

Wayne County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2025
Wayne County Public Health
105 N Lafayette St, Corydon, IA 50060

Members Present: Dr. Joel Wells, Dorene McCart, Chris Moore, ~~Brenda DeVore~~, Chuck McCullough, Dr. Lucas Whitney

Members Absent: Jill Housh, *Brenda DeVore*

gmu 11/17/25

Staff Present: Susan Moore, Jessica Hysell, David Rhodes

Guests: Sarah Guillatt, Courtney Adair

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Wells at 8:59 am.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Chuck and seconded by Dorene. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of July 21, 2025

The minutes from the July 21 meeting were reviewed. With no corrections noted, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Doreen and seconded by Chuck. Motion carried unanimously.

Program Updates

MCAH – Taylor County / Sarah Guillatt

The maternal and child health program update included an overview of current prenatal and postpartum support services across the 12-county MCAH region. Staff detailed safe sleep education, hypertension monitoring, and increased focus on postpartum maternal health. The state's extension of Medicaid postpartum coverage to one year and the distribution of blood pressure monitors to high-risk mothers were discussed as part of statewide maternal mortality reduction efforts.

Matura / 1st Five – Courtney Adair

An update was provided regarding the First Five early childhood program, including staffing changes and the addition of a bilingual developmental support specialist. Recent program-wide changes, including the loss of the First Five logo and revised outreach strategies, were noted.

Environmental Health Update

Daily Log & Well Grant Report: David Rhoades reviewed the daily log and noted that overall activity has remained typical for this time of year. While permits were slightly lower than usual, the number of time-of-transfer well and septic inspections has increased significantly and is already nearing the projected amount for the entire year. Rhoades reported that workload remains steady and consistent with seasonal expectations.

Financial Report: The Environmental Health financials were reviewed, with revenue from time-of-transfer inspections serving as the primary driver of income so far this year. Revenue is trending positively and is largely on track with expectations, with no concerns regarding expenditure or budget status at this time.

Chapter 69: An update was given on the proposed changes to Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 69 regarding onsite wastewater systems. The significant code revision that was scheduled to take effect this fall did not pass final review, which means the current code remains in effect. The proposed changes—particularly the removal of lagoons as compliant systems for new installations—generated confusion across the state due to inconsistent communication from regulatory bodies. It is now expected that the Chapter 69 revision process will not resume until after the 2026 legislative session.

Water Waste Ordinance: Rhoades reported that the new county wastewater ordinance was formally approved by the Board of Supervisors approximately two weeks ago. The ordinance has been posted to the public health website, and notification letters have been mailed to area contractors. Staff anticipate receiving feedback once contractors begin working under the updated requirements.

Public Health Update

Financial Report: Susan Moore reviewed the department's financial status and stated that revenues for July and August were at or above target, while expenditures have remained appropriate for the fiscal year. The department continues to be in a stable financial position. A major discussion item involved a recoupment notice from UnitedHealthcare for approximately \$16,000 in alleged overpayments from 2023. Initial review suggests that many of the questioned claims may have been duplicate payments. Staff are pulling historical billing records and EOBs to validate each claim, and they plan to dispute any inaccurate recoupments. UnitedHealthcare may recoup by withholding future payments rather than issuing an invoice. The Board expressed unanimous support for challenging any improper recoupments.

Immunization & Communicable Disease: Updates were provided on communicable disease activity within the county. Sixteen cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever have been reported this year, which is substantially higher than previous years. Dr. Whitney emphasized that ticks remain active until a hard frost. The Board also received an update on a severe pertussis case in a six-week-old Amish infant who required emergency transfer and resuscitation in Des Moines. Because the infant was too young for routine vaccinations, maternal vaccination during pregnancy remains the primary protective method. Staff described ongoing challenges in achieving full vaccination series within the Amish community but noted some improvement when providing home visits. Dr. Wells also discussed a growing tension between long-standing ACIP recommendations and certain recent federal-level messaging. Wayne County Public Health intends to follow evidence-based ACIP guidance when discrepancies arise. The school immunization audit will be completed before the next meeting, and staff anticipate increases in exemptions.

Meals on Wheels/Mom's Meals: The Board discussed ongoing challenges in sustaining meal delivery services for seniors, especially following the discontinuation of meal service in Lineville. Wayne County Public Health is now the primary provider for in-county meal support. Participation has declined, and staff plan to distribute outreach materials in senior-dense areas such as post offices and housing complexes. The department is evaluating a partnership with a frozen meal provider, Mom's Meals, with meals costing approximately eight dollars each. Medicaid waiver clients could have meals fully covered, while private-pay clients may face cost barriers. Board members expressed concern that eight dollars is too high for many local seniors and discussed using Public Health Foundation interest income to subsidize meals to a more affordable three- to five-dollar range. Staff also noted that Milestones Area Agency on Aging has resumed payments but is not fully meeting contracted obligations for homemaker and personal care services. Staff will gather additional information and return with a formalized plan and sample meals. The Board agreed that no senior in Wayne County should lack access to meals due to financial or geographic limitations.

Other Business

None

Public Comments

None


Meeting

Next BOH meeting: November 17th, 2025 @ 9:00 am

Motion to Adjourn

Lucas motioned to adjourn. Motion seconded by Chuck. All in favor. Motion carried at 10:09 am.

Board of Health Chair

Handwritten signature of Joel Wells in cursive script.

Handwritten date 11/17/25 in cursive script.

Date