

Buena Vista County Board of Health

Minutes- Regular Meeting

July 13, 2026, 6:00 PM

Public Health Office

1709 Richland Dr Storm Lake, IA 50588

Presence of Quorum: Yes

	t:	Action:
Call meeting to order	Sievers called the Board of Health meeting to order at 6:00 PM	
Approval of Consent Agenda		Motioned to approve the consent agenda was made by Ringgenberg and seconded by Rock. All Ayes.
Approval of Agenda		The motion to approve the agenda was made by Rock and seconded by Ringgenberg. All Ayes.
Paula Spies, New Opportunities,	Spies reviewed the New Opportunities Health Program update, which included discussions on maternal health, unduplicated clients, performance measures, and dental care coordination. Due to new Medicaid requirements, many individuals have transitioned to Hawk-I insurance and are no longer eligible for the WIC program. The Farmers Market Nutrition Program continues to provide an additional \$30 in market checks for eligible participants. The First Five program has experienced significant growth, with 68 referrals this year compared to just one referral last year. Dr. Martinez has also been named the new Peer Consultant Champion for the First Five program.	Information received by the Board.
Environmental Health Update -Ben Mueggenberg	Mueggenberg reported that this is the busiest time of year for Environmental Health. Staff, and they are currently busy processing septic system permits, overseeing well drilling projects, and preparing for pool inspections, which begin tomorrow.	Information received by the Board.
	Mueggenberg reviewed the Quarter 4 Private Well Grant update. The new grant agreement was signed and accepted on July 1. One of the biggest changes is a reduction in funding. The grant was previously funded at \$50,000, decreased to \$45,000 last year, and has now been reduced by an additional \$15,000. A positive change is the reduction in administrative work. The grant has been converted from an annual renewal to a three-year contract, significantly reducing paperwork requirements. Funding reallocations may be available. Around January, agencies can request additional funds if needed and if other agencies have not fully utilized their allocations. Program activity has remained busy, particularly during the last quarter, with a significant number of well-plugging projects completed. More than \$12,000 was spent during the quarter. Hunter continues to collect water samples every Tuesday and typically visits three to four homes each week so with loss in funding there may not be any need for outreach for well testing. Gotto expressed interest in reviewing the well-testing and radon data to identify target areas for future education and outreach efforts.	Information received by the Board.
	Mueggenberg reported they no longer need an additional agreement with Sac County to cover environmental health services. The current 28E agreement is sufficient for the coverage needed.	
Public Health & Home Care Update -Tracy Gotto -Lacey Anderson	Gotto provided the Public Health & Home Care Update which included: 1. There have been several changes to grant funding and administration. Under LPHS, the structure for billable services has changed. Gotto and Anderson will meet with	Information received by the Board.

	Diane Anderson on July 27 to gain a better understanding of the revised focus areas. The ICAPP funding allocation increased. Additionally, there was a change to the Elderbridge reimbursement rate, which decreased from \$60 per hour to \$45 per hour. That issue has since been clarified and resolved. 2. Staff participated in Health Day at the Buena Vista County Fair on Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., in collaboration with the hospital, Salud, UCHC, and local Fire Department. Attendance was lower than anticipated. Staff will evaluate future outreach opportunities to determine the most effective use of resources based on community engagement and individuals served. 3. Gotto provided an update on the upcoming Safety Day event, scheduled for August 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 PM. Several presenters have been confirmed, and bicycle helmets and bicycles will be available as part of the event. Staff are also seeking donations to assist families whose child safety seats do not meet current regulations or who do not have an appropriate car seat. 4. Gotto reported that the walking program remains a key area of focus. He is partnering with the Historical Society to develop guided walking routes that highlight local historical sites while promoting physical activity. Gotto also plans to meet with the Sioux Rapids Historical Society to explore similar walking opportunities in Sioux Rapids and other area communities. Additionally, Gotto and Anderson will evaluate potential walking routes throughout local towns and explore opportunities to incorporate health education information along the designated paths. 5. Cancer tour- slides sent to BOH members, and Gotto talked about the skewed #s. Continue to build and work on this. There is QR codes provided to try to get more information out and help with misinformation. 6. Dr. Seiler has increased his visits twice a month and continues to do pre-screenings. However, due to operational challenges, including the need for additional supplies, heavy traffic, and the requirement for Public Health staff support to help manage the waiting area, assist with check-in, and provide translation services, we are working on developing a contract to address these needs. We will follow up with staff and provide an update once we have more information. 7. Public Health had 8 air conditioning units donated, from a very generous couple, specifically for seniors who have no source of air conditioning. 8. PCA Navigator Megan Ross began her position last Friday. Her role will focus on connecting clients with resources for behavioral health support. A referral phone number is available for individuals' seeking assistance, and Megan will also accept walk-ins while she is in the office.	
	The state has changed the requirements for how meeting agendas must be posted. The state now requires that agendas be accessible to the public 24/7. The courthouse has installed an enclosed bulletin board to meet this requirement. The board will need to vote and designate the official location where the BOH agendas will be posted	Rock motioned that Board of Health agendas and other Public Health notices be posted on the courthouse's enclosed bulletin board. If a virtual posting is required in the future, the information will also be made available online as directed. The motion was seconded by Whitmore. All Ayes.
	Gotto reviewed the current policies, and the majority have been updated. There are several policies that require review and revision.	Information received by the Board.

	Admin staff will work on converting the policies into an electronic format for easier access and management.	
Strategic Planning	None.	
New Business	None.	
Old Business	None.	
Board Concerns	Sievers requested additional information regarding BV Cares. Gotto explained that BV Cares will operate as a separate nonprofit organization rather than operating through the Auditor's Office. He will be responsible for fundraising efforts, and the organization will have its own separate board and financial accounts. Funds raised through BV Cares will be used to provide assistance with rent, food resources, and other extenuating circumstances. Currently, Gotto has Walsh Law Firm reviewing the organization's bylaws before proceeding further with the application process.	Information received by the Board.
Hear the Public	None.	
Next meeting	Next meeting is tentatively set for Sept 14 th at 6:00 pm	
Adjourn		Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 was made by All Ayes.

P = Present **A** = Absent **V** = Virtual **PC** = Phone Call

Board Members		Public Health		Environmental Health		Guests	
Jon McKenna	A	Tracy Gotto	P	Ben Mueggenberg	P	Paula Spies	P
Dr. Robert Whitmore	P	Lacey Anderson	P				
Rhonda Ringgenberg	P						
Julie Sievers	P						
Shelly Rock	P						

Respectfully submitted by Lacey Anderson

Approved 9/14/26