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Description automatically generated**Louisa County Board of Health**

12635 County Rd G56, Ste 103

Wapello, IA 52653

Meeting Minutes September 26th, 2023

**Members Present**: Randy Griffin, Lynn Mincer, Joellen Schantz

**Members Present via Zoom**: Jacinta Wangui

**Excused/Absent**: Shawn Maine

**Staff Present:** R. Smith

**Guests:** Brian Thye, Jim Rudisill

**Guests via Zoom:**

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Schantz at 1701.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve September 26th, 2023 agenda by Mincer, 2nd by Griffin. All approved, so carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Griffin to approve August 8th, 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 August 2023; Smith presented the EH finances for through August 2023.

Old Business:

Thye reported that the owner of the failed TOT discussed last month pulled a permit before the deadline to turn over to the County Attorney and a new system has been installed.

Thye also updated the board on the new SHL courier process stating the $10 mailing label is good for 5 lbs., which is about the weight of most water tests.

*Thye exited meeting.*

**Public Health/Home Health Update**

New business/Financial Report:

Smith presented year-end financial and home visit caseload data through August 2023.

Immunization Update: Flu/COVID:

Smith stated that staff had looked into flu reimbursement through Medicare and BCBS in comparison to the agency’s long-standing $30 charge and discovered that LCPH is leaving a considerable amount of reimbursement on the table. Smith stated that most flu vaccine given by LCPH is billed to Medicare and BCBS, with only a handful of people paying out-of-pocket for the vaccine. Smith stated that the agency has not increased the cost of flu vaccine for years and is falling behind on reimbursement at the $30 price. Smith suggested increasing the vaccine price to $45/vaccine and offering a county-funded $5 coupon to those paying out-of-pocket. After discussion, motion by Mincer to increase the flu vaccine cost to $45/vaccine and to offer a $5/vaccine coupon to those paying out-of-pocket, 2nd by Griffin. All approved, so carried.

The board discussed the most recent COVID booster, which has transitioned to the private market and is no longer free. Due to numerous pharmacies and providers now offering the vaccine, and the high cost to purchase, Smith proposed LCPH offer vaccine to those without insurance, or who are underinsured through the Iowa Bridge Access Program (BAP). The BAP is only available to local PH, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and tribal clinics and offers free vaccine to those 19+ who do not have insurance to cover the vaccine. Smith noted that LCPH has had a significant decrease in the administration of flu, and other vaccines, since the major pharmacies began offering them with the ability to offer incentives. Smith stated offering only BAP vaccine would reduce the risk of wasting vaccine and would fill public health’s role in filling gaps in services. All agreed to move forward with the BAP and wait on purchasing private vaccine, with the intention to have an ongoing re-evaluation of the need to purchase private vaccine related to demand.

Old Business:

Colorectal Community Screening FIT Test Launch:

Smith stated the colorectal cancer screening program LCPH is doing in partnership with Unity Point Health is in full swing and presented a copy of the social media/website post notifying the county of the program. Smith plans to take kits this fall to various flu clinics to promote the program as well.

**Public Input**

No public in attendance.

**Meeting Schedule**

Next BOH meeting: TBD

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion to adjourn by Griffin at 1738, 2nd by Mincer.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Roxanne Smith*

Secretary Pro Tem

Motion to Approve:

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