

Wayne County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2026

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

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Susan Moore, Jessica Hysell, David Rhodes

Guests: None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Wells at 3:02 pm.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes of March 16, 2026

The March 16, 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by McCart and seconded by Salsberry. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

None

Environmental Health

Financial Report: Rhodes presented the Environmental Health financial report. He reported that current expenditures remain within budget, including recent wage adjustments. After conferring with Michelle Dooley, Auditor, it was determined a budget amendment would not be necessary.

Daily Log: Rhodes reviewed recent Environmental Health activities, highlighting attendance at the local veteran's breakfast where 24 radon test kits were distributed through Redeemed grant funding. Rhodes reported positive community interest and ongoing outreach regarding radon awareness. Board members, including Dr. Whitney and Dr. Wells, discussed their own experiences with radon testing and concerns regarding mailing delays impacting kit validity.

Well Grant: Rhodes reported that the new FY27 Well Grant contract has been signed as part of a three-year agreement. However, annual grant funding was reduced from just over \$50,000 to approximately \$33,300, representing a reduction of roughly \$20,000. Continued outreach and advertising efforts remain in place.

Time of Transfer: Rhodes provided an update regarding a recent Notice of Violation issued by Iowa DNR after a bathroom in an outbuilding was missed during a 2021 time-of-transfer inspection. The oversight was discovered following a later property sale, resulting in approximately \$16,500 in septic replacement costs for the new owners. Rhodes acknowledged the missed item, completed additional training, and stated that legal review by the county's insurance carrier and County Attorney determined both Wayne County and Rhodes are protected from liability under Iowa Code.

Dr. Wells reviewed legal guidance received from both the county attorney and insurance counsel, explaining that Iowa law places septic compliance responsibility on the property seller unless otherwise outlined in the purchase agreement. Chris Moore referenced the county's legal standing and emphasized that while the situation was unfortunate for the property owners, statutory protections support the county's position. Susan Moore questioned whether additional county-generated disclosures or legal safeguards could further strengthen protections in future inspections.

Board discussion also focused heavily on whether Wayne County should continue directly performing time-of-transfer inspections or instead provide residents with a broader list of certified private contractors. Rhodes explained that when he originally began providing inspections, few outside contractors offered the service; however, several private certified inspectors are now available. Chris Moore questioned whether continued county participation places the department in unnecessary competition with private businesses and whether county involvement should shift toward offering options rather than serving as a primary provider. Rhodes acknowledged that many private contractors are motivated by potential repair work identified during inspections, while county inspections may offer a more neutral and unbiased evaluation.

Dr. Whitney stated that offering residents multiple options may reduce county liability while still preserving public service access. Rhodes agreed that moving toward distributing a full list of certified contractors, including Wayne County, may be the most balanced approach. Board members discussed the importance of maintaining service availability, particularly in rural situations where contractor access may be inconsistent, while also recognizing that broader contractor participation may reduce county burden and liability exposure.

Rhodes reported that time-of-transfer inspections currently generate approximately \$5,100 annually for Environmental Health. While he expressed reservations about continuing inspections after this incident, he stated that he renewed his certification and is willing to continue performing services when needed. Board consensus was that no immediate discontinuation was necessary, but Rhodes should exercise discretion, provide broader contractor options, and strengthen inspection protocols moving forward. No formal action was taken.

Clarke County Contract Funds: Rhodes reported that Environmental Health operations in Clarke County are improving, with progress made in reducing administrative backlog, improving organization, and advancing a formal county ordinance. Rhodes stated that the first ordinance reading has been completed, with additional procedural steps pending.

Rhodes revisited prior Board-approved reimbursement calculations related to Clarke County's contract. After further review, Rhodes determined the previously approved \$3,750 administrative allocation to Wayne County Public Health was overstated. Susan Moore presented revised calculations showing that actual six-month costs total approximately \$3,120 when accounting for monthly wages and scheduled raises.

Chris Moore made a motion to amend the prior allocation to the corrected amount. Chuck McCullough seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Health Update

Financial Report: Susan Moore reviewed the Public Health financial report and reported that overall department finances remain stable. Moore stated that she had previously requested a \$15,000 budget amendment due to concerns related primarily to large window replacement expenses and other operational costs; however, after further review of current expenditures, projected revenues, and

incoming grant funding, she determined that the amendment will not be necessary. Moore reported that Public Health is expected to remain within budget for the fiscal year without requiring additional county allocation. Board members acknowledged the positive financial outlook, and no further action was taken.

EMR Software: Moore provided an update regarding efforts to replace MatrixCare with a more affordable electronic medical records system. Moore explained that the current system costs approximately \$3,600 per month, while the proposed replacement would cost approximately \$1,500 per month while still meeting Public Health, home health, and homemaker operational needs.

Moore stated that due to Medicare certification cycles, a temporary two-month overlap between systems will be necessary, resulting in short-term duplicate expenses. Dr. Wells and McCart acknowledged that long-term savings would outweigh initial transition costs. Moore also reported that MatrixCare offered lower pricing after learning of the possible transition, though she remains concerned about long-term cost increases.

Nine 2 Thrive: Moore presented concerns regarding EveryStep/Nine2Thrive's proposal to reduce Wayne County's onsite prenatal support services from full-time to half-time while shifting additional resources to Polk County. Moore explained that review of the state grant and contract language specifically requires direct onsite support services within Wayne County's prenatal clinic setting. Moore emphasized that Wayne County was an early successful pilot site with strong referral performance and that reducing services in a highly rural, underserved area while expanding urban services directly contradicts the grant's intended purpose. Dr. Wells expressed concern that Wayne County's demonstrated success is being undermined despite limited rural maternal care options. Board members discussed potential advocacy efforts, including direct meetings with Nine2Thrive leadership and possible engagement with state representatives if needed.

Home Care Support Fund Purchase: Susan Moore updated the Board on the continued growth of the Wayne County Home Care Support Fund through donations, fundraising, and transferred Free Clinic funds, bringing the balance to over \$133,000. Moore requested approval to purchase a washer and dryer for Public Health operations to support sanitation, clinic linen processing, and emergency client needs. Board members discussed practicality and equipment options. Dorene McCart made a motion authorizing Moore to proceed with the purchase through the Home Care Support Fund, pending final documentation. Brenda DeVore seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Regionalization: Moore informed the Board that Iowa's approved public health regionalization structure places Wayne County within a Polk County-led region. Moore explained that although local Boards of Health will retain authority, concerns remain regarding future funding flow and whether metro-centered systems will adequately prioritize rural communities. Moore will update the board as more information becomes available.

Direct Care Services: Dr. Wells reported that representatives from a regional service organization attended a recent First Thursday Coffee meeting to discuss available community services. Initially thought to be connected to the new Mental Health Region, it was later clarified that this group provides broader resource navigation services, including waiver programs and social service support. Susan Moore noted that Public Health has successfully used this organization to help secure elderly waiver services for two Wayne County residents. Board discussion clarified the distinction between this program and the Mental Health Region system, with members acknowledging its potential value despite broader concerns regarding regional services.

Environmental Health IT: Rhodes discussed efforts to modernize Environmental Health operations through grant-funded tablets and paperless inspections to improve field efficiency and reduce paperwork. He expressed frustration with ongoing IT delays and setup challenges that have slowed implementation but stated that transitioning to a digital system remains a priority.

Meeting

Next BOH meeting: July 20, 2026 @ 9:00 am

Motion to Adjourn

C. Moore motioned to adjourn. Motion seconded by McCart. All in favor. Motion carried at 4:04 pm.

Board of Health Chair

Date

Joel Wells DO

7-13-26