

The Public Health Herald

FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Our life is March weather, savage and serene in one hour." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

As an Iowan, I've long said, if you don't like the weather, wait five minutes. Last March we got a surprise tornado, so hopefully we won't have that much excitement this month. At least weatherwise. But it does seem like a lot of things are changing – kind of like everything, everywhere, all at once. We watch the legislature to see how the bills that make it through subcommittee might impact our work. We contemplate the impacts the Behavioral Health bill will have on the State and what it might project for local public health moving forward. And, because it is Spring, we have a number of grants that are up for renewal.

Spring is a time for renewal. Whether it's the buds on the trees, the next RFA, interviewing our next Fiscal Manager or embracing our newly adopted Strategic Plan, there is opportunity everywhere. We can either lament in the sudden, and sometimes unexpected, changes, or we can embrace the opportunity that comes with it. We can't avoid the former, so I choose to focus on the latter.

With March also comes March Madness. Now, I am a wrestling fan who has never paid much attention to basketball, but that was before Caitlin Clark and Iowa WBB became the nation's sensation. Which means even I, begrudging sports fan but loyal Iowa alum,

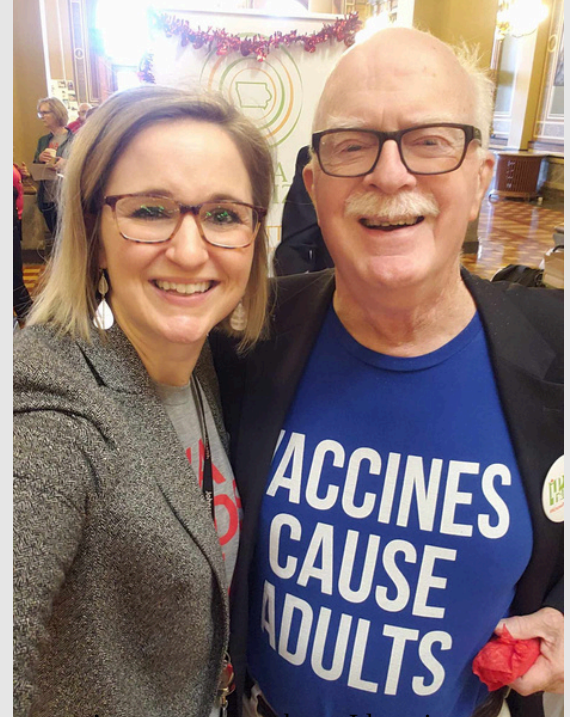
am looking forward to watching these women compete and raising the stakes for women's sports everywhere. I love it. Watching her break the record from the free throw line was definitely a generational moment. Now, I have no intention of filling out a bracket, as I have absolutely no clue what that would require, but here's hoping those avid BB fans among us have better luck.

So here's to March. Here's to the good work ahead, and the committed team of folks we have here at JCPH. I appreciate each and every one of you. Let's make it a great month.

In Health,

Danielle

P.S. If you'd like to read the article I wrote for The Iowa County Magazine on Medicaid Reimbursements and how they relate to Public Health, it's featured on Page 6. [The Iowa County Magazine March 2024](#)



DIVISION UPDATES

Environmental Health:

- Tim James and Laura Sneller attended the IEHA board meeting and committee mentor workshop in Ankeny, February 8 & 9th
- Laura Sneller volunteered for two committees. The IEHA Scholarship and IPHA conference planning group
- Jesse Bockelman discovered an illegal restaurant operation through social media. Jesse and Ahmed Mohammed went onsite to ensure the facility followed the proper application process and food code compliance requirements. The restaurant ceased operations and is in the process of applying
- Rob Thul and Jesse Bockelman virtually attended AFDO (Association of Food and Drug Officials) Food Safety Bootcamp webinar February 14, 21 & 22nd
- Ethan Turben-Fuhrman completed Special Inspections at two Johnson County pools. Special Inspections are enforcement steps taken for pool/spa facilities that are unable or unwilling to correct deficiencies from their annual routine inspection
- Watershed Program Approved updated procedures for Grants To Counties and Tattoo inspections
- Watershed Program will have a contract and program audit of the TNC (Transient non-community well) inspection program with the DNR on February 28th
- Food Program created Policy and Procedures for food facility Plan Reviews
- Food Program developed internal Policy and Procedures for creating and issuing food facility Warning Letters
- Top Chef Iowa City Temp Event took place on February 26th. Tim James and Laura Sneller inspected the 20+ participants for the event

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Community Health:

- Nate will be headed to Chicago for the National MRC Summit. Through scholarship, MRC Unit Coordinator's are able to attend to learn best practices, share lessons learned, and network with other Volunteer Managers. The Johnson County Medical Reserve Corps (JCMRC), is the department's volunteer unit that supports the county's response to public health and medical events and emergencies. Nate also attended a planning meeting for the community's full scale exercise this fall with county Emergency Management, law enforcement, first responders, and school districts.
- Several student projects are being coordinated by Jennifer, Amelia, and Rachel. Immunization rates and school districts, Tuberculosis case trends and developing a tabletop exercise are among the projects being planned this semester. Several other students have been recruited to support other projects in the Division like the Opioid Settlement Assessment with Lisa. The DPS squad also had two active cases recently convert through directly observed therapy (DOT). DOT is a time intensive process to convert active cases to a status of no longer being infectious and dependent on compliance and the treatment regimen.
- Lisa will be coordinating the KEYS Dementia program for a second time this Winter/Spring. The KEYS Dementia program was initially a pilot program by the YMCA in Des Moines and former Medical Director and State Epidemiologist. The program utilizes subject matter experts and volunteers to educate older adults on dementia prevention practices.
- Giselle provided updates to the Board of Health and offering other county departments and offices to review their worker WellBQ data. Every two years, the Health Planner, undertakes assessing the entire county's workforce utilizing the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health WellBQ survey. Shout out Laura, Giselle's Employee Wellness intern that has supported analysis and design of portions of the WellBQ report.
- In January the SDOH team, Karrey, Lisa, Jamie, and Haley, completed the final work product for the grant and recently received feedback from the CDC. The team will present updates to the Board later in the Spring. At the February Board of Health meeting, an Request For Action for funding through the AARP was sought to support coalition training. Ultimately the goal will be to seek and secure funding to continue building a Community Health Worker Program to support the areas of concern and priorities of the community Leadership Team.
- Rachel was awarded the NACCHO scholarship for the Certificate of Infection Control to pursue credentialing. The CIC is the standardized measure of the basic knowledge, skills and abilities expected of professionals working in the field of infection prevention and control. The initial passing rate is 58.4% There are 8,617 certified professionals in over 40 countries. Amelia was awarded and achieved certification last year. Congrats again Amelia, and good luck, Rachel!
- Jamie and Sam met with the City of Iowa City to discuss health benefits of household appliance improvements and other initiatives that support climate friendly practices and air quality. The initial conversations are related to the work that units of government are participating in through the inflation reduction act.



Despite all the snow days and weather disruptions the IS@S program saw 119 children, providing them with Oral hygiene instructions, dental nutrition education, provided 117 children with fluoride varnish, 82 of those children received at least 1 sealant, 707 total sealants were placed. 86 of the 119 were moderate risk for decay (so no decay present), 33 were high risk- so decay was found. We finished our 10th school as well.

JCPH Playlist



Help us build our playlist! Add your favorite song to our survey & we'll use it during our All-Staff! Thanks Ari & Giselle for the great idea!

https://johnsoncountyiowa.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bCbzAi45uTr98G

- Karrey has completed several off site clinics in the past month with partners at Escucha Mi Voz where health promotion and COVID-19 vaccines have been provided. Much of this work is related to the NACCHO Partnering for Vaccine Equity award.
- HealthyJoCo lead the Division through a partnership exercise to brainstorm agencies and community members for health improvement committees. The team has split into Lead and Co-Leads for the four community health priorities and will begin forming sub-committees. More information about HealthyJoCo can be found at www.HealthyJoCo.com.

Clinical Services:

- The JCPH Doula project contract was approved by the JoCo Board of Supervisors. We are so excited to be able to offer this service to our community.
- More to come!

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Join Us!

NAMI Walk Saturday May 4th
8:30 am - Noon
Terry Trueblood Recreation Center

Let's form a public health group & join the JoCo team & represent JCPH at the NAMI walk on Saturday May 4th.
Email Danielle to get on the team!

Looking for your cool content!

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



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



Spring Word Search



N	Q	F	I	P	F	S	D	R	I	B	L	S	B	F	Z	R
J	V	P	X	X	O	X	S	B	G	P	I	S	R	E	P	S
T	D	X	M	R	A	W	S	N	P	T	R	R	F	S	Q	E
N	M	Z	B	G	T	E	A	E	O	Z	P	E	N	J	M	O
Y	D	B	M	P	G	A	R	N	I	X	A	W	A	J	E	U
G	S	Y	C	T	X	S	G	I	U	R	V	O	T	N	V	V
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Y	R	W	D	M	L	G	Q	T	T	I	A	O	A	F	F	B

SPRING
MAY
GREEN
WARM
UMBRELLA



MARCH
FLOWERS
GRASS
SHOWERS
EASTER



APRIL
BASEBALL
SUNSHINE
RAIN
BIRDS



www.thriftymommastips.com

NEW STAFF



Name: Brycen Myers

Title & Division: Health Educator, Integrated Testing Services

What are you currently reading/binge-watching? Watching-Traitors on Peacock, Reading- Young Mungo by Douglas Stewart

Childhood Celebrity Crush: Danny Phantom



Name: Susan Szmyrgala

Title & Division: Public Health Dietitian, Clinical Services

Hidden Talent? Since childhood, I have been able to stand on my head for a full minute.

Personal Mantra: I am grateful to be healthy & happy.

Fun Fact: Both of my children were born in Warsaw, Poland.



Name: Ali Alldredge

Title & Division: Clerk II, Clinical Services

Personal Mantra: No act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted.

Dream Vacation: Germany, Belize, or Thailand

Ideal Weekend: Working in the garden



Mike- 3/18

Tim- 3/20

Susan D. - 3/5



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.