

# The Public Health Herald

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

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

Same Anne, same. I love October. I love fall. Real fall, not false fall, where we go from one day of fall to a scorching 90 degrees. For me, October is pumpkin patches, cozy sweaters, soup season, and my Maren turning two. How is that even possible? Oh, and Halloween – somehow I always forget about Halloween because Hallmark Christmas movies start in October, to my husband's eternal joy 😊. But this year, Maren is going to be a cow because she's got the "Mooooo" down. I would love to hear about some of your favorite things to do October!

October is also our All Staff Retreat! Planning events is not my forte, but I am truly looking forward to our retreat this month. We've got some excellent trainings planned, and I hope the day is value added for you – as well as gives you a good opportunity to enjoy the company of the colleagues you don't get to work with each day.

While Mike and I patiently wait to hear back from PHAB about our reaccreditation submission, we do have exciting work on the horizon – BUDGET! Matt and I will be chatting with the management team to determine our needs for FY26, so be thinking about opportunities and share them with your manager. Now's the time to ask. Remember, answer is always no unless you ask 😊.

I know we're still plugging away at Strategic Plan priorities, but I just wanted to reiterate the kudos from the Board of Health about all the work you've done thus far. They were so impressed at the report that Mike shared at the September BOH meeting. So thank you for your efforts and keep up the good work!

Also, I have to say thank you to staff who have been coordinating, organizing, scheduling, and doing the leg work to get flu and COVID vaccines for employees and our family members. THANK YOU! This is such a need, and I can't thank you enough for making the healthy choice the easy choice.

So here's to October. I hope you all get some time to enjoy this beautiful month. I appreciate you and your work so much!

In Health,

*Danielle*

## DIVISION UPDATES

### Administration:

- Alissa- Shout out to Kristy for all her help keeping the office running while Alissa devotes more time to Workday.
- Lonise- Celebrated 20 years of service with Johnson County.
- Catalina- Celebrated 5 years of service with Johnson County.
- Christine- Attended the Iowa Total Care Payor Summit in Waverly on 9/18, where they covered Social Determinants of Health, clinical practice guidelines, claims, coding, & more. It was a great experience, & Christine brings back additional knowledge to help JCPH.
- All- YEAR END! (for some of the grants).
  - Our amazing team is working with our partners in the state, our subcontractors, & others to ensure that the transition to the next grant year is smooth & completed properly.
- Budget Update (as of the end of September)
  - Expenses are trending in line with the budget
    - August Expenses
      - FY24 22% annual budget
      - FY25 23% (\$1,510,226.49)
  - Revenues are trending behind on a year-over-year basis for the end of August
    - FY24 was 30% (\$905,258.82 ytd)
    - FY25 is 20.5% (\$621,848.24 ytd)
      - This difference is primarily due to the cycle of grant funding & utilization of grants funds on a year over year.



Celebrate homecoming the week of Oct. 21-25th by dressing in theme. Please keep dress code in mind. Leave your teeny weenie yellow polka dot bikini at home on the 22nd! Spirit day wraps up on the 25th as the Hawkeyes take on Northwestern to wrap the week!

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## Environmental Health:

- U of I Masters of Clinical Nutrition students will shadow Laura and Tim on a routine food inspection. This is an annual field experience that the food program participates in with the U of I.
- Laura working with the Outreach and Engagement Coordinator on a National Food Safety month social media campaign. “Spot the violation” photos will be posted to interact with the community.
- The watershed staff have begun working with programmers with Citizenserve to build out the EH portion of the new software.
  - Citizenserve will replace ComDev or Community Development, which is the current software/database system used by several county departments for tracking and issuing permits.
- Ethan registered for the Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) credential program.
- Ahmed will be tabling with Susan at the African Festival 9/28 held in the Ped Mall.
- Laura completed FDA 312- Special Process at Retail multiday virtual course.

## Community Health:

- Nate submitted an Abstract to the NACCHO Preparedness Summit on his work with the Long-Term Care Community. Earlier this summer, Nate along with Oaknoll retirement and Johnson County Emergency Management Agency held its annual tabletop exercise with 7+ other agencies. The scenario was extreme heat, one that is projected to become more frequent. Nate traveled to Linn County where (federal) Region 7 MRC Unit Coordinator Linda Botts met several of Iowa's MRC units. JCPH remains one of the most active units in the state.
- Rachel, Jennifer, and Amelia are performing school immunization audits. Roughly 20,000 records get reviewed for compliance. The recruited student epi team will be joining them on site or at location to assist as part of their experiential learning. Then, later this fall the student group will be trained to assist with outbreak investigations.
- Haley met with Paola to support the Community Health Worker coalition to host a resume workshop. Members will review resume best practices to support their professional development.
- Susan will be attending the next three Iowa City City Council meetings for the three hearings required for the changes to tobacco/vape permitting. One can participate and share their thoughts in email or in person. In person procedural rules for the City of Iowa City City Council are [here](#).
- Susan and Lisa have kicked off the department's Addiction Prevention program with the 'Overdose Data 2 Action' grant. The funding will provide public health coordination and support to local community partners. The department also intends to fund a peer recovery coach. Plans are still in the works.
- Susan presented the department's work on Health Equity through the College of Public Health's Building Health Equity state group.
- Kristy, Giselle, and Karrey have been coordinating with county departments and others to host 2024's annual employee vaccine clinic. Please note the difference in eligibility as HR and the BOS have expanded it. Check the JOCO for updates and reminders. Don't forget to sign up!
- Sam was approved to sit for examination through the National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE).

