

The Public Health Herald

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hi again. Part of this was written before, and part of this was written after. Much of this still pertains, but here's what I want you to know from me. I don't know what will happen next. But I know I woke up terrified on Wednesday for my daughter. For my LGBTQ friends and colleagues. For immigrants. For pregnant people and those struggling with fertility. For public health. For the world. I know we all are going to be dealing with different realities based on the very different situations in which we're living. Decisions that each of you will make to keep yourselves and your family safe. I want to reiterate that I see you, I care about you, and I will keep fighting for you. For public health. For the people we serve. Please take care of yourselves and your loved ones in the coming weeks and months. I remain here for hugs, chocolate, or a cathartic scream. But also, EAP (800-444-9014 or 319-351-9072) is a free and confidential resource that is available to you. Please use it. If you get a counselor you don't jive with, ask for a different one. You matter. Your mental health matters. And as people who serve others, we need to take care of ourselves in order to be there for them. I remain grateful for you. ❤️

Happy November. I'm going to keep it real with you all – the election is tomorrow and given that we may or may not know whether or not we'll still have a functioning democracy by the time you read this, I've decided the realistic expectation for productivity this week is 12%. I talked with the rest of the management team, and they were in agreement. It's normal if you're nervous, distracted or even frightened by the potential results. Please know that EAP is a resource if you need it. I'd be lying if I said things will be okay either way, and I won't disrespect you by implying that.

As a way of keeping myself sane, every November it is my practice to focus on one thing every day that I'm grateful for. It can be big or small, but it helps get me out of the doomscrolling mentality. A few things I've selected this month are rainy, soup making days, a day date to the Amana Colonies with my husband, and the amazing baby school where we take Maren. But I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge my amazing colleagues here at JCPH. I want to give special kudos to our infectious disease team for the work they're doing to assist with the Lassa fever case response. Thanks for your efforts and for stepping up. It's definitely appreciated.

On Monday, November 11th, we'll be recognizing Veteran's Day. I would like to take a moment to thank the veteran's on our team, and to also highlight the epidemic of veteran suicide. According to the VA, more than 17 veterans take their own lives each day, with the suggestion that veteran suicides are underreported, and don't take into consideration the additional 20 veterans die each from self-injury mortality, or overdose. Because of this, I want to ask you to share this resource with veterans you know. You can access the Veterans Crisis Line by Dialing 988 and pressing 1. You can also text 838255 for free, confidential support 24/7, 365 days a year. To celebrate our Veterans, let's ensure they're getting the resources they deserve.

Wow, Danielle, that was kind of....glum. Yeah, you're right. Hard pivot! Since Mariah Carey has yet to release a Thanksgiving song, in the beautiful words of Adam Sandler....

"Turkey for me
Turkey for you
Let's eat the turkey
In my big brown shoe"

I reread the rest of the lyrics, and that's all I'm going to put in this work newsletter 🙄

Whether you're traveling or staying home, making fresh or canned cranberries, prefer pumpkin or apple pie – I hope this month gives you some time to relax, reflect, and rest surrounded by those that mean the most to you.

Take care of yourselves. Take care of each other.

In Health and Gratitude,

Danielle



Congratulations to Hayley Abdo & her family as they welcomed Ezra Joseph on October 18th. Everyone is happy & healthy at home. Congrats Hayley!

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DIVISION UPDATES

Administration:

- During the Q1 Holly's work on the projects with EH has brought it \$106,984.24 in revenue for the county, and her diligence to her work has been remarkable.
- Holly has assisted with details on the workday Accounts Receivable process and will be involved in the testing process in the coming months.
- Alissa's work with workday continues to expand as the County's project works through changing the accounting and HR software. The County has appreciated her assistance in the project, and she deserves kudos for the hard work and flexibility to stay on top of her duties with the division with the exceptional assistance of Kristy.
- Catalina And Susan created an amazing pumpkin to represent the admin division in the county's pumpkin contest.
- Christine attended the Delta Dental Provider Seminar with Hianca and Becky. It was a great experience, and they all brought back additional knowledge to help JCPH better serve our clients.
- Working with HACAP to correct and back bill services, Christine's work helps maximize the operational revenue of our partners and JCPH.
- Christine has been a wealth of knowledge relied on for decision-making and understanding the nuances of the billing process.
- The Admin Division has moved to the "Caboose" where HR was squatting during the renovations to the Administration Building.
- **End of Q1 results:**
 - 627,977.12 in revenues and 1,510,226.49 in expenses.
 - We are in line with our overall yearly budgeted expenses and would expect additional smoothing over the coming months, this is a testament to the fiscal responsibility shown by all staff. Thank you!
 - The revenue cycle trails slightly behind due to grant funds coming in after the 10/1 deadline for reporting. Still, it remains in line with or above the budgeted operational income generated by activities.

