

## Grundy County Board of Health

Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Called to Order: 7:00am

The Grundy County Board of Health (LBOH) met on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at 7:00am in the Conference Room at the Grundy County Annex Building in Grundy Center, IA. Appointed board members present were: Beverly Meester, *Chair*; Dr. Charles LaTendresse, MD, *Vice Chair*; Jessica Eilers, RN; Dave Stefl. Also present was: Carie Sager, Grundy County Sanitarian; Heather Bombei, IDPH Regional Consultant; Barbara Smith, Grundy County Board of Supervisors; Michelle VanDeest, Grundy County Public Health (GCPH) Office Coordinator.

Regular meeting of the LBOH was called to order by Meester. The minutes from September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 were reviewed. Motion to approve the September, 2019, minutes by Stefl; seconded by Eilers, carried; the minutes were approved as written. Minutes were signed by Chair, Meester.

**Sanitarian Yearly Report:** Grundy County Sanitarian, Carie Sager, submitted the following report to LBOH:

Well, this has been quite the year! I have learned a lot, cried a lot, and wished I had a different job a lot! But the experience has helped me grow, not only an employee of the county but also as a person.

The Cooley/Melcher case is still not complete. The judge has yet (as of today as I'm preparing this report) to make a decision. I spent 7 hours total on the stand to testify on their behalf that the system they have was installed correctly and is working properly. Cooley's attorney had a certified inspector come up from Jasper County to do a full inspection on the system to show whether or not it was functioning properly. By his inspection and in his opinion, the system passed everything that he checked for. A water test was also performed at the location on the same day by a State certified well driller and once we got the results back from the lab, it passed the tests we were checking for which was coliform bacteria and E. coli. with no detectable amounts of either one.

So fast forward to now, as of right now unless something changes after the judge's decision in the Cooley case, the county is scheduled for trial with the Melcher's for February 23, 2021. I believe that is scheduled for 5 days.

This year, mostly due to the Melcher case, I conducted as of today, 55 random water tests throughout the county. Most of those were linked to homes where a new septic system had been installed in the past 10 years. I sent many more requests to test than that, but either did not hear back or was told they didn't want or need a test done. My goal was to see how many wells came back with high E. coli results that could possibly be linked to the installation of the septic system. Out of those 55 samples, I only had 3 come back with any E. coli at all. One well has been sitting dormant for months as the homeowners have temporarily moved out of the country. Historically with that well

when I tested it, it never came back with any contaminants. One of these wells that tested positive, is located on a property with two homes. The home where the well is located has not installed a new septic system. The homeowner has treated the well and I have re-tested and the results came back clear. The last of those homes was tested at time of Transfer of the property. I sent the results to the new homeowner to let them know of the result and have not heard back from them. The well in this case is over 200' from the septic system and so I have no reason to believe that it is effluent related. I will continue to test wells this spring as part of the study and will keep you abreast on the results of those samples.

The Iowa DNR as you know lost Dan Olson this year. He was the go-to guy for all things septic related. They have now filled his position with a gentleman that will be almost as knowledgeable as Dan that I will be able to contact for guidance.

January is national radon action month and I am planning to do some social media awareness as well as put information in the local papers for outreach about testing. This past year, I had 4 county residents test for radon that I assisted with finding certified contractors to install mitigation systems in their homes to eliminate the radon. I try to educate them on retesting once the system is installed after about 3-6 months to make sure that the level comes down. Three of them have retested and I have received results back for them.

Septic installs have been slower this year due to the weather being so wet. So far, I have inspected 33 with 5 more permitted that should go in yet this year.

Thank you all for your guidance and support throughout this past year and we'll hope for better and a more productive year to come!

**Iowa Public Health Leadership Academy:** In October, 2019, GCPH emailed information from the Iowa Public Health Leadership Academy to LBOH and Board of Supervisor (BOS) members. This opportunity is encouraged to help assist in "effectively meeting the requirements" of "public health roles". This was designed for board members. Registration was due by 10/31/19. GCPH and other board members welcome feedback on insight you may have gained from participating in any of these virtual sessions.

**Blood Pressure Clinic Updates:** Blood Pressure Clinics have been conducted over the past couple of months by Greenbelt Home Care in Hardin County. They have been conducting clinics at the Conrad Library, Grundy Center Senior Center, Reinbeck Westview Estates, and the Wellsburg Library; they have been requested to offer clinic at Dike Library, as well. Numbers of individuals served at each clinic were shared with LBOH. VanDeest was instructed by LBOH to email Grundy County Attorney, Erika Allen, regarding this matter.

**Public Health Report for September/October, 2019:**

Local Public Health Services (LPHS) Grant

*Collaborative Relations:* GCPH representatives continue to attend Wellness Committee and Community Partners meetings, as well as other partnership meetings

*Community Utility (Resource & Referral):* 21 for reporting period September/October, 2019.

*Disease Outbreak & Investigation:* There was a confirmed case of mumps from Grundy County resident. Patient is adult who works out of county, and had traveled through an international airport in another state (did not leave country) at incubation period timeline. No other family member/close contact presented with symptoms or was tested. This was closed on 9/13/19 as an isolated case.