## Clinical Services:

- Hayley met with UI CPH to continue conversations regarding MCAH class partnership.
- Met internally to circle back to birthing classes.
- Presented with Hianca to Newman Center regarding MH resources in JoCo.
- Provided additional training to Abby to prepare for Hayley's maternity leave.
- ITS submitted the SPOTS RFP which will be roughly \$170k a year for 5 years if awarded.
- Brycen presented an updated Syringe Service Program Position Statement to the BOH that was passed.
- ITS met with the Neighborhood Centers of JoCo to establish new testing locations.
- Fatou, Brycen, Mathe, & Hianca attended North Liberty's Welcome Week event.
- Brycen & Fatou attended the One Iowa LGBTQ Health Conference.
- Tammy attended the Rock the Block & Raise the Roof Event for the Neighborhood Centers.
- Tammy will be attending continuing education "Let's Talk about Weed: Marijuana's Impact on Dental Care."
- Grace, Skyler, & Jessica are progressing in their WIC training & completed the Focus Training (WIC database).
- WIC staff have a new tool called FormStack, which allows them to send WIC forms electronically to cell phones. Clients will be able to fill & sign forms directly on their device & staff will be able to upload the completed forms to Focus.
- September 30th was the end of the WIC/Breastfeeding Peer Counselors fiscal year
  - Artiara & Randa spoke with 131 moms about Breastfeeding support in FY24.
    - 22 exclusively bf
    - 84 partially bf
    - 9 never bf
    - 14 still pregnant
    - 2 are unknown
- Hianca, Amber, & Chuck met with Liz Ernst, the new Early Childhood Coordinator with JoCo Social Services.
  - Liz is trying to get more coordinated intake phone calls & wanted to learn more about WIC for her client referrals.
    - She was impressed with the scope of our services. We're excited about this new community partner!



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## PHAB & PH WINS

### PHAB UPDATE:

On Friday September 20th at 3:43pm we officially submitted our PHAB reaccreditation application along with the six selected Population Health Outcomes! The only official correspondence we have received since the submittal date is we were officially assigned a new Accreditation Specialist and that our documentation review was added to her queue. Once we receive our Pre-Site Visit Review we will have 45 days to respond to the reopened measures and I will have further details then!

### PHWINS 2024

With our second dashboard update being received from the folks at PHWINS we now see where we are lining up with other counties!

We are **14 surveys away** from unlocking the full featured dashboard – so, if you haven't taken the survey, please remember to take it as soon as you can! As a reminder, this survey will help identify the current needs of our department and highlight opportunities for improvement. The results of the survey will be used to inform and guide workplace enhancements, development, and training.

### Strategic Priorities

Want to see how we're doing on our Strategic Plan. Check out [this Quarterly Report](#) Mike presented to the BOH. We're making great progress! Good job everyone!

Department*	Percentage Complete
Chickasaw Public Health & Ho.	100%
Scott County Health Department	96%
Sac County Public Health	91%
Cerro Gordo County Public Health	86%
Lee County Health Department	83%
Woodbury County	76%
Polk County Health Department	66%
Story County Health	63%
JCPH (us)	62%
Black Hawk County Public Health	51%
Iowa HHS	37%

\*not all departments listed

### Are you a SUPER USER?!

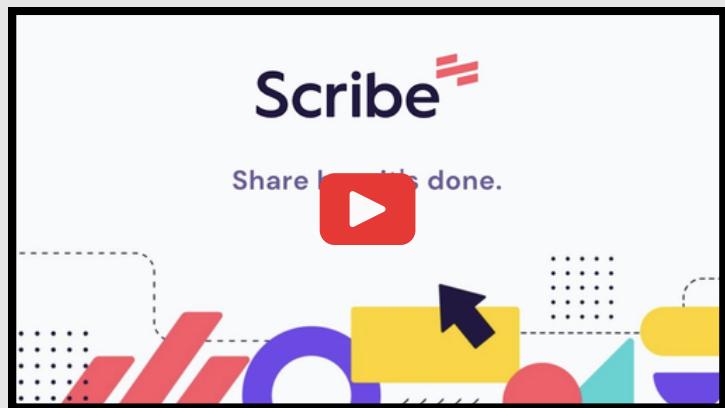
What is a super user? Someone who knows how to use a specific software really well, they love a challenge, they're open minded to change, they love to learn and they're patient when teaching others.

You are?! Well you're in luck! JCPH has purchased a "scribe" account where recorded tutorials and trainings can be made by you! Click the video to the right to learn more, and if you are interested in creating your own tutorials, instructions, SOPs?!? Give a like and hit the link below to sign up!

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

Have a song you love? Share it for the All-Staff playlist!

[bit.ly/JCPHfall](http://bit.ly/JCPHfall)



## Save the Date

Employee Flu & COVID Clinics 2024

Wednesday October 9  
Tuesday October 15  
Monday October 21st



[Sign-Up Here!](#)