

4th Floor Conference Room

Boone County Courthouse

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

Lydia Billings, Public Health Administrator. Via Zoom.

Ed Tharp, Code Enforcement Officer.
- III. **Changes & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (05/18/2026).**
 - Motion by Brian Mehlhaus, 2nd by Gary Nystrom to approve the 05/18/2026 minutes. The vote was unanimous, Motion carried.
- IV. **Changes & Approval of Meeting Agenda**
 - Motion by Brian Mehlhaus, 2nd by Kristine Johansen to approve the agenda. The vote was unanimous, Motion carried.
- V. **Open Public Hearing(s) and Consideration of Request(s)**
 - A. None.
- VI. **Unfinished (Old) Business**
 - A. Discussion on updating the Boone County Ordinance #142 for Septic Contractor installation only in Boone County.

Shawn Bryant talked about the last meeting tabling this so the board members could look at other counties' ordinances and how they do their

septic installations and inspections. He said that he found 17 counties out of the 99 that do require that contractors install septic systems only. The State of Iowa does not require any regulation, but the DNR does require an inspection, and they do have regulations that have to be followed in Iowa Code Chapter #69. Shawn also talked about if the homeowner is using the wrong material or sand or rock and it is not up to code it costs the homeowner more money in the long run and the county also because you must go out their multiple times to inspect the work. This is what we don't want to happen, and Ed Tharp said that also. He hates going out and inspecting the work and having to tell the homeowner he must dig it up or he is using the wrong material because they just don't know. He said that you must tell them that it is wrong because you don't want it to fail. These things cost a lot of money, and you want them to be right. If not, they are going to be put in another one very soon. The board members asked some questions of Ed Tharp about the amounts of installations that he has to go back multiple times due to things not being right or up to code. He said that it is about five percent of the 127 he inspected last year. So about 6 to 8 septic systems that he had to visit numerous times. Gary Nystrom commented on the this and said that he thinks that we need to be more strict on this and that when you are gone on vacation and things like that the inspection need to continue to happen because septic systems should not be installed if there isn't some there to inspect them. The board members agreed that it should be inspected within 24 to 48 hours of installation. That would be fair to the contractors also. Ed Tharp brought up that the septic system permit does state that you must give the Code Enforcement Officer a minimum of 24 to 48 hours' notice for any inspection. This is so that he can see all the fittings and the trenches and the ends of the tanks and distribution boxes. He also said he does not like to have the trenches open very long because people have kids and animals and you don't want them falling into them. The board members agreed on this. Ed also talked about updating the Boone County

Ordinance #142 due to the revision of the Iowa Code Chapter #69 that went into effect on July 1st of 2026. Shawn Bryant went over the CLOWTS installers certification for Iowa Onsite Wastewater Association. He said that this is not a requirement for the State of Iowa because the DNR takes care of that. He also said that this is better for the environment, and it makes sure that the code is followed more strictly and it keeps the installers more up to date on the code. The board members discussed this with each other and Shawn Bryant read off the website some of the certified classes and these are courses that are afforded by DMACC. Kevin Anderson, a septic contractor in Boone County was at this meeting and he said a few things about this certification. He talked about the process of getting certified and that Story County also uses this certification already. Kristine Johansen brought up that maybe they should look at Story Counties' ordinance on septic system installation and maybe Boone County could use some of that in redoing their ordinance. Kevin also said that there are consequences for installers that don't install properly and if they do too many things they will not be able to install them for up to a year in the county. Brian Mehlhaus motioned to table this until next meeting and have Shawn Bryant get a hold of Story, Dallas, Webster, and Hamilton Counties and look at what their ordinances are for this 2nd By Gary Nystrom to get the information from these neighboring counties to come up with Boone Counties own. The vote was unanimous, Motion carried.

