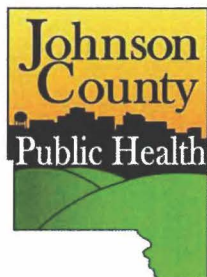


*A community where all can achieve optimal health*



## PUBLIC HEALTH

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Danielle Pettit-Majewski, BS, MPH, Director

Board of Health  
Joni Bosch, PhD, ARNP  
Vice Chair, Zachary J. Pollock, PharmD, MS  
Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS  
Chair, Melanie Wellington, MD, PhD  
Michelle Weckmann, MS, MD

### JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH January 21, 2026 MEETING MINUTES 4:00 pm

**Call to Order:** Melanie Wellington, MD, PhD called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

**Roll Call:** Melanie Wellington, MD, PhD; Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS; Zachary Pollock, PharmD, MS; Joni Bosch, PhD, ARNP; Michelle Weckmann, MS, MD

**Staff:** Danielle Pettit-Majewski, Director; Sam Jarvis, Community Health Manager; Rob Thul, Environmental Health Manager; James Lacina, Environmental Health Specialist II; Chia Fu, Interim Fiscal Manager; Roberta Sloat, Clinical Services Manager; Susan Denny, Secretary II; Susan Vileta, Community Health Educator; Deborah Vandergaast, Child Care Nurse Consultant; Luis Torres, Environmental Health Admin Assistant

**Others Present:** David VanCompernelle, Assistant County Attorney; Beth Saylars, Community and Family Resources Prevention Specialist

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Bosch to approve the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes; seconded by Pollock. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next Regular Meeting Date and Time:** February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, in Conference Room 203 at 4:00 pm in the Health and Human Services Building.

**Citizen Comments / Questions / Issues:** None.

**Staff Updates:** Susan Denny, Secretary II, will be retiring, effective March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The board expressed gratitude for her years of contribution and dedication to keeping the Board meetings organized and running smoothly.

**Financial Update:** None, see RFA-26-02 FY27 Budget below.

**DISCUSSION / PRESENTATION(S):**

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- **Behavioral Health System Navigation:** Beth Salyars, Prevention Specialist from Community and Family Resources, provided an overview of Iowa's behavioral health system alignment. She highlighted the HF2673 law, which consolidated 13 mental health regions into seven districts. Salyars identified community issues such as long wait times, telemedicine needs, and specific group needs, including youth and the LGBTQ+ community. Future prevention services will begin assessment in June 2026, with implementation in 2027.
- **Private Well and Sensitive Watershed 101:** James Lacina, Environmental Health Specialist II, presented on the authority and regulations of private well and septic systems established in 1965. Lacina discussed local regulations, more stringent than state requirements, and watershed protection areas in the county. He also detailed different system types and costs, along with their maintenance requirements. Wellington asked for clarification on shared septic systems to which Lacina mentioned that well-maintained systems can last 30-40+ years with shared systems serving up to four homes.

### ACTION ITEMS

**Expenditures Over \$3,000:** None.

**Applications, Contracts and Agreements:** None.

### OTHER

- **RFA 26-01 BOH Member Appointments:** Pettit-Majewski asked the Board to appoint the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Medical Director for 2026.

**Motion** by Weckmann to nominate Melanie Wellington as BOH Chair; seconded by Bosch. The motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** by Bosch to nominate Zach Pollock as BOH Vice-Chair; seconded by Weckmann. The motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** by Bosch to nominate Michelle Weckmann as BOH Medical Director; seconded by Wellington. The motion passed unanimously.

- **RFA 26-02 FY27 Budget:** Pettit-Majewski and Fu recapped the budget ask in the amount of \$7,381,270. The amount represents an initial budget submission for Public Health that will be utilized for further deliberation with the Board of Supervisors. Additional discussions and revisions will be needed once updated personnel budget is provided by the Finance Department. The initial budget submission will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The BOH expressed strong support despite the challenging financial environment.

**Motion** by Bosch to approve the budget as presented; seconded by Wallace. The motion passed unanimously.

- **RFA 26-03 2026 Meeting Schedule:** Pettit-Majewski asked the BOH for approval of the proposed 2026 meeting dates provided in the packet. The meetings are set for the third Wednesday of each month, except for March, which will be on the fourth Wednesday. Wellington mentioned that if business is slow, the July meeting can be skipped. Pettit-Majewski mentioned that there is a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion** by Bosch to approve the 2026 meeting schedule; seconded by Weckmann. The motion passed unanimously.

Johnson County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

- **RFA 26-04 Community Water Fluoridation Position Paper:** Pettit-Majewski asked the BOH for approval of the position paper supporting continued use of fluoride in community water systems to promote dental health. Pollock mentioned that he's heard discussions about water filters removing some of the fluoride in water and wanted to ask if this aspect was covered in the paper. Pettit-Majewski mentioned that though this is a concern, the consensus is that fluoridation is still beneficial. Wellington noted that there were a couple of grammatical errors but supported it regardless.

**Motion** by Bosch to approve the Position Paper on Community Water Fluoridation with grammatical edits as needed; seconded by Weckmann. The motion passed unanimously.

- **RFA 26-05 Water Quality Position Paper:** Pettit-Majewski asked the board for approval of the position paper regarding Water Quality in Iowa given the increasing cancer rates, concern around nitrates in the water system, and the impact of agriculture on the water system. **Initial motion** by Bosch to approve the position paper as written; seconded by Wallace. Pettit-Majewski asked Wellington if she wanted grammatical edits on this paper as well, to which she said yes.

**Amended motion** by Bosch to approve the Position Paper on Water Quality with grammatical edits as needed; seconded by Wallace. The motion passed unanimously.

**Reports / Inquiries:**

Wellington mentioned that due to time constraints, discussion on both of the position papers, in addition to the discussions on Wastewater and utilizing CDC as a source can be postponed to February's meeting.

**County Attorney:** None.


**Members, Board of Health:** None.

**Director:** None.

Wellington adjourned the meeting at 6 pm.

Approved by Board of Health Action on

2/17/26  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Wellington, MD, PhD, Chair

Submitted by:  
Luis Torres  
Environmental Health Admin Assistant