Grundy County Board of Health

Tuesday, September 8th, 2026

Called to Order: 7:00am

The Grundy County Board of Health (LBOH) met on Tuesday, September 8th, 2026, at 7:00am in the Conference Room at the Grundy County Annex Building in Grundy Center, IA. Per the Iowa Public Information Board, Chapter 21: Electronic Meetings for a Governmental Body will be available to board members and to the public. Meetings will be recorded and uploaded onto Grundy County Public Health (GCPH) Google Drive, with links available in minutes. Meeting recordings will be deleted off of Drive after no less than 1-years-time but will continue to be available upon request on GCPH Administrator, Katie Thornton-Lang's, county computer drive.

Appointed board members present in person: Tom Boheman, BS, Chairperson; Lexie Hach, MA, Vice-Chairperson; Joan Blair, BSN, MPH; Nick Buseman. Also present in person: Katie Thornton-Lang, GCPH Administrator; Jordyn Beeghly, GCPH Program Coordinator; Carie Sparks, Grundy County Sanitarian; Jeff Pabst, Grundy County Board of Supervisors (BOS); Board members present via zoom: Mike Nelsestuen, ARNP, Medical Provider.

The minutes from July 14th, 2026, regular meeting and August 13th partner presentations were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes as written by Blair; seconded by Buseman; carried. Minutes signed by chairperson and will be uploaded to public health portion of county website following meeting.

Board Member Updates/Discussion: Board discussed upcoming members expiration dates for 2 members and what next steps for the November meeting will be. Thornton-Lang has been updating matrix for members, as needed. Blair states she is willing to stay on for another term. Hach is unsure, as of meeting date, and will discuss more before the November meeting.

Driver's License/Environmental Health/Planning & Zoning Positions & Action: Board chair will sign previously approved 28E Agreement for positions and send to BOS for final approval and signature. Board discussed the assistant job posting and possible general background check policy, as opposed to department specific policy in place for each department under Board. Hach provided updates on 28E Agreement and discussed additions on behalf of the work group.

Environmental Health Updates: Environmental Health Specialist/Sanitarian, Carie Sparks, updated board on environmental health matters including complications between the split of the department roles. Nelsestuen inquires what a re-exam for the driver's license role is. Buseman inquires about vacation or sick time for the new administrative role for Environmental Health/Planning & Zoning. Blair inquires if January would be a good time to re-evaluate and assess new role. Hach inquires about a background check for the new position and requests a draft on the next agenda for this. Sparks discussed Holland property updates.

Landfill Commission Updates: Grundy County BOS, Jeff Pabst, provided updates to the board, along with the July and August commission meeting minutes sent to board prior to meeting for perusal. Pabst states that commission is currently working with the DNR on needed permits.

GCPH Department/Policy Updates: Beeghly created various social media posts in relation to 4th of July during that week and Fridays for LifeSkills curriculum explanations/sharing. RAGBRAI was attended by department in July; was successful, fun and well-received.

IHHS Merger/Alignment Updates: Information as received has been distributed to Board and BOS. Various town halls were available around the state, and a virtual meeting was held during reporting period, with information shared. Upcoming District 3 meetings will be held with GCPH department planning to attend, as available.

Public Health Report for July/August 2026:

Local Public Health Services (LPHS) Grant

- FY26 End-of-Year grant report approved.
- GCPH continues to participate in community meetings/discussions including but not limited to Grundy County Community Partners (board), Grundy Center Wellness Committee (board), Child Passenger Safety State Advisory (board), Black Hawk/Grundy Mental Health Center (board), NEI3A (board), Northeast Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Alliance (participant). For specific updates on any of these collaborative matters, please contact GCPH Administrator, Thornton-Lang. The Wellness Committee Annual Meeting was held in August, with Community Partners being invited to attend, participate and join committee
- Internships: University of Iowa/College of Public Health Intern wrote a book for county classrooms on germs and hand hygiene importance (not required for school course); will be shared with board upon receiving electronic copy.
- Disease Outbreak Updates
  - Isolated case of Legionella opened on 8/7/26, closed on 8/14/26.
  - Isolated case of Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC) opened 8/18/26, closed 8/19/26.
  - Isolated case of STEC opened/closed 8/24/26.
  - Isolated case of STEC opened 8/26/26, closed 8/31/26; exclusion was issued from state.
  - Isolated case of STEC opened 8/31/26, ongoing as of this report.
  - School 10% Absenteeism = no reports.
  - LTC Outbreaks = no reports.
  - Diseases of Interest = information shared with local healthcare partners/stakeholders via email, as available:
    - West Nile case identified in Iowa in August.
    - Ebola/Bundibugyo Strain identified in May:
      - Strain is not a typically identified one, so less is known about it.
      - There has only been 2 previously identified outbreaks of this strain.
      - There is no current treatment or vaccine for this strain.
      - The situation in current outbreak areas are difficult to get accurate numbers/information from and help to.

