

## GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

April 2, 2026

The Greene County Board of Health (BOH) met in person on Thursday, April 2, 2026, and via virtual option via Microsoft Teams.

**Attendance: BOH** members: Dr. Keith Van Beek, Annie Smith, Jaunita Gilley, Dr. Thomas Fagg, Rochelle Guess, and Dawn Rudolph.

Guests: Christy Jenkins, Paula Spies, And Ashley Arenholz, New Opportunities, Chuck Wenthold, Greene County EH. Heather Bombi, Iowa Health and Human Services.

Public Health: Director Shelby Cooklin.

Meeting called to order by Rudolph at 7:09 A.M.

**Motion to Approve Meeting Agenda:** motion.to.approve.agenda.made.by.Van.Beek.and.seconded.by.Guess.all.ayes.motion.carried;

**Consent Agenda** (for matters requiring little or no discussion): Approval of Consent Agenda: Motion.to.Approve.by.Guess.Seconded.by.Smith.all.ayes.motion.carried;

**Old Business:** No old business to report.

### **Public Health Update – Immunization and Legislative Review**

Cooklin provided an update on recent developments related to immunization policy and state legislation. She reported that in January 2026, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), under Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., announced proposed changes to the childhood immunization schedule. In March 2026, a federal judge issued a ruling against the proposed changes, effectively halting their implementation.

Cooklin also shared a legislative update on Senate Study Bill 3135, which proposes revisions to Iowa Code Chapter 37. The bill would eliminate city boards of health and transition governance to a district-based public health system. Currently, Dubuque is noted as the only city in Iowa operating its own health department.

Additionally, Cooklin discussed House Study Bill 622. While the bill initially included broader discussions on Iowa HHS alignment, including public health, its current focus has narrowed to addressing aging and disability services and their alignment into district structures.

### **FY27 Immunization Services Grant Application**

Cooklin explained that the FY27 Immunization Services Grant is a continuation of the FY26 contract. Public Health will receive the same funding amount as in previous years, totaling \$7,575. Board approval is required, along with a signature from Board of Health Chair Dawn. A motion to approve the grant was made by Van Beek and seconded by Dr. Fagg. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **FY27 Local Public Health Services (LPHS) Grant Application**

Cooklin explained that the FY27 Local Public Health Services (LPHS) Grant represents a new grant cycle and includes an updated work plan. Public Health will receive a total funding amount of \$33,350, which is slightly higher than the FY26 allocation. Board approval is required. A motion to approve the grant was made by Smith and seconded by Guess. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Elderbridge Grant Funding**

Cooklin explained the Elderbridge grant application and associated budget request. The funding supports medical transportation services through “Healthy Rides” and evidence-based health promotion programming, including “Hope and Help for a Healthy Brain.” Board approval is required. A motion to approve the grant was made by Dr. Fagg and seconded by Van Beek. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Public Health Week and Infant Immunization Awareness**

Cooklin provided notice that National Public Health Week (April 6–12) is approaching and shared this year’s theme, along with activities her department has planned to recognize and promote the week.

Cooklin also provided notice of National Infant Immunization Week (April 20–27), which highlights the importance of immunizations for children ages two years and younger and emphasizes keeping them up to date on vaccines to support their health.

### **Iowa Cancer Report**

Cooklin shared the 2026 Iowa Cancer Report, highlighting data specific to Greene County and encouraging participants to review the full report for additional information.

## **99 Counties Project Update**

Cooklin shared information about the 99 Counties Project and noted that efforts are underway to schedule a presentation for Greene County. She will keep the Board updated as dates and times are confirmed.

## **Walk With Ease Program**

Cooklin shared information about the Walk With Ease program and discussed plans to start a local program in Greene County, potentially in partnership with the Greene County Community Center.

## **Opioid Settlement Update**

Cooklin shared that the Opioid Settlement Committee met in March to review funding applications. She noted that the committee will meet again this month to gather additional information from applicants before making award notifications.

## **Child and Adolescent Health (CAH) Report**

Cooklin shared the Child and Adolescent Health report, summarizing the number of services provided since the beginning of FY26. She noted that lead testing numbers are currently down due to a failure of the lead capillary machine and the length of time required to obtain a replacement.

## **1st Five Services Update**

Ashlea Ahrenholtz from New Opportunities provided an overview of 1st Five services. She explained that the purpose of the 1st Five program is to support healthy development for children ages birth to five by connecting families with medical providers and community resources, particularly in the areas of developmental screening, family support, and early intervention.

Ahrenholtz noted that efforts to increase outreach and visibility within the service area have strengthened the community's presence. Since July 2025, the program has received 124 referrals, a significant increase over the previous fiscal year.

## **Other Topics of Discussion:**

Chuck Wenthold with Greene County Environmental Health brought up the recent meeting he and Cooklin attended with IHHS regarding system realignment. No new information was learned from this meeting. IHHS will hold an in-person town hall meeting in Des Moines on April 28th to discuss the system alignment timeline.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:00 AM. Van Beek made a motion. Motion seconded. by Guess. all ayes. motion carried;

The next meeting is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 7:00 AM at the GCMC Medical Staff Library, Level B. A virtual option will also be available.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelby Cooklin, Director, Public Health.