

# The Public Health Herald

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

August slipped away into a moment in time...

Taylor and I agree, where the heck has the summer gone? Time always seems to speed up after the 4th of July, but this summer seems to be a special case. Perhaps it's the decade worth of news happening within just the past few weeks? Perhaps it has been my own personal joy of watching my daughter explore some of the joys of childhood summer for the first time? Hard to say. But even as it feels like summer is speeding by and folks are starting their back to school shopping, there are still plenty of opportunities to enjoy the Farmer's Market, take out a kayak, hit the swimming pool, or squeeze in a three day weekend. I'm still focusing on enjoying the last full month of summer, while my husband is preparing the snow blower with enthusiasm. \*insert eyeroll here\*

But August does mean that we're only one short month away from our PHAB site visit! We're so very close to being done, and I know we're going to inundate our BOH with plans to approve this month so we can check everything off the list! Thank you again to everyone who has been committed to getting this done. When I started, I heard stories about how PHAB accreditation fell on the shoulders of a few, and it was exhausting. I'm grateful we were able to include the entire department so everyone owns a piece of this accomplishment.

Additionally, this month we also start focusing on the next Legislative session with our Legislative Policy Committee for ISAC. Again, as one of your Public Health representatives on this ISAC committee, we're pushing against the unfunded mandates the State has for counties, specifically around communicable disease. Unlike IPHA, our policy positions coming from ISAC are voted on by a coalition of county departments across the State, so we prioritize issues that impact all counties equally. Our public health specific legislative priorities for IPHA are still being discussed. Since we've been told regionalization of LPH won't be considered in 2025, we'll be prioritizing some of the losses we've faced in previous cycles. More details to come as that is finalized!

Thanks for all the work you do on a daily basis! Enjoy August...the Sunday of Summer.

In Health,

*Danielle*



*Actual footage of the July 18th  
Windows outage.*

## DIVISION UPDATES

### Administration:

- Susan D. showing exceptional skill in catching a wild chipmunk that had found its way into her home! ALVIN!
- On July 17th, the Board of Supervisors approved the updating of two job descriptions for members of our Admin team to better reflect their roles and responsibilities.
  - Holly's new title is Environmental Health Administrative Assistant
  - Alissa's new title is Public Health Grant Analyst
- Lo is taking a well-deserved vacation starting on August 16th- save travels & don't forget to share pictures when you get back!
- Mike/Macgyver tackled a scary situation when the derecho hit on July 15th sending water cascading into his basement and the electrical panel. Using a silicone handled can-opener & a leaf blower he was successful in turning off the power & drying the panel out safely.
  - Using unusual tools for a new purpose will henceforth be known as "Casella-ing" at JCPH.

### Clinical Services:

- CS completed interviews for the 2 open Clerk II spots and will make a final decision by the end of this week.
- Hianca, Roberta, and Danielle have had meetings with Tara Shochet, from the Family Planning Council of Iowa to discuss resources for individuals who have no insurance or are underinsured, during child bearing years.
- CS staff continue to work on training with the new Medical Record system, Nightingale Notes. Launch will be the first week of August.
- Hayley, Hianca, and Roberta attended a training on Black Maternal Health by Dr. Lynette Cooper
- Dental Hygienists have increased their use of SDF to prevent continued cavity growth in children as they see more and more children with unmet dental needs.
- Back to School Clinics have taken place Mondays in July and will end with a full week August 12 -16
- Jess is out on Maternity Leave until October
- ITS had a student intern during the summer who assisted with presentations about STIs, including the Re-Entry program.
- ITS staff are working on the RFP for FY 25 and the following 4 years.
- Deb provided free CPR/1st Aid training to 116 child care providers with an additional grant specifically for this purpose. The providers were able to save the usual \$80 dollar fee for this class and were very grateful for this opportunity.

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## Environmental Health:

- Rob and Jesse virtually attended the NEHA AEC 2024 conference
- Emma attended Certified Pool Operator (CPO) class in Ames
- Tim is completing the Summer Feeding Program site inspections. This is a partnership with the Department of Education.
- Ethan joined the IEHA Legislative Priority group
- Tim is now a servsafe proctor for our food program. He can issue and monitor food manager testing for local food workers
- EH staff virtually attended PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO WILDFIRE SMOKE IN IOWA: WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2024
- EH added emergency guidance forms for well treatment and food facilities during floods or loss of power given the recent emergencies in NW Iowa
- EH added Tanning and Tattoo inspection reports to our webpage
- PHAB Domain 6 completed

