

The Public Health Herald

FROM THE DIRECTOR

1st Anniversary Edition

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." - Anne of Green Gables

Hard same, even when October wants to dress up as July. Ah well, it should feel more like Fall by the time you're reading this. I don't know about you but I can't wait for sweatshirt weather, watching the leaves change, and enjoying the crisp air during my early morning walks with my dog.

As I write this, I'm breathing a sigh of relief that we aren't facing a government shutdown. They said it would take a miracle to avoid it, so I'm feeling grateful that we don't have to explain to our clients that they're losing benefits. Congress has until November 17th to get a budget figured out, and I'll continue to monitor their progress and provide updates as they become available.

As for the State House, last week I met with ISAC's Legislative Policy Committee to determine our priorities as an association for the FY24 Session. We have several policy proposals and objectives, and should you want to review them all, I'm happy to share them with you. However, we did have to vote on a few to have our lobbyists highlight. We finally narrowed it down to four. Please keep in mind that not all of these have any connection to public health. The first was on Conduct of Elections and how to handle absentee ballots. The second was on unfunded State mandates. This is intrinsically tied to Public Health and the implications of TB and other communicable disease mitigation in some counties has really decimated LPH budgets. The third was the I-WILL program, which advocates for funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund that was created by an amendment to the Iowa Constitution by Iowa voters in 2010 – and never funded. The ask is for a 3/8 cent of LOST to fund the trust. This has been an ask since I've been in LPH. Last, but certainly not least, is advocating for increased Medicaid reimbursements. This is tied to access to care in so many parts of the State and is such a critical issue. Part of the discussion is understanding what this current Legislature is willing to do, and how we need to reframe our expectations from progress to damage control in some of these bills. Not exactly what I want to hear, but I'm a firm believer that forewarned is forearmed.

October is also the deadline for HMA to provide feedback to IHHS about the alignment of the Public Health System. I know folks have concerns. I know there is uncertainty about the future. I feel the same way. I can't promise any specific outcome, but I can promise you that I will continue to be an advocate for local public health and share any and all updates that become available.

Thank you as always for your dedication to your work and to serving our community. I appreciate all of you. Because I appreciate all of you, I'm going to say this: I know I just shared some not so awesome news with you. Read it. Take note. But don't dwell on it. Take some time to enjoy the season and find some joy. Go to a pumpkin patch. Make some good soup. Pick out a cute Halloween costume for your kid – or yourself! Maren is going to be a Narwhal. I'm thinking Jesse will be a Unicorn. I will be tired 😊. Regardless, take some time to enjoy. We can't predict what will all happen next, so let's not let it steal our joy. Because I love living in a world with Octobers.

In health,

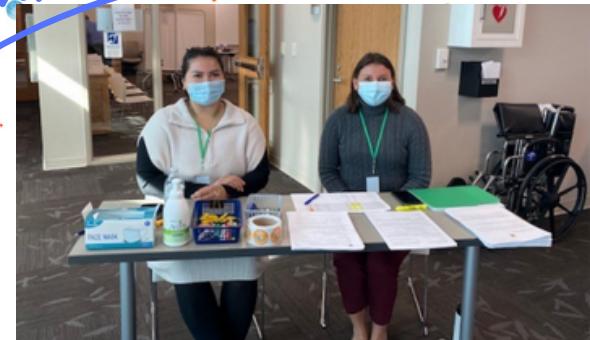
Danielle

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Kristin! Winner of the C Foods Competition with her Margarita Mocktail Bar! She's the winner of the new travelling Chef Victory trophy!



Happy Anniversary



Ari & Giselle celebrate their 1 year anniversary with JCPH on October 10th & 11th. We're so glad to have you be part of our team!

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HealthyJoCo

live • work • learn • play

Thank you to the staff that were able to attend our successful Theme Matching Day! We asked some staff members to help us categorize data that was collected during all three assessments into different themes for the CHA/CHIP.