VII. New Business.

- A. Jeanette Flynn – YSS Director of Community Engagement – Presentation. Jeanette Flynn/ Savannah Strahan gave a presentation on YSS and their goals and she talked about how they have been serving this community since 1976. This is their 50th anniversary. She talked about the services that they provide to the community with different programs. They do

education, counseling and stability. She said that one in six people must deal with substance abuse in their lifetime. 90 percent of them start as teenagers. According to Mental Health America, Iowa ranks 23rd in the country for mental health care. That means that one in twenty kids in middle school and high school tried to take their life in the last year. There are just not enough mental health workers to go around. Here are the numbers for the Boone County program area.

School based prevention-(Students) 849.

Hidden In Plain Sight Trailer (HIPS) 447.

Early Intervention (Students) 22.

Total served 1318.

She talked about Hidden in Plain Sight and showed the board members all the things that can be bought locally that look like canisters and drinks and other things that can hide illegal substances. She talked about the trailer that is used to display these things and that they have been trying to make the trailer ADA compliant so everyone can come look inside it.

Savanh Strahan talked about the Boone High School ninth-grade students participated in the Too Good for Drugs curriculum where they addressed substance use topic including alcohol, marijuana, opioids, over the counter medications, and nicotine. It all so emphasized essential life skills such as resisting peer pressure, making healthy decisions, and maintaining positive relationships. The sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students received the Catch My Breath curriculum which focuses specifically on e-cigarette use. The program educates students on what e-cigarettes are, what they contain and their potential health effects. Jeanette also said that these kids are not buying them at the store or the gas station. They are buying them online through websites and the websites are not saying exactly what is in them and they don't realize how harmful they are. No one realizes that there is secondhand smoke from vaping.

Savannah also talked about the Early Intervention programming with Boone schools to provide targeted support for students who may be engaging in

or at risk for substance use. Program sessions are designed to be educational and reflective for students to engage in meaningful discussions.

Jeanette talked about life saving medication (Narcan)

2025

+403 trained, and 265 kits distributed- not including the Iowa State Fair.

2026

+271 trained, 248 kits distributed

Jeanette is a Narcan distributor.

She then talked about the DEA conference her and Savannah when to. She went over so of the drugs that they talked about at the conference.

B. Brenda Tyrrell – Community Family Resources Prevention Specialist – presentation.

Brenda talked about the programs they are going to do and focuses on youth and kids. The programs will be on topics like tobacco, vaping, e-cigarettes in the 7th – 9th grade youth. They are also doing smoke free homes, they will be working with property managers and encouraging them to go smoke free in the apartments and rental units. Then they can get on the smoke free registry so people who are looking for smoke free housing look on the registry and see where there are smoke rentals. They are also going to do a program called Stacked Deck which is a problem gambling program for youth for 14 – 18-year-olds in the high school. They also do a program called WISE. It is a six-part series they will be going to community centers and retirement centers and talking about substance abuse, taking care of your medications. They are trying to get a mental health literacy program started in schools that focuses on mental health and suicide prevention. They are also doing Narcan training. On August 29th it is Opioid Awareness Day they will be talking about Opioid overdose awareness. This will be at Ben shell Park in Ames 10 to 12.

Brenda said that she will spend about 70 percent of her week in Boone County every week.

- C. Shawn Bryant – Boone County Healthy Homes Initiative – Presentation. Shawn talked about what he wanted to do and for the board to be more active in the community. He said the state passed a law that every new home built must have a passive Radon mitigation system installed. The ordinance that he is proposing is after six months in the home, if the home does not meet a certain threshold the contractor will have to come back and install a radon mitigation system to bring the levels down to meet safe levels at no cost to the homeowners. He explained how different passive radon systems can be installed. He then opened it up for discussion amongst the board members. The discussion concluded that the ordinance should be that every new home built in Boone County should have a Radon mitigation system installed during construction. Lydia Billings gave some statistics of different kinds of cancers in Iowa, and in Boone County, Lung cancer is number three out of the top five and Boone County is number twenty-four out of ninety-nine counties. She also said that over 80 percent of Lung Cancers are linked to high Radon exposers.

