

Tama County Public Health & Home Care



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Annual Report
2021-2022

Letter From the Director

Tama County Public Health & Home Care (TCPH&HC) continued to work steadily on COVID-19 infection monitoring and vaccination efforts this year. Vaccine efforts continued with the help of our Volunteer Medical Reserve Corp. Vaccination efforts began to focus on pediatric residents and introduction of new guidelines and booster shots. We faced yet another large outbreak in the Fall of 2021 and had CMS vaccine mandates placed for our Home Health services. Opinions of vaccine and COVID-19 continued to be strong and differ in the community, with anger and frustration on both sides.

Despite all the daily challenges of COVID-19 vaccine efforts and infection monitoring, we had our Department of Inspections and Appeals survey in January of 2022 which included an infection control survey as well. We had no citations in our infection control portion and only 4 in our standard survey!

As vaccination efforts and new treatments for COVID-19 took hold, restrictions were lessened and we were able to start focusing on other programs and activities more in 2022. Although our staff were still in masks this year and under strict guidance from the CDC, things were starting to feel different and moving toward "normal" again. Staff were well aware of restrictions and how different infection rates dictated how we were able to function and what PPE was needed to provide services.

Food insecurity became a county wide focus in 2022 and assisting with the Mobile Food Pantry to distribute food began in March of 2022. This effort was ongoing and served over 100 households each month. Volunteers from the VMRC were recognized at a luncheon (pork burgers provided by the Tama County Pork Producers) in April of 2022 to show our appreciation for all of their volunteer hours during the pandemic.

SKIP was able to host family events in May and June of 2022, the first events since pre-COVID. Life began to move forward in our programs and services, and slowly COVID-19 was not the main focus!

I cannot thank our staff, Board of Health and many volunteers for their ongoing support and understanding throughout this time. We did an excellent job vaccinating a County and