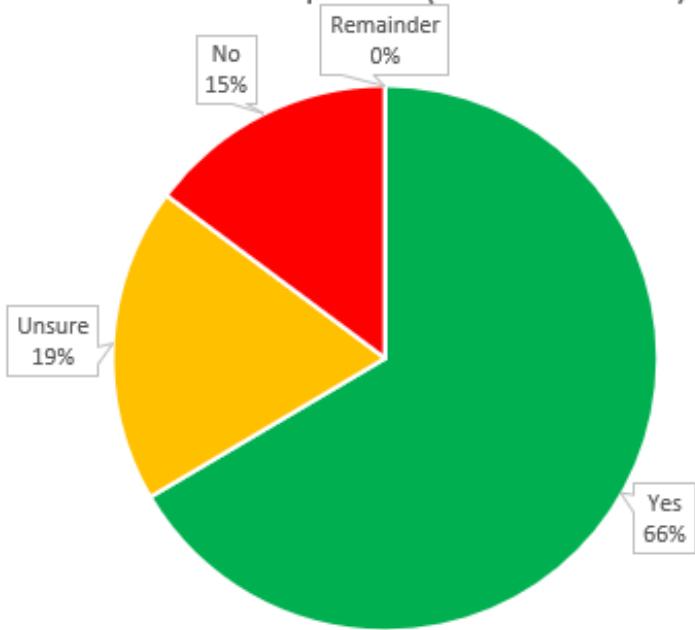


PHAB UPDATES

PHASE 1: COMPLETE

At the end of September we officially completed the first phase of our PHAB reaccreditation timeline! As you can see below, our green Pac-Man is on the offensive and the “unsure” and “noes” don’t stand a chance. In this historic edition of the Herald I wanted to take a few words to thank everyone in this department for the time that has been put into the collective domains! Reaccreditation is a huge commitment and all of you have taken on the additional work in stride. I not only have the utmost confidence in this department meeting the reaccreditation standards but also have a high degree of confidence that the department will be better on the other side of this undertaking.

Pre-work Completion (Do We Have It?)



NEW STAFF



Name: Hianca Pinho

Title & Division: Maternal, Child, & Adolescent Health Coordinator, Clinical Services

What is your favorite book(s)? I love memoirs! My favorite ones are *The Glass Castle*, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, & *Night*.

What are you afraid of? I cannot see a frog. I will quite literally disappear in 0.35 seconds & never come back to the place where I saw it!

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DIVISION UPDATES

Community Health:

- HealthyJoCo: The HealthyJoCo team is well underway for the prioritization process. Thanks for everyone who joined us on Theme Day! All three portions of the overall health assessment have been completed and the team moves forward with MAPP 2.0's, the health assessment and improvement plan framework, multi-step prioritization process. For more information about HealthyJoCo, visit www.healthyjoco.com. Jamie and Ari are continuing to explore other public health and GIS applications surrounding built environment.
- Emergency Preparedness: Nate Savage is within his first month and building his network of emergency preparedness professionals. The Emergency Preparedness program participated in several community events for national preparedness month at the Church of the Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and the Coralville Library as part of Welcoming Week (see the picture). The program will also participate in Iowa City's Climate Fest with Iowa City Climate Commissioner, Jamie Gade, and Nate Savage.
- Social Determinants of Health: The SDOH Community Health Worker project kicked off several trainings and sustainability workshops with MHP Salud, an organization that supports building Community Health Worker programs for the community, by the community. The project sought a no-cost extension over the summer to continue the work with the community leadership team and will finish trainings later this fall.
- Disease Prevention: Jennifer, Amelia, and Rachel have selected this year's cohort for the Johnson County Public Health Student Epidemiology Team, a cohort of University of Iowa College of Public Health students who have interest in disease investigation, outbreak prevention, and public health. The student team is on site assisting with school district immunization audits, a state code obligation, to ensure preventive coverage. The student team will carry forward throughout the year skill building and gaining various disease prevention experience.
 - Rachel successfully submitted application for the NACCHO Infectious Disease Modeling to Prevent Outbreaks project. The project will support training for outbreak prevention through planning, process improvement, and disease modeling.
- Wellness: Giselle, Kristy, and Karrey are planning employee flu clinics so be on the look out for signups in the JoCo.
- Tobacco Prevention and Cessation: Susan is working with the city attorney of Coralville for a smoke and nicotine free parks policy. Coralville Parks and Recreation areas will be the last parks areas in Johnson County metro to be covered by a policy. The policy will have to be posted for comment where the public may weigh in with their support or concern.
- Bridge Access Program: JCPH will be a Bridge Access Program provider for COVID-19 vaccines. This program mirrors VFC, but for adults who are uninsured or qualify other ways. More information may be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/bridge/index.html>

Environmental Health:

- Tim has been busy coordinating & inspecting local events like Latino Fest & Taste of IC in the Ped Mall as well as Melrose Ave before Hawkeye Football Games.
- September was National Food Safety Month, celebrated with a social media campaign.
- Aaron Pickens with the DNR came to JCPH and worked with the watershed staff on using their new electronic TNC database system.
- EHS II James Lacina presenting to U of I CPH Department of Occupational and Environmental Health, Marek Mikulski, on JCPH Wastewater/Watershed Programs
- EHS Laura Sneller worked with Sarah Grunewaldt to complete large scale edits to the EH website page. Food, tanning, and tattoo program updates.

Clinical Services:

- 4 Dietitians, 3 clerks, went to HACAP with Kristin and Roberta to observe their processes. We learned from them and learned what we are already doing really well.
- CS received both the Child & Adolescent Health and Maternal Health grants!!
- ITS will be adding after hours testing on Wednesdays until 6 pm beginning October 18.
- Tammy Forseen, RD, will be joining CS staff on October 9.
- We are still looking for a Dietitian. Please spread the word!
- ITS will be rolling out a new logo very soon!



Forms & Events

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

EVENTS:

*Details in the Events & Tabling Calendar, public folders