*Health Education:* GCPH continues to inform public about health education topics via social media and other outlets.

*Injury Prevention:* The Sharps Disposal program received 13 sharps container during reporting period. Bike helmet education was presented to 8 community members, and fittings/education to 5 community members. Thornton-Lang attended the annual Preventing Childhood Injury Conference in Des Moines in September. She attended sessions on lawn mower safety, child passenger safety, firearm safety, and other topics.

Immunization (I4) Grant: There were 13 resource & referrals for immunization information to community members during reporting period. Flu campaign is underway between GCPH and local pharmacies. Informational flyers were distributed via email to local newspapers, TV stations, clinics/physicians, libraries, schools, childcare centers, and other community partners. For future clinics, discussion will be held on who is to hold community clinics. Immunization Audits for Grundy County have begun. These are a state requirement for local public health agencies to audit all schools and licensed childcare centers on their student immunization status and to report in the IRIS system. Thornton-Lang has conducted 5 audits during reporting period. IDPH contacted GCPH representatives about a possible active TB case within the county. While waiting for cultures to confirm positive/negative testing, IDPH worked with GCPH on medication dispensing and direct observation treatment, visiting the patient 6 times during reporting period. (The case was deemed negative upon return of cultures from the State Hygienic Lab after a week of direct observation medication dispensing.)

Substance Abuse Prevention (SAP) Grant: LifeSkills programming began in county schools, starting in Dike-New Hartford Elementary School in Dike with 3rd graders, as well as Timothy Christian School in Wellsburg with 3rd and 4th graders. 443 students were reached from this program, discussing substance usage and trends, as well as other skills, during reporting period. Red Ribbon Week educational materials were delivered to all local elementary schools, for 1110 students. This year's theme was "Send a Message, Stay Drug Free". Students were provided with certificates to declare themselves drug free, pencils, and message bracelets; each school was provided a poster to display. A local school nurse contacted Thornton-Lang about possible activities to do with elementary students during Red Ribbon Week. Thornton-Lang emailed the nurse previous activities and presentations she had done with elementary students, which the nurse was grateful to receive.

PHEP: Thornton-Lang and VanDeest continue to attend scheduled meetings for the preparedness program.

MRC: The Grundy County Medical Reserve Corps. (GC-MRC) continues to help at various community events. There are 29 active volunteers, as we gained another volunteer this past month.

*Unit Activity Summary Report for reporting period September/October, 2019:*

- 14 total number of activities
- 11 total number of MRC participants
- 25 total number of hours contributed
- \$706.10 economic value of contribution

Grundy County Safety Seat Program: Nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, Thornton-Lang, continues to receive inquiries via social media, messaging, and phone about various car seat questions. 8 educational inquiries, 9 installations/educations, and 8 inspections/educations were conducted during reporting period. Thornton-Lang attempted to hold a car seat event at Little Scholars in Conrad (formerly Wolfcreek Childcare Center). Parents did not participate. Thornton-Lang presented car seat information to the Grundy County Community Partners group in September during National Child Passenger Safety Week. 8 community partners were in attendance for this educational presentation. Thornton-Lang volunteered her time to 3 families (total of 1.5 hours) in answer educational inquiries, as well as inspecting and installing seats. Thornton-Lang was appointed to the newly created State Advisory Board. She will participate in discussions on trends and updated topics throughout her tenure.

Healthy Habits All-Stars: GCPH received a \$500 donation from GNB to provide this program in county kindergarten classrooms for vaccination and proper hand hygiene education. During reporting period, 164 students were reached from hand hygiene and vaccination presentations at BCLUW, AGWSR, Dike, and Grundy Center. Thornton-Lang will be finishing these presentations up in November, 2019. Local kindergarten classroom teachers expressed interest in future implementation of curriculum created by GCPH on concussions and bike safety, possibly in the spring.

Total Community Contacts for Reporting Period July/August, 2019 = 1823. Stats for FY19 at this time year was 1591 community contacts reached; FY20 at end of reporting period is 2010; increase of 419.

Social Media Stats: Reached 27,091 individuals for reporting period September/October, 2019 (Pinterest analytics were not available for reporting period). GCPH is active on the following social media sites: Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram. We also promote our county website on all social media platforms.

Motion adjourned at 8:00am; motioned by Stefl; seconded by Eilers; carried.

**Next Scheduled Meeting Date:** Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 7:00am, Grundy County Annex Building Conference Room

**Scheduled Meeting Topics:**

Policy Updates (as needed)

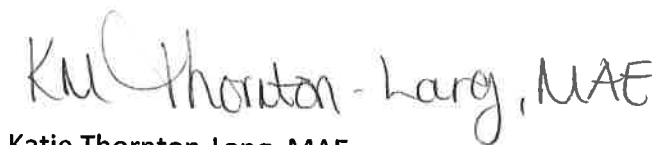
Public Health FY19 Programs & Budget Review (as needed)

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle VanDeest

Grundy County Public Health Office Coordinator



Katie Thornton-Lang, MAE

Grundy County Public Health Program Coordinator



Beverly Meester

Chairperson