- Cyclospora multi-state outbreak(s) ongoing:
  - Please visit Investigation Update: Investigation Update: Cyclospora Outbreak, July 2026 | Cyclosporiasis | CDC for national numbers/information.
  - Please visit Disease Information | Health & Human Services for updated state numbers/information, as it is in outbreak status in Iowa.
- Measles outbreak in US continues, as does planning and webinars/information sharing for such:
  - Please visit Measles Cases and Outbreaks | Measles (Rubeola) | CDC for updated national numbers/information.
  - Please visit Disease Information | Health & Human Services for updated state numbers/information.
  - Measles is the most transmissible disease of all known communicable diseases and prior to widespread immunization was responsible for 48,000 hospitalizations and 400-500 deaths per year, mostly among children (CDC).

- Household Sharps Program: Received 14 containers during reporting period. GCPH continues to distribute information on updated procedures via email communications to local partners/stakeholders, as well as on social media.
- Grundy County Child Passenger Safety Program (GCCPSP):
  - Technician, Thornton-Lang, inspected/educated a family on rear-facing convertible.
  - Thornton-Lang volunteered time to educate grandparents on infant carrier and base.
- Healthy Habit All-Stars (HHAS): Attended Dike Library Health Day in July to offer children hand washing importance demonstration.
- Bike Rodeos: No updates.
- Annual Jail Inspection:
  - Completed in July; all went well.
  - Beeghly updated checklist to make more succinct and navigable.

Immunization (I4) Grant

- FY26 Annual Report was approved.
- Immunization Audit Updates:
  - Department attended virtual meetings for updates/procedures.
  - Schools and childcare centers were communicated with regarding due dates and school audits were scheduled during reporting period.
- Respiratory Virus Campaign: No current updates.
- Healthy Habit All-Stars (HHAS): No current updates.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant

- Department worked with EMA and other county entities to support RAGBRAI preparations.
- Grant Required Deliverables:
  - Monthly Radio Checks: completed in timely manner during reporting period.
  - Point of Dispensing (POD) Workbook: Due date of 10/31/26; completed/submitted TBD.
  - Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA): Due date 12/1/26; completed/submitted TBD.
  - National Incident Management System (NIMS): Due date 12/1/26; completion/submission TBD (Training Record, Certificates, NIMSCAST).

- PHEP meetings have been held via zoom.
- Department is continually working on updating PHERP plans for county/department.

Opioid Settlement (COOP)

- Department reached out to schools to begin scheduling LifeSkills lessons for the 2026-2027 school year.

County Wellness Program

- No current updates on initiatives.

Social Media Stats

- Reporting period: 16,085 individuals reached via Facebook and Instagram (X/Twitter stats not available).

Recorded Meeting available via zoom for future viewing on Google Drive:

- Video link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UOmc2JjrkytgiMoS3HsQ3IADIOERAsSe/view?usp=sharing
- Audio link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uzZ3pPk3m8GFlajwFhFDeJzhOSZoeVrt/view?usp=sharing
- File link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c_RHIJD5Mm_QinhpfUk8lu2-ZofRCPgc?usp=sharing

Meeting adjourned at 8:00am; motion by Hach, second by Buseman; carried.

Next Regular Scheduled Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 10th, 2026, 7:00am, Grundy County Annex Building Conference Room/Zoom/Phone Conference

Scheduled Upcoming Meeting Topics:
Policy Updates

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Thornton-Lang, MAE
Grundy County Public Health Administrator

Tom Boheman, BS
Grundy County Local Board of Health Chairperson