

The Public Health Herald

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Maybe February should be the official start of 2024. January was weird, and cold, and snowy, and honestly, I felt like I didn't know what day it was half the time. So here comes February. American Heart Health Month. National Black History Month. National Children's Dental Health Month. Lots to celebrate and lots to promote. Also, there's a lot to protect. Legislative session is in full swing, and as we heard from Lina at IPHA, we'll likely be looking at advocating for making legislation less bad. There's already a number of concerning bills around immunizations that I'm paying attention to, and we'll see what we can do. We have the opportunity to gather with our colleagues at the Capitol on February 14th and spread the Public Health Love with Public Health Day on the Hill. Please speak with your supervisor and/or myself if you'd like to attend and we can coordinate. We're obviously going to be watching the legislation around the Behavioral Health "regions" to see what kind of implications that has for Local Public Health and Community Access services like WIC and MCAH. I feel like I need to say this on a repeating loop – the only consistent thing in my public health career has been that things will change. And we have to roll with the changes or be left behind.

One major change – wishing Kristin Meyer the best of luck as she takes on her new role in the Finance Department. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all your work here, and I wish you nothing but the best in your next adventure.

In Health,

Danielle

DIVISION UPDATES

Clinical Services:

- Due to many winter weather related closings, CS has had to focus much time and effort on rescheduling appointments to insure that families continue to receive food benefits. Our exam rooms have been overflowing, especially on these make-up days, requiring us to use the conference room, 117B. Thanks to all who had to reschedule to a different conference room! We appreciate your flexibility to help us serve our clients.
- CS has been working hard to increase our capacity to serve all eligible Johnson County residents and, we are now looking to expand our clinic space. A variety of options are being explored as we look to find an additional exam room that will allow for easy accessibility for large families with active toddlers and bulky strollers. We will share more as we work through our growing pains.
- WIC staff will be participating in a site visit with representatives from the state WIC office on February 6th.
- The Maternal Health program has received additional funding to assist individuals who are losing Medicaid coverage due to the end of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) that prevented individuals from being dropped from Medicaid during the COVID Pandemic.
 - We will be required to contact all Maternal Health clients from the past fiscal year to assist them in understanding their options and locating appropriate coverage.
 - This service will be cautiously advertised as the additional funding is insufficient to cover the needs of all those requiring this service.

Environmental Health:

- Tim and Laura presenting to Dr Pentella's U of I CPH field experience class. This will include a food inspection demonstration at the Hillcrest dorm cafeteria. 
- Laura Sneller attended virtual DIAL new inspector training 1.9 & 1.11 and in person training in Ankeny on 1.17-1.18
- EHS position posted closed 1.28.24
- Food Program receiving a grant reimbursement of - \$6,526.72 from the FDA/NEHA flexible funding model year 2 standards grant work
- Marc Bauer BOS worked with environment health staff to create a radon awareness video for JCPH- National radon week is 1.22 – 1.26 <https://youtu.be/cmWYQxsd9FI>
- James Lacina is joining the QI committee



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Community Health:

- Employee Wellness has seen a dramatic increase in the fruit program. A year to year snapshot showed 651 pieces of fruit eaten with 6 wasted compared to 245 and 26 wasted. The Live Healthy Iowa Challenge is underway and so far the Johnson County team is in top ten in the state!
- CAC season has ended and JCPH was able to assist 35 individuals during enrollment. With the unknowns of Medicaid Unwind, JCPH contracted with 2 CACs this year and was able to provide more times and coverage throughout open enrollment.
- Haley and the SDOH team have initiated conversations with community partners on the creation of a Community Health Worker Coalition. Over a dozen community members have met to help design and structure what this community led process will look like. This effort is one of our final pieces of the CDC Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plan project. Jamie and the team will finish out drafting the plan to submit to the CDC and transition our leadership team into an advisory committee to support future efforts as we continue to seek how to support this work in the community and build this program locally. The Division will continue to look for opportunities to build this local capacity.
- DPS have finalized BASP audits despite the hazardous weather and school cancellations. During this time, Active TB treatment was also provided. Like Karl Malone, they deliver.
- If you check the JoCo, you'll see several members of Community Health were awarded Best of JoCo, congrats Lisa, Susan, Giselle with the wellness program!
- The PAVE team was at the January Board of Health where Karrey, Ari, and community partner David Goodner presented the results of the rapid community assessment.
- Nate was awarded a \$10,000 through NACCHO for the Medical Reserve Corps Unit. The funding works to support recruitment and training for our volunteer force. Luis, his Americorps Intern, will also be assisting and providing PrepWise training to community members.
- Several members of Community Health and Clinical Services along with Kelly S. in Social Services presented programmatic information to the Family Medicine and Family Medicine Psychiatry Program.
- Lisa's two Opioid Data Interns have started and will begin their work on the mini MAPP 2.0 process to perform a community health assessment for Opioid use prevention.
- Sam is back in the classroom at UIowa teaching with Diana Von Stein. There are 24 undergraduates that will be immersed in local public health emergency preparedness and embark on an academic adventure of pandemic experiences, disaster response, and networking with other local, state, and federal professionals.

Looking for your cool content!

Submit your exciting projects, things you'd like to celebrate, etc to the Herald. This is your newsletter!



DOLLARS & CENTS

On January 31st we presented our budget to the BOS, including updates on our PH ARPA projects. Our 3 ARPA funded employees will be absorbed into our FY25 budget, starting January 2025. Even with this addition, our request includes a slight reduction in County Tax asking from FY24. In ARPA funds, we requested a total of \$174,870 for our Doula project and \$55,000 for a new Pacifica minivan for the Dental program. BOS will make final decisions on February 6th.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Come share your topics & Public Health work, by appearing in an episode of The Healthy Dose!

Contact Karrey, Sarah, or email healthydose@johnsoncountyiowa.gov for more information



SM Forms

Social Media & Print Material Request Forms- [HERE](#)
Please include any language/requirements for grants fulfillment in request. i.e. must be approved, logos, number of posts, etc.