

Grundy County Board of Health

Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Called to Order: 7:01am

The Grundy County Board of Health (LBOH) met on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7:00am in the Conference Room at the Grundy County Annex Building in Grundy Center, IA. Per the Iowa Public Information Board: Electronic Meetings for a Governmental Body, minutes must include a statement explaining why an in-person meeting was impossible or impractical. Currently, LBOH meetings are offered in-person or via zoom for members and the public. This is due to the pandemic and wishing to support social distancing and safe protocols/mitigation efforts. Future meetings will only be held in said circumstances where such a meeting in person is impossible or impractical. Zoom/conference call attendance will still continue to be available to board members and to the public. Appointed board members present in person: Lexie Hach, MA, Chairperson. Also present in person: Barbara Smith, Grundy County Board of Supervisors (BOS); Katie Thornton-Lang, Grundy County Public Health (GCPH) Program Coordinator; Michelle VanDeest, GCPH Office Coordinator. Appointed board members present via zoom/conference call: Crystal Petersen, RDN, LD, Vice-Chairperson, Jessica Eilers, RN, Dr. Julie Johnson, PsyD, LMHC; Nick Rains, PA-C, ATC. Also present via zoom/conference call: Heather Bombei, Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) Regional Consultant.

Regular meeting of the LBOH was called to order by Hach. The minutes from January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, were reviewed. Motion to approve the January 2022 minutes by Eilers; seconded by Petersen, carried; the minutes were approved as written. Minutes were signed by Chair, Hach, and will be submitted to [IowaGrants.gov](http://IowaGrants.gov) following meeting.

**Approval/Signature of Updated Policies/Procedures:** There are four documents for board discussion, approval, and chair signature that have been updated for LBOH by GCPH and emailed to board members for perusal prior to meeting: the authorization of Thornton-Lang as official signatory for LBOH matters; sanitarian position support from LBOH to Grundy County Board of Supervisors (BOS); adoption of Public Electronic Access to LBOH Meetings Policy; Grundy County/GCPH Personnel Policies/Procedures. Per discussion with board, GCPH will modify County Personnel Policies/Procedures with assistance from Auditor's Office. Motion to approve the Signatory Authorization, Sanitarian Position Support and Adoption of Public Electronic Access to LBOH Meetings Policy by Hach; seconded by Eilers, carried; the policies were approved as submitted and signed by Chair, Hach.

**Landfill Commission Updates:** Ryan Bingman, LBOH commission representative, provided the following update for board members via email communications: *The Grundy County Landfill Commission held their quarterly meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 13, 2022 in the Grundy County Courthouse. The group reviewed bills with no concerns or objections. Election of Officers. (All of last year's officers will remain in their current position.) There was a lengthy discussion on hiring a part-time employee to fill in when the main person is on vacation or sick.*

*Discussion led to posting the new position at \$25.00 an hour due to it being a last-minute fill in and no guaranteed hours for the person. In the mean time it was recommended that there be a "Temporarily Closed" sign at the gate in case there is no one is working that day. A couple members said they would be willing to put the sign up if they were called due to illness. Additional discussion was about the HLW contract. This contract deals with the environmental covenants, testing of the site, semi-annual groundwater testing and additional DNR requirements. There is a potential that the contract will be modified if the DNR approves a change of status of the current landfill. Due to no longer accepting and burying items the amount of DNR testing may be reduced. Further information will come in future Landfill Commission meetings." Supervisor Smith stated there was a meeting held last week; Thornton-Lang will reach out to Bingman for an update to share with LBOH at May meeting.*

**COVID-19 Updates:** The pandemic continued to be the main focus during reporting period. GCPH continued to participate in phone conferences, webinars, and zoom meetings, as they are made available from local, state and federal partners. Individual inquiries via email, phone calls, and Facebook messenger continued to be a high priority, but slowed down considerably. GCPH continued to work with local school inquiries and guidance, long-term care facilities on guidance and updates, as well as childcare center guidance and updates; all, as needed, mostly via email when new guidance was presented. Isolation and quarantine home orders are no longer active by the State of Iowa. Information was shared with local health departments on reporting changes and beginning to move from response phase of pandemic to recovery phase. As information is available to GCPH on this transition, it will be shared with board members via email communications. Vaccine administration continues, with vaccines coming through GCPH. GCPH works with hospital, one clinic and all county pharmacies to ensure administration to appropriate individuals. GCPH does not house vaccines; dosages are being distributed to pharmacies, hospital, and UnityPoint Clinic - Family Medicine in Grundy Center for administration. The Healthcare Preparedness Planning Group (HCPPG) continued to meet monthly, and guidance/updates are shared with partners, as needed, via email. The county's COVID-19 website is still active and being updated, as needed (<https://tinyurl.com/38ffnwwz>). This site is through the county website and has information on vaccine administration sites, previous incentive program details, and other COVID-19 information. Vaccine rates, including booster dosages, continue to increase in Grundy County. Positive cases continue to increase, but slowed down considerably towards the end of the reporting period, most likely due to reporting changes. All data will continue to be tracked through the DOMO internal service by GCPH, as well as on state and federal websites to share with the public via social media platforms. All vaccine updates and general COVID information continues to be shared with local partners and on social media platforms.

