

4th Floor Conference Room

Boone County Courthouse

- I. **Call Meeting to Order:** by Dr Mehlhaus at 5:30 pm
- II. **Attendance:** Present: Dr Brian Mehlhaus, Gary Nystrom, Kristine Johansen, Shawn Bryant.

Additional Attendees:

Lydia Billings, Public Health Administrator.

Ed Tharp, Code Enforcement Officer.

- III. **Changes & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (11/17/2025).**
 - Motion by Shawn Bryant, 2nd by Kristine Johansen to approve the 11/17/2025 minutes. The vote was unanimous, Motion carried.
- IV. **Changes & Approval of Meeting Agenda**
 - Motion by Shawn Bryant, 2nd by Kristine Johansen to approve the agenda with modifications. The vote was unanimous, Motion carried.
- V. **Open Public Hearing(s) and Consideration of Request(s)**
 - A. None.
- VI. **Unfinished (Old) Business**
 - A. None.

- VII. **New Business.**

A. Ann Breeding, Founder of Steps of Hope – Presentation. Ann started her presentation with how she came about with Steps of Hope. Ann lost her son to an overdose on November 1st, 2020. She talked about the different things that she does through this non-profit. The annual Steps of Hope walk draws a lot of people with the same issues and problems and helps them to cope with their losses and to help educate and bring awareness to this growing problem. She also talked about IOAD, Iowa Overdose Awareness Day. The proclamation is brought before the Governor of Iowa and is signed every year. She talked about the other events that they do like the Iowa Capital Memorial Event and the DC Trail of Truth. She also speaks at several high schools around this area and talks about the dangers of drug overdose. She started the Naloxone Boxes which hold Narcan that are placed in areas that make it available to the public 24 hours a day.

She explained how the boxes work and their placement. She has 58 boxes so far in 23 different counties. She wants to give families support, resources and hope that are affected by substance abuse.

The board members asked questions and Ann answered them. She went over the cost of the boxes and the Narcan to fill them. The board discussed the costs and then talked about the areas where they would possibly place a Naloxone box.

After some more discussion, Gary Nystrom motioned, 2nd by Shawn Bryant to spend 5000.00 to start the Naloxone Boxes with 24 Narcan kits per box program in Boone County. During this time, the board discussed further the Narcan kits and the possibility that they may go through more in the beginning of this program than they originally would be getting with the 5000.00. Gary Nystrom then made a friendly amendment to the motion, 2nd by Shawn Bryant to increase the amount to 7000.00 subject to a written proposal for the Naloxone Box program. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

B. Discussion for replacement for Kriss Haglund's Resignation.

The board members had a discussion on possible appointees to fill the vacant position on the Board of Health.

C. Election of Officers for the Board of Health.

The board members discussed who will be the new chair and vice chair of the Board of Health.

Gary Nystrom motioned, 2nd by Kristine Johansen to have Shawn Bryant as Chair of the Board of Health and Dr Brian Mehlhaus be Vice Chair, pending review of Boone County ordinance in this matter.

Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

VIII. Department Update

A. Public Health Department Report – Lydia Billings, Public Health Administrator.

Lydia talked about the VSC audit for the state. It is vaccines for children through public health and the must be eligible. The state comes in and makes sure we are asking the right questions and the right education and the right policies. We passed the audit with flying colors. We completed our home care audit, and our Medicare rectification surveys and we passed these also.

We received 6000.00 for H5N1 spending on advertising and education to get the word out on this. We had some flyers printed up and distributed them out to the Farm Bureau spokesman for mailers and the ISU

extension office in Boone for people to take and some going to the Bayer COOP because she does immunizations out there every year. All that cost 700.00 to get all the printing done. Right now, we are waiting on the state for the possibility of more funding to do radio ads and Facebook marketing. The state of Iowa had applied for a grant called the Healthy Home Grant. Iowa was awarded several million dollars. The timelines to apply for these were so tight that we were only able to apply for a couple. RSP relating to Cancer and the Radon Testing kits and Colorectal Cancer kits. She said that they are currently working on budget for the county. She also stated that Iowa HHS is saying Covid is on the rise and so is Influenza- A and Influenza-B. She said the HHS is saying that they don't think the flu vaccine this year is not protecting against the current strain. Lydia said that she will get the current immunization results out in the next week.

B. Health and Sanitation Department Report.

Ed Tharp, Code Enforcement Officer.

Gave an update on what has been happening in the county. He talked about how many septic systems they have been installing around the county. At the time of the meeting, he said that they had 6 septic systems installed since the first of the year. He said that the total septic systems for last year was 127. He talked about the complaints that he was working on. He also handed out an information sheet on the Opioid Fund amount and emailed it to each board member also. He then talked about how many well water tests he had performed since the last meeting and the well plugging around the county. He said that he was getting started on the Pump Truck inspection a little earlier this year, because he had to inspect salvage yards this year also.

The board members talked among themselves about a few things that are coming up this year.

IX. Adjournment

Shawn Bryant entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Gary Nystrom, 2nd by Kristine Johansen to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm. The vote was unanimous, Motion carried.

Next Meeting March 16th, 2026, 5:30 p.m. at the Boone County Courthouse: 4th Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted

Ed Tharp, Secretary.