Motion by Erich Hodges and 2nd by Brian Mehlhaus to adopt an ordinance for all new houses built in Boone County to have a Radon mitigation system installed during construction. The vote was unanimous, Motion carried.

VIII. Department Update

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

Lydia talked about the current vaccination rates for this current quarter. The 2-year-olds met the benchmark at 24 months of age. We're at 76 percent in Boone County. 80 percent of adolescents, those between 7 years and 19 years of age, met 80 percent benchmark criteria. Adolescents in Boone County HPV vaccination for 13 years to 19 years with having both vaccinations in the series, that is at 60 percent. Lydia also talked about Ragbari and setting up first aid stations in Boone. They have one at DMACC and one at McHose Park. She has a lot of nurses from the hospital helping at the first aid stations. She talked about the Boone County Save Your Skin project focusing on Melanoma being the fifth leading cancer in Boone County. She wrote a grant application to get money to buy ten sunscreen dispensers for the public to use in the summer months that will be free. She reached out to locations with high foot traffic to see if there was any interest in this. So far Don Williams, Boone pool, High Trussell Trail, Honey Creek Golf Course, Boone Soccer Club. She said that they are designing a billboard to advertise for this. We are still working with Marrian County with their Combating Cancer project. They are receiving the Healthy Homes funding then it is distributed out to all our health departments in Iowa. They have approved the Ogden Public Library to house an IPAD that will be available to the community so they can have tell- a- health appointment. Public Health ordered Radon test kits that will be free to the community, also Colorectal in-home test kits that will be going to the public if they are uninsured. Public Health has taken over the blood drive in Boone for both the blood mobile and the community blood drive. She said just with word of mouth we had tripled the amount of people that gave donations last week at the blood drive. There were 51 donors, that is the highest that has been in months. In September they are planning to have a blood drive at possibly the Cobble Stone Aventura Center and the Iowa High School Athletic Association said that we could use their space.

Brian Mehlhuas said that the HPV vaccination rate of 60 percent is very low. He said that the vaccine is very safe and it has basically eliminated cervical cancer in European counties by 85-95 percent of their youth vaccinated under age 15. He said that the vaccine has been out there for 15 years now it is very safe.

Lydia commented on this and said that most people are on the fence about this and they are really trying to get the community to trust us and to get that information out. She said that she really wants to work on getting that trust back before she starts pushing the vaccine. People are still thinking about Covid 19, and it is going to take a while.

Gary Nystrom commented on what Lydia said and he said you must gain respect and a lot of that has gone away. He said this is very important.

B. Health and Sanitation Department Report.

Ed Tharp, Code Enforcement Officer.

He gave the board the DNR Septic Pumpers Contract for 2027-2028-2029 and it needs to be signed by Shawn Bryant and sent back to Eric Wiklund at the DNR. We need a motion for this. Motion by Brian Mehlhaus and 2nd by Gary Nystrom to have Shawn Bryant sign the 2027-2029 Septic Pumpers Inspection for the Iowa DNR and the Boone County Board of Health. The vote was unanimous, Motion carried. He also talked about a new law that was passed about having all meeting agendas to be available to be read by the public. Boone County has designated the south door of the courthouse to be the area where all the meeting agenda's with be posted for the public to view. We need to make a motion for this.

Motion by Brian Mehlhaus, 2nd by Gary Nysrom to use the south door of the Boone County Courthouse as the designated area to post all Board of Health meeting agenda 24 hours in advance of all meetings. The vote was unanimous, Motion carried. He 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 45 septic systems installed and were at 72 septic permits for the year. That is over half of what we did last year. 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.

IX. Adjournment

Shawn Bryant entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Kristine Johansen, 2nd by Erich Hodges to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm. The vote was unanimous, Motion carried.

Next Meeting July 20th, 2026, 5:30 p.m. at the Boone County Courthouse: 4th Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted

Ed Tharp, Secretary.