Environmental Health:

- Tim presented to the U of I Masters in Nutrition Dietetics class about our local food safety program.
- James, Ethan, Tim, Laura, Ahmed, and Rob attended the fall Iowa Environmental Health Conference (IEHA) in Waterloo.
- Tim has joined the PI team. Tim will replace Jesse, who has served for the past two years.
- Emma traveled with other JCPH staff to Black Hawk County to participate in a multiple county Building Health Equity training.
- Ahmed completed DIAL requirement of food inspectors to complete FDA Standardization within 24 months of hire. Ahmed completed joint inspections, food flow charts, HACCP principals demonstration and Risk Control plan demonstration with EHS II Jesse Bockelman over the course of several days.

Community Health:

- Sam traveled to Savannah, Georgia for the National Project Public Health Readiness Review meeting where a group of selected emergency preparedness and emergency management professionals convened to review Emergency Operations Plans against set standardized criteria.
- Amelia provided a rough estimate of hours for the recent pertussis outbreak as of mid-October. The estimated public health response to the outbreak was roughly \$9,000.00. Close to 90% of cases were previously vaccinated. Great work to the DPS team for their coordination with the local hospital system providers, SHL, and community members.
- Nate presented a RFA to the BOH to apply for the NACCHO MRC Operational Readiness Award funding. The total amount of \$10K is intended to support the volunteer unit's response to extreme heat through support for cooling stations at their pre-planned first aid booths. The majority of events are during the summer. Nate is also coordinating the design of a extreme heat/climate tabletop exercise situation manual with the Neighborhood Center.
- HealthyJoCo will be attending several Social Service resource directory meetings. Social Service has committed to providing a resource directory and Community Service Manager, Rachel Carr will be working to take feedback and suggestions.
- Giselle and Lisa fielded several media inquiries about credible mind, an online platform that promotes mental wellness by providing evidence-based resources to improve mental well-being through assessments, personalized steps, and access to 200+ topics for everyone. Visit: <https://healthyjoco.crediblemind.com/> for more information.
- Haley is working with Paola and other community partners to host a community health worker focused resume workshop.
- Sam and Jamie met with United Way to continue the discussion on CHA/CHIP partnerships and supporting community health improvement planning.
- Karrey, Giselle, and Kristy wrapped up employee flu and COVID-19 clinics! Shout out to CS staff who joined and supported vaccinated employees and their families!
- Jennifer, Rachel, and Amelia finished school immunization audits. Roughly 20K records are reviewed for compliance. The synopsis will be provided to each school and sent to the state for the final report. Great job on another immunization audit season!
- Giselle, Sam, V and Danielle, met to discuss moving forward with Peer Support Groups through employee wellness. Originally, Giselle sought action through the Board of Health to apply for funding through the Healthier Workforce Center of the Midwest, but declined to pursue given the scope of the project would have had to apply to the entire community and the funding did not scale.
- A majority of staff participated in the Live Healthy Iowa step challenge! Congratulations to everyone who participated! We walked pretty far.

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Clinical Services:

- Deb completed 41 visits to childcare programs over the month of October.
- In September through mid-October I-Smile @ School team has completed:
 - 4 schools providing dental screenings & fluoride to 204 students
 - placed 939 sealants on 134 of those students
 - 49 of those students had decay present
- Hianca and Roberta attended the MCAH Fall Seminar in Des Moines on 10/29/24.
- CS is currently waiting for Champ to complete our data transfer from Ahlers so that we can utilize their system. They are hoping to have it completed sometime later this month.
- WIC numbers increased again to 2668 in Johnson County and 124 in Iowa County. The continuing increase in clinic numbers has been possible thanks to the excellent team work of the entire CS Team!
- 10/17: completed an Oral Health Site Visit with our state consultant receiving many commendations for our successful program. Congratulations to the Dental Team! Becky, Missy, Tammy, and Jess!
- **Hot off the press!** ITS has been awarded the SPOTS grant for 2025. This successful program will be expanding to provide services in Johnson, Iowa, Louisa, Mahaska, and Washington Counties. Congratulations to Brycen and Fatou!
- Roberta S., Mathe N., and Hianca A. hosted a Family Advisory Council Meeting at Hoover Community School and presented about immunizations to community members and answered questions regarding immunizations and healthcare coverage. Mathe N. provided live French-English interpretation.
- Fatou T. & Brycen M. installed a community sharps container at the CommUnity Crisis Center along with a new harm reduction lockbox to replace the one that was damaged this past winter
- ITS conducted its first outreach clinic to Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, with a great deal of engagement as well as worked with Healing Prairie Farm, a youth crisis program, to provide condom dispensers at their homes.
- Jessica R. is working towards her MPH & has been applying her health equity knowledge to the work she does in the WIC clinic.
 - She will soon be transitioning to seeing WIC families on her own without an observer! Congrats Jessica!

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



Thanks to Beth for coordinating a visit from Mr. Sushi for a little snuggle therapy.