## **Public Health Report for January/February, 2022:**

### Local Public Health Services (LPHS) Grant

*Collaborative Relations:* GCPH has been requested to join two additional boards: NEI3A Regional Board and Black Hawk County/Grundy County Mental Health (BHCGCMH) Board. Thornton-Lang will send information to board following meeting, if any members are interested in joining this board or would prefer to have GCPH represent Grundy County on board. If accepted by BHCGCMH board, GCPH will join to meet the needs of the community, especially as this helps to meet the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) recently identified by community members (mental health was number 1 need identified). Smith recommends reaching out to current BOS representative for reports unable; believes it to be Vic Vandehaar. After inquiry from GCPH, discussion was had with BOS representative, Heidi Nederhoff, who will provide updates if GCPH is unable to attend or is declined to board.

*Disease Outbreak:* All but one school district reported 10% absenteeism during the two weeks following the holiday break. State Epidemiologist (EPI) states that "school absenteeism from two-week period following holiday break was worst in Iowa history for reporting. Individual reports were in the hundreds and slowed down considerably after two-week period (not all flu or COVID)." On January 21st, 2022, investigation began on E. coli isolated case. Case was closed on January 25th, 2022. On January 27th, 2022, investigation began on Crypto isolated case. Case was closed on January 28th, 2022.

*Health Education:* Board chair, Hach provided STD updates for Grundy County and will send specific data information to GCPH to send to LBOH members. When comparing data from 2016 to 2020 STI's rates increased from 19 to 29 in county; Gonorrhea increased from 8 to 12 in county; congenital cases have hit a threshold over 15 years, which was an exponential increase. Chlamydia saw increases across the state in 2021. Syphilis cases increased statewide in 2021; this was not unique to Iowa, increases across the US. Congenital cases have hit a threshold over 15 years, exponential increases. The department is still waiting on full data report for 2021.

*Injury Prevention:* The Sharps Disposal program received 6 sharps container during reporting period.

Immunization (I4) Grant: Annual flu campaign continued during reporting period. Flyer/ information continued to be shared on social media and via email to local partners. Campaign officially ends in March, but information sharing to community partners and stakeholders will continue from reports provided from Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH).

Substance Abuse Prevention (SAP) Grant: LifeSkills was offered in all elementary schools. Lessons have been completed at Timothy Christian (3rd/4th grades) and Grundy Center (4th grade), and Dike (3rd grade). Reinbeck (4th grade) started in January and is scheduled to finish up at the end of March.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant: PHEP meetings have been held via zoom.

Medical Reserve Corps. (MRC): The Grundy County Medical Reserve Corps. (GC-MRC) continues to help at various community events, as needed. There are currently 28 active volunteers.

6YR Preparedness Grant: Additional response grants have been offered to all county health departments in state, with GCPH accepting technology upgrades; plans have been approved. There have been amendments to grant to allow for recovery phase of pandemic. Information is being finalized through IDPH.

Grundy County Safety Seat Program (GCCPSP): No updates.

Healthy Habits All-Stars (HHAS): No updates.

Assessment of grant searching for FY22/FY23 will take place in the upcoming months, due to continued pandemic restraints.

Due to the pandemic, total contacts for reporting period are not available.

Social Media Stats: Reporting period of January/February, 2022: 41,815 (Pinterest and Instagram stats were not available)

Meeting was recorded via zoom and is available for future viewing on Google Drive:

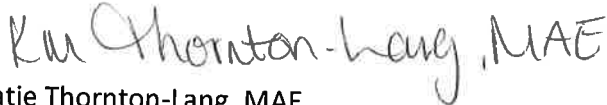
- Video link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Slxh2PL054IJxuSaNAya17rTbki5Nj5q/view?usp=sharing>
- Audio link: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oBFIOdAZa9MyR\\_TTDVYQOobDlkv-rcXk/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oBFIOdAZa9MyR_TTDVYQOobDlkv-rcXk/view?usp=sharing)
- File link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19a3uWEYI2gXlvXqEaDrTHAYYQugwASWV?usp=sharing>

Meeting adjourned at 7:57am; motion by Hach, second by Eilers; carried.

**Next Scheduled Meeting Date:** Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 7:00am, Grundy County Annex Building Conference Room/Zoom/Phone Conference

**Scheduled Meeting Topics:**

Respectfully submitted,



Katie Thornton-Lang, MAE

Grundy County Public Health Program Coordinator



Lexie Hach, MA  
Chairperson