



## Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2025



The Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department's (NNPHD) April 15, 2025, Board of Health (BOH) Regular Meeting was called to order according to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act by Chair James Raabe at 5:30 p.m. The Open Meetings Act was available on the back counter in the room. Members present were James Raabe, Chair, Wayne County Commissioner; Dr. Christine Dregalla, DDS (on zoom); Dr. Melissa Heithold DVM (on zoom); Terry Nicholson, Dixon County Supervisor; Dr. Melissa Dobbins, DO; Traci Haglund, Dixon County Representative (on zoom), Jeremy Christiansen, Cedar County Representative and Nicole Haglund, Wayne County Representative; Mike Meier, Cedar County Commissioner; Georgia Mayberry, Thurston County Supervisor (on zoom). Absent were Katie Peterson, Thurston County Representative and Tom Hansen, CPA.

NNPHD staff present at the meeting were Colleen Hupke, Executive Health Director; Peggy Triggs, Director of Services; Jill Belt, Director of Operations; Teresa Jackson, Administrative Specialist; Molly Herman, EPI Manager.

**INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Board members and staff introduced themselves to the new board members, Mike Meier and Georgia Mayberry.

### **CONSENT AGENDA: AGENDA, MINUTES, AND FINANCIAL REPORT**

Terry Nicholson, Dixon County Supervisor made a motion to approve the consent agenda (agenda, financial report, and minutes from the 01.21.2025 meeting). Nicole Hagland, Wayne County Representative, seconded the motion. Motion carried. 10 Ayes 1 Absent 0 Nays.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT: PROGRAM UPDATES:**

Colleen Hupke, Executive Director stated some of the Federal grants had a stop work order. Money was spent on the ELC grant. The agency laid off one full time employee, Maureen Carrigg, Communication Specialist and one part time employee, Barb Fish, Public Health Nurse, 2 employees have their work hours cut, Sarah Johnson, Program Specialist to 32 hours per week and Kalynn Palmisano, Public Health Specialist to 20 hours per week. The Governor wanted to cut 4.5 million. The Health Directors crafted a letter to send asking to leave the money in the General fund.

Sydney Escritt is our Wayne State College intern. Molly Herman, EPI Manager gave her report on the DIS program, stating 8 animal exposures with 4 PEP recommendations, 4 bats, 1 dog, 2 cats, and 1 opossum, 4 Campylobacter, 1 Chickenpox, 2 Cryptosporidiosis (connected to cattle), 1 Histoplasmosis, 11 Pertussis, 1 Toxoplasmosis, 1 Invasive Strep with 32 requiring follow ups. There were 7 new HCV reports with a total of 39 reported, total lab reports for lead was 95 with 3 elevated levels, 30 chlamydia, 7 gonorrhea, 4 syphilis, and 41 positive STI's. With the measles outbreak the agency has posted on social media, distributed news releases on the importance of vaccines, established what hospitals in our region have measles IG, reviewed vaccination rates by school and reached out to school nurses, created a bilingual infographic and distributed it across the health district and medical partners. We have a press release ready for when our health district has its first case. We are planning a letter to send home with parents about measles and the importance of the MMR shot. We would like to zoom with school admins, nurses, and medical providers.

Peggy Triggs, Director of Services, discussed Public Health Accreditation. The purpose of Accreditation is to ensure the Department meets quality standards to improve the overall health of the district. Nebraska Children & Families has approved funding for one more year, this funds our Community Response program. Oral Health will be losing some of its funding in June 2025. We are looking for grants to keep this program going, we have a clinic room at the new location. CRCA, Colorectal Cancer, program will be ending in June 2025. We have blood pressure

kits available for the public, they will need a Dr's note to receive one. DoT program will end in June with UNMC, this will be extended for 2 more years under a different name. The Weight Management program is in correlation with DoT, this program has grown to 46 clients and 2 coaches. We will be starting a Drug and Alcohol class for court ordered clients as well as a parenting class. Our walk ins seeking information includes 1 blood pressure kit, 2 PHEP, 1 CR, 1 CRCA kit, 13 radon tests, 3 DoT, 3 water test kits.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **Building Update:**

Jill Belt, Director of Operations stated around \$286,000 ELC funding (state Covid money that was left over) was spent on costs to the new building which includes, appliances, printer/copier, external sign, office furniture, impact resistant shingles, blinds, internet, phones, and IT costs. Our current building has mold, which was discovered this week, we are getting estimates to treat this problem.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **New Board of Health Members:**

Mike Meier, Cedar County Commissioner and Georgia Mayberry, Thurston County Supervisor were welcomed to the NNPHD Board.

##### **501c3:**

Jill Belt, Director of Operations explained the need for the Department to obtain a 501c3. This will help to obtain grants or donations to supplement funding. A separate account will need to be created for certain grants. The cost will range from \$4,000-\$5,000 to get this accomplished and it requires 4 members of the board to form a 501c3 board specifically for this organization. Motion made by Terry Nicholson, Dixon County Supervisor, second by Nicole Haglund, Wayne County Representative. Motion carried 10 Ayes, 1 Absent, 0 Nays. Volunteering for the 501c3 board is Nicole Haglund, Wayne County Representative, Melissa Dobbins DO, Jeremy Christiansen, Cedar County Representative, and Traci Haglund, Dixon County Representative.

##### **Discussion on State and Federal Funding Changes and Staffing Changes:**

Colleen Hupke, Executive Director stated the decision on state funding will be April 29, 2025. The health directors are trying to advocate keeping the health cash fund, they have spent time in Lincoln talking to Senators. Cecilia Modrell, Community Health Worker will be moving to Arizona in May, Janie Ortega, Community Health Worker will be taking over her duties. No part-time help will be hired at this time.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 29, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.**

Chair Jim Rabe, Wayne County Commissioner adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Approved,



Katie Peterson  
Secretary

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Jackson  
Recording Secretary