is prepared and ready disaster response. Welcome Nate!
- The department was awarded the ISAC Excellence in Action Award for the work Karrey and Rebecca performed to vaccinate persons with Jynneos. The Award Program is a competitive awards program that seeks to recognize innovative county government employees, programs, and projects.
- Lisa, Karrey, Haley, and Jamie met with MHP Salud who was subcontracted to provide technical assistance, training, and program development for Community Health Workers for the SDOH Accelerator Project, a CDC funded grant. The schedule of trainings kicks off in September. The initial goal of the project is to form a leadership team of community members to inform a plan to create a CHW program to address access to care and social connectedness.
- The Emergency Operations Plan has been revised and updated through numerous conversations, hot washes (quick debriefs after exercises), and after-action reports. The Emergency Operations Plan will also be moved to a named folder on the I:Drive for easy accessibility. Previously, all staff had access to folder 490 but it was difficult to navigate. Please note, the information should be treated as confidential. The future location will be: I:\Emergency Operations Plan.

### Environmental Health:

- August-
  - U of I Masters of Clinical Nutrition students will shadow EHS II Jesse Bockelman & EHS Tim James on routine food inspections.
  - IDAL's Meat & Poultry USDA compliance officers Dennis Kurtz & Rodney Regennitter presented to the Food Program.
  - ISU lab confirmed a mosquito for west nile virus which was found through the watershed staff trapping & surveillance program in Johnson County.

### Clinical Services:

- I-Smile has been actively working to train nurses & pediatricians to do dental screenings during their well-child visits; check with your pediatrician if this is a service that they offer.
- Excited to have Jessica join us as a Dental Assistant. We're also looking forward to Hianca joining the team as our new MCAH coordinator.

## LUNCH & LEARN

### Workplace ergonomics & Working from Home Safely

Join us as risk control specialists from Iowa Municipal Workman's Compensation Association come to share best practices of ergonomics from throughout the state!

Friday October 6th  
12 pm – 1 pm  
Room 203 B/C

Questions:  
agrier@johnsoncountyiowa.gov



## Forms & Events

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

### EVENTS:

Welcome Festival 9/10 1-4 pm @Mercer Park (Need 1 staff person)  
1-4 pm @ Mercer Park

\*Details in the Events & Tabling Calendar, public folders\_