**Louisa County Board of Health**

12635 County Rd G56, Ste 103

Wapello, IA 52653

Meeting Minutes May 9th, 2023

**Members Present**: Shawn Maine, Lynn Mincer, Joellen Schantz, Tim Verink

**Members Present via Zoom**:

**Excused/Absent**: Jacinta Wangui

**Staff Present:** R. Smith, B. Smith

**Guests:** Brian Thye, Jim Rudisill, Berdette Davis

**Guests via Zoom:**

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Schantz at 1332.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve May 9th, 2023 agenda by Maine, 2nd by Verink. All approved, so carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Maine to approve April 11th, 2023 board minutes, 2nd by Mincer. All approved, so carried.

**Environmental Health Update**

New Business/Financial Report:

Thye presented EH stats and the system installation report through April 2023; Smith presented the EH finances through April 2023. Thye reported that all permit renewals are in except for one. Thye also reported he is working with homeowners on a Time of Transfer that had a failed system but was approved by the courthouse.

Old Business:

None

*Thye exited meeting.*

**Public Health/Home Health Update**

New business/Financial Report:

Smith presented financial and home visit caseload data through April 2023.

Review Current Home Health Cost Report, Charges, and Reimbursement:

R. Smith presented data from an internal cost report that shows true cost to the department for home health services and explained what data went into the report. R. Smith reviewed the cost reports against current agency charges for home health services and notified the board each service was continuing to operate in the black. B. Smith then presented the current maximum allowable reimbursement from several insurances and noted that the home care aide service was leaving a substantial amount of money on the table by billing far below reimbursement rates, specifically, Medicaid rates (current charge = $40/visit, max rate = $66.07/visit). R. Smith stated that the agency is leaving approx. $12,000 in home care aide reimbursement on the table each year by not charging what Medicaid will reimburse. R. Smith also noted that the max reimbursement for Medicaid homemaker services is far below current cost and agency charge.

Review/Amend Sliding Fee Scale Policy and Scale for FY24 – Potential Action Item:

R. Smith proposed a new sliding fee scale policy and scale that would accommodate increasing agency charges for home care aide services, while also allowing for current patients to be grandfathered in to current rates and give the Administrator the ability to adjust patient charges on an individual basis of needs. This new policy and scale, combined with the grants available to offset the cost to the patient and agency, should increase reimbursement and continue to allow affordable home health services to Louisa County residents.

After discussion, there was a motion by Mincer to increase the home care aide rate to $60/visit beginning July 1, 2023, 2nd by Verink. All approved so carried. Motion by Maine to approve the amended Sliding Fee Scale policy, 2nd by Mincer. All approved so carried. Motion by Maine to approve the amended Sliding Fee Scale beginning July 1, 2023, 2nd by Verink. All approved, so carried.

DME Loan Closet Policy – Potential Action Item:

R. Smith presented a draft policy covering use of the DME loan closet. The purpose of creating the policy was to better ensure loaned items are returned in a timely manner, clean, and in good condition. Discussion on the legality of the waiver releasing LCPH from injury liability and legality of a representative signing waiver on behalf of patient.

After discussion, motion by Maine to approve the policy and accompanying DME check-out form pending County Attorney review of questions regarding release of liability waiver, 2nd by Verink. All approved, so carried.

Spring School Immunization Clinics:

R. Smith stated school-based clinics had begun to vaccinate incoming 7th and 12th graders for their required vaccines, however, numbers for the clinics were significantly down from previous years, with one district electing not to hold a clinic this year for the first time since LCPH began offering them. B. Smith reported that when the requirements were new several years ago, numbers for the clinic were high as parents and physicians adjusted to the new requirements. Now, she explained, the vaccines have become routine with school physicals and fewer kids need the school clinic option. R. Smith stated LCPH would finish out the clinics already scheduled for this year but would look at the feasibility of running the clinics next year; suggesting instead a flyer notifying parents/guardians that LCPH can vaccinate in-office for those in need.

2023 Mosquito Surveillance:

R. Smith notified the board that the state had reached out about trapping again for this season. R. Smith stated she was asked to run the same number of traps as last season at $200/week for trapping efforts. R. Smith stated she agreed and is waiting for the contract from the state, with trapping to begin early June.

R. Smith notified the board of emails sent from the State Hygienic Lab (SHL) regarding Louisa’s interest in COVID wastewater testing. After discussion regarding the program, it was decided not to pursue testing at this time. R. Smith stated she would notify the SHL.

BOH Orientation and Fiscal Review – B. Davis:

Davis gave a presentation on BOH roles and responsibilities as related to Iowa Code and provided a detailed fiscal overview of Louisa County finances and budget review.

Old Business:

None

**Public Input**

No public in attendance.

**Meeting Schedule**

Next BOH meeting: Tuesday, June 13th @ 1330.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion to adjourn by Maine at 1450.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Roxanne Smith*

Secretary Pro Tem

Motion to Approve:

1st: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_