

# The Public Health Herald

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's June. Take a deep breath – you deserve it. At the time you're reading this, we've submitted large grants, finalized job re-evaluations, completed all staff evaluations before the COLA deadline, we have an accepted offer to our new Fiscal Manager (see below), are sooooo close to getting all our PHAB documents submitted, and Iowa City just happens to be a great place to be in the summer. A lot of work has been done in the last month, and I know there has been some stress and overwhelm, but for now, I hope you're enjoying a slightly slower pace and perhaps thinking about your plans for summer vacation. If I can take a moment, I would like to thank each and every one of you who has stepped up to help lessen the burden during the FM vacancy. I truly appreciate it.

Today, I hope you're joining me in wearing orange for National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Over 100,000 people each year are impacted by gun violence, and gun safety is a public health issue. Johnson County has partnered with Be SMART to help us raise awareness about gun safety. Who do you #wearorange for?

Also, I want to wish you all a Happy Pride!! Pride Month is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. The Stonewall Uprising was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. There has been a lot of progress made since then, but unfortunately, a lot of rights are currently under attack in state legislatures across the country, including Iowa. Not to mention the Supreme Court. I want you to know that here at Johnson County Public Health, you are seen, you are loved, and you are making a difference. Whether LGBTQ or an ally, I hope you have the opportunity to participate in Iowa City Pride on June 15th! Happy Pride 🌈!!

Lastly, on Wednesday, June 19th, we celebrate Juneteenth. Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, 2 ½ years after the Emancipation Proclamation, Union soldiers sailed into Galveston, Texas, and read aloud the order, freeing a quarter of a million slaves who were residing in the state.

There's a lot to celebrate this month. There's a lot to reflect on. But there are also a lot of opportunities to continue learning and challenging our own biases and galvanizing the importance of the work we do. Thank you so much for the work you do. I continue to be humbled by the amazing group of folks I get to call colleagues.

In Health,

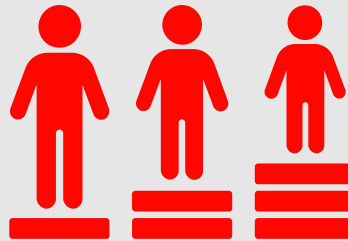
*Danielle*

## MEET MATT!



Meet our new Fiscal Manager, Matthew Waldschmidt! He begins with JCPH on June 24th & we're excited to have him jump in.

My name is Matthew (or Matt), I was born and raised in the Iowa City area, growing up on a row crop farm a few miles south of Iowa City. I attended Lone Tree Community School before enlisting in the Iowa Army National Guard as a Combat Engineer and getting my undergrad at Iowa State University in Business Economics and a Minor in Accounting. I worked at Modern Woodmen of America and Wells Fargo while obtaining my MBA in finance and I was deployed in 2020 to Qatar. While deployed my wife gave birth to our son Levi, and in October we welcomed Nora into the family. We have 2 dogs, and live up in Shueyville, during our free time, we go on camping trips, runs, snowboarding, and anything that gets us moving and outdoors. I look forward to getting to know everyone in person!



## BUILDING HEALTH EQUITY: CONTINUING CONVERSATIONS

We want to talk about topics that interest YOU, fill out our survey [here](#) to help form the conversations.

## DIVISION UPDATES

### Clinical Services:

- All the big grants like CAH are submitted!!!



## TRAINING: 10 ESSENTIAL SERVICES OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Mark your calendars for this all-staff training on our 10 essential services!

June 28th  
9 am - Noon  
Room 203


# The Public Health Herald

## Environmental Health:

- Ethan & Emma attended MGT403 Underserved Populations Preparedness Planning for Rural Responders and Volunteers at the JC EMCC.
- New mosquito surveillance sites selected for trap locations.
  - ETF lead the site research and selection process.
- U of I student intern (Reece) began assisting with the summer mosquito surveillance season and collections.
- Ethan celebrated 2 years with JCPH on May 9th.
- Laura celebrated 1 year with JCPH on May 22nd.
- Jesse will begin FDA Standardization training this week with the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL). Once complete Jesse will be the standard for our food program and then standardize other food staff.

## Community Health:

- Lisa and Ari attended the Kirkwood Mental Health Summit. The summit featured local professionals who will address common mental health concerns. The topics this year revolved around “A Community Approach,” with a focus on specific issues for various demographics. Lisa and Ari are also co-leads for the HJC Mental Health priority and held the committee’s first meeting at the end of May.
- Jamie and Haley also held the first health care access, quality, and affordability priority committee meeting. The meeting had great community and partner attendance and discussed HJC data and strategies. Haley, Jamie, and Jennifer plan to attend the Culturally Responsive Health Care in Iowa conference later in June.
- Nate and Sam attended the National MRC Conference in Chicago. The two was able to catch a Cubs game (didn’t win but had great weather to catch a game). Nate received regional recognition from the MRC HHS Program on being a new unit coordinator as well. Nate also attended a training at JCAS and NETEC, the Nebraska biocontainment team for highly infectious diseases. At this training, first responder personnel trained on using new equipment to body substance isolation practices and patients with highly infectious disease, like ebola.
- Susan has sharing information with the City of Iowa City on tobacco and vape shops. Last month, the City voted to place a moratorium on permits to understand how accessibility impacts health.
- HealthyJoCo was informed it was a recipient of partial funding for the implementation of CredibleMind, an online platform to empower a person to find evidence-based support for mental health and personal well-being. The platform offers practical approaches to self-care, anonymously, and provides other clinically vetted resources. The platform can be tailored to your community as well.
- Jennifer, Amelia, and Rachel provided a guide primarily to Admin staff and others who are the ‘front-end of the house’ and greet all of our patients and clients (and then some!). The guide walks through several frequent services the DPS provide or refer to.
- Thanks to everyone who attended the Financial Wellness Lunch and Learn! Giselle and the wellness committee continue to plan events to support areas identified in the WellBQ. Check out the JoCo for upcoming events!
- Karrey attended Escucha Mi Voz’s outreach efforts to several areas of the community and provided COVID-19 vaccines through the federally funded Bridge Access Program. We unfortunately found out that due to federal funding, the Bridge Access Program will discontinue sometime this summer. Throughout its existence, the program provided over 1 million COVID-19 doses across the nation clearly demonstrating the need for a Vaccine for Adult Program.
- It’s ‘hot public health professional summer’ and with climate impact happening all around, Sam will be coordinating with Mary Kosubucki and the MPHTC program to host an intern to develop and compile climate impact health education materials.
- Sam was selected to review abstracts and videos for the APHA video contest for the Annual Meeting this fall. This opportunity provides the ability to review abstracts to be ranked and selected to present. Sam was accepted into NACCHO’s Financial Management Cohort. The cohort will meet for the next several weeks to discuss financial management practices.



**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](mailto:healthydose@johnsoncountyiowa.gov) for more information

