



## **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**

**November 19, 2025**  
**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; MS; Joni Bosch, PhD, ARNP; Michelle Weckmann, MS, MD, Via TEAMS: Zachary Pollock, PharmD

**Staff:** Danielle Pettit-Majewski, Director; Sam Jarvis, Community Health Manager; Rob Thul, Environmental Health Manager; Chia Fu, Interim Fiscal Manager; Roberta Sloat, Clinical Services Manager; Jamie Gade, Social Determinants of Health Coordinator; Giselle Coreas, Public Health Educator; Cole Kruse, Systems Analyst; Brycen Myers, Health Outreach Specialist II; Fatoumata Traore, Health Outreach Specialist I; Alissa Sotzen, Grants Analyst

**Others Present:** David VanCompernelle, Assistant County Attorney

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Wellington to approve the October 23, 2025 meeting minutes; seconded by Wallace. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next Regular Meeting Date and Time:** December 17, 2025 in Conference Room 203 at 4:00 pm in the Health and Human Services Building.

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

**Staff Updates/Shout-Outs:** Bosch thanked the JCPH department and especially for maintaining course despite a challenging environment. Wallace acknowledged Susan Denny, Secretary II for contributions to the BOH meetings, reliability and anticipating BOH needs.

**Financial Updates:** The JCPH FY27 Budget will be presented at the December meeting. Pettit-Majewski and Fu met with BOH members Wellington and Pollock to discuss general questions regarding the FY27 budget formulation. The finalized budget will be presented to the BOS at the end of January 2026.

#### **DISCUSSION / PRESENTATION(S):**

- **Food Security Assessment Results:** Giselle Coreas and Cole Kruse presented a slideshow summarizing results of the Food Security Assessment from February 2025 through final results in November 2025. They acknowledged community partners, committee members and volunteers. Coreas and

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Kruse reported findings, identified demographics and reported food security status. Their report included accessibility, quality, additional support services, comments and assessment of goals. Coreas and Kruse responded to questions and comments from BOH members. They will share a more detailed analysis at the end of the month.

- **SPOTS Update:** Brycen Myers, Fatou Traore and Roberta Sloat prepared an overview of the Syndemic Prevention Outreach and Testing Services (SPOTS) grant through the Iowa HHS Bureau of HIV STI and Hepatitis and the Integrated Testing Services (ITS) program. JCPH was awarded a five-year SPOTS grant in 2024 to include Harm Reduction Services in five new coverage areas: Johnson, Washington, Iowa, Louisa and Mahaska counties. The ITS program includes rapid testing and self-collection kits for HIV, Hepatitis and STI testing. ITS staff are trained phlebotomists and participate in University of Iowa Tele-Prep, distribution of prophylactics and harm reduction supplies as well as community-based sharps disposal programs. They also provide treatment services along with community partners. Myers and Traore described the activities supporting their initiatives including clinics, lockboxes and health vending machines to supply harm reduction supplies. The overview included data reporting for testing and distribution. Discussion followed.

**ACTION ITEMS**

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

**Applications, Contracts and Agreements:** None

**OTHER**

- **RFA 25-17 Joint BOH/BOS Position Paper Topics:** Danielle Pettit-Majewski proposed topics for joint BOH/BOS position papers as discussed at the October 23, 2025 joint BOH/BOS meeting. She asked the BOH members to prioritize the topics listed and share with the BOS for consideration. JCPH staff will assist with any chosen topics. Topics included:

- Water Quality
- Housing as Healthcare
- Water Fluoridation
- Public Health Impacts of Authoritarianism
- One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) Impacts on Public Health

**Motion** by Wellington to prioritize 1. Water Quality and 2. Water Fluoridation for joint BOH/BOS Position paper topics; seconded by Wallace. The motion passed unanimously.

- **RFA 25-18 BOS Letter Request re: BOH's Private Sewage Disposal System Regulations:** Pettit-Majewski reminded BOH members a discussion at the October joint BOH/BOS meeting to schedule a second joint meeting to discuss the possibility of updating the Private Sewage ordinances that have been in effect since 1968. The BOS is interested in increasing housing and determining if it would be possible to increase density in septic systems. They have written a letter requesting the BOH review the existing regulations for discussion at the next joint meeting as well as a need for public commentary. Wellington recommended six months to review the ordinance with Rob Thul, Environmental Health Manager, EH staff and other knowledgeable parties. Thul indicated six months would not be an issue. After the review, subject matter experts and BOH members will reconvene to review their assessment of the ordinances with a goal of establishing recommendations. Pettit-Majewski suggested these recommendations be presented in May 2026 or June 2026, depending on staff, BOH and BOS members availability. She noted changing the ordinance would impact how EH staff enforce and regulate septic systems in Johnson County.

**Motion** by Wallace to approve moving forward with a review of the Private Sewage Disposal System Regulations; seconded by Wellington. The motion passed unanimously.

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• **RFA 25-19 Motion to proceed for potential application for IHHS funding opportunity:**

Jarvis requested BOH approval to move forward with submitting an application for potential IHHS funding opportunity. He informed the BOH the State intends to provide the funding towards the end of the calendar year. The IHHS has submitted an application to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) for their Healthy Hometowns project. Local public health departments will be eligible to apply to their RFP. The project is a comprehensive plan to meet the health needs of rural Iowans with a goal to elevate organizational health, advance operational excellence and help Iowan's by focusing on three primary goals: 1.access to rural health care in their communities 2.Improved health outcomes for Iowans living in rural areas comparable to populous areas 3.investment in development and utilization of innovative technology and data infrastructures supporting sustainable care options. If awarded, this funding would increase grant money to support Healthy JoCo priorities.

**Motion** by Bosch to approve moving forward with the application for the potential IHHS funding opportunity; seconded by Wallace. The motion passed unanimously.

• **RFA 25-20 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Advocacy Op-Ed:** Jamie Gade, Social Determinants of Health Coordinator requested approval to create an Op-Ed advocating the need for continued SNAP benefits. The BOH had previously indicated a desire to add additional language regarding continuing resolution, resource limitations and funding challenges. She provided data supporting continuing SNAP and local food organizations.

**Motion** by Bosch to approve moving forward with the Op-Ed with the understanding that Wellington will make final edits and approval; seconded by Weckmann. The motion passed unanimously.

**Reports / Inquiries:**

**County Attorney:** None

**Members, Board of Health:** Wellington shared news regarding recent sub-clade mutations in influenza and noted preliminary efficacy data for the vaccines based on pre-prints show they are still holding up in protection. Wellington noted sub-clade mutations occur every year with influenza.

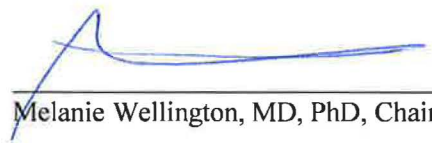
Wallace reported attended an event at the University of Iowa and noted even after the play was over, about eighty percent of the audience remained for a question-and-answer period. He also reported meeting with Pettit-Majewski and several legislators, including one republican. Wallace commented on food rescue organization Table to Table deciding whether to change routes to prioritize deliveries more toward food pantries than other agencies due to the impact of SNAP developments.

**Director:** Pettit-Majewski reported the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) met on November 13, 2025 and results will be shared soon regarding JCPH reaccreditation status.

Wellington adjourned the meeting at 5:55 pm.

Approved by Board of Health Action on

12/17/25  
Date

  
Melanie Wellington, MD, PhD, Chair

Submitted by:  
Susan Denny  
Secretary II