## Community Health:

- Karrey and Susan attended NACCHO 360 in Detroit. Karrey and interns Patrick and Meredith presented on the NACCHO PAVE project for vaccine equity. Karrey also presented her poster on mpox vaccination.
- Giselle worked with HR to share WellBQ results to inform the Respectful workplace training.
- Susan's working with City of Iowa City Attorney on their permit moratorium. Susan provided guidance and steered conversation toward effective prevention measures. Along with that, she and Adam in IT have updated the tobacco and alcohol permit map on HJC. Boundaries were added to show reasonable distances from shops to other sensitive areas. Check it out here: <https://gis.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/hjc/>
- Nate has several exercises planned either attending or hosting. UI Healthcare is part of the Radiation Injury Treatment Network (RITN) and hosted their annual radiological disaster exercise. If there is a need for medical staff or volunteers, the MRC is written within UI Healthcare's plans. Later this August, Sam and Nate will serve as exercise controller's or evaluators for the county's active shooter exercise coordinated by Johnson County Emergency Management Agency. On a related note, the county offer's gun locks for safety, you can find more information [here](#).
- Jennifer, Amelia, and Rachel will begin recruiting for their student epi team. The team supports immunization audits and is trained to perform case investigations and contact tracing for outbreaks. Several of these students opt in to other internship opportunities as well.
- Lisa and Sam met with CredibleMind, the online behavioral health platform for personal assessments, resources, and other evidence-based assets to support a persons mental health journey. The team plans to launch the site end of August.
- Sam was accepted as a National Reviewer for NACCHO's Project Public Health Ready, which is a very similar Accreditation Process for public health preparedness programs. The opportunity will provide insight into how other programs manage their policies and procedures. "Hector is gonna be running three Honda Civics with spoon engines. On top of that, he just came into Harry's and ordered three T66 turbos."
- HealthyJoCo team members have been supporting the food security team's onsite surveying. Peyton and others have been on site surveying community members and so far have collected over 150 responses!
- The Johnson County Medical Reserve Corps (JCMRC) has so far provided close to \$1,000 dollars of in-kind volunteer time through their volunteering. So far, Nate has recruited 5+ individuals for the first aid team.
- Amelia is reviewing the CDC's Text Illness Monitoring (TIM) program and how the DPS can utilize for symptom monitoring. Traditionally, public health officials conducted symptom monitoring via telephone calls, which was a time-consuming process. Text Illness Monitoring (TIM) is a text messaging platform which allows for two-way text messaging. As many know, most members of the public prefer text and not phone calls. If you're a millennial or younger, you also probably dread voicemails. Communication styles change frequently and knowing how to engage with the public is a time-honored public health skill.
- Looking for a COVID-19 vaccines? You may have come across or hear several pharmacies not offering or pausing for the moment. Likely, many are waiting for the new variant that will be the 24-25 booster. You can learn more [here](#).
- Are you wondering what is going on with highly pathogenic avian influenza? Check out the DPS' emerging infectious disease site [here](#). There has been several more human cases and the CDC, state departments, and state labs are poised to respond if they have not already. Some actions taken are requiring testing of livestock before county fair shows, use of PPE for farm workers, providing rapid testing for those exposed, and providing Tamiflu for post exposure prophylaxis.





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## SPOTLIGHT: ITS

In June, ITS tabled at Pride celebrations in Ottumwa and Iowa City during which staff provided free safe sex and harm reduction supplies, as well as provided health education. Additionally, ITS attended the first international pregnancy fair in collaboration with Community Health Nurse Karrey, and the WIC clinic offering a full spectrum care approach.

In July, ITS held an educational presentation on Hepatitis prevention, treatment and access to resources at the Inside Out Re-entry's community meeting. Inside Out Re-entry is a CBO that focuses on assisting previously incarcerated individuals through the process of community re-entry. The audience was engaged, and many shared personal stories related to the topics presented. Since HCV is 9 times more prevalent in individuals who went through the carceral system than in the general population. ITS saw a perfect opportunity for connecting folks to resources in safe settings such as Inside Out Re-entry.



We also had 2 positive HIV cases that we helped connect to the Ryan White program including an individual who is new to the US and was taking expired medication while trying to reestablish care. Fatou attended the first UIHC appointment at the request of the individual, to perform a warm handoff as they worked to get new prescriptions.

## PHAB-ULOUS UPDATES!

### Performance Improvement:

We have a new addition to the team – Ali Alldredge! If you are interested in joining the Performance Improvement Team please reach out!

### PHAB:

We are 49 days away from our final submission date with nine measures left to provide examples for – should we be worried? Absolutely (not)! Of these nine, we have two plans (Performance Improvement and Workforce Development) waiting to be approved by the Board of Health, finalization of some CHIP work, and the rest are narratives. To date, 106 (91.3% done!) documents have been uploaded to our PHAB portal! What is normally considered a heavy lift has been extremely manageable due to all of the pre-work that was done by the department. On Monday, Domain Champions will randomly select a different domain to give a third and final review and any adjustments will be made and re-uploaded to our profile. Once everything is submitted we will wait for our pre-site review where we will learn of any measures that were re-opened for review, which may line up fairly closely to the fall all-staff where that additional information will be presented.

# PHAB IN THE WILD

*\*Please read in hushed tones as if on a safari....*

We're tracking the elusive public health out in the wild. On the left is Nate Savage handing out materials at the Johnson County Fair. On the right are Americorps students sharing information about PrepWise at the Washington Farmer's Market. Are you getting out in the wild? Share your photos of you or your students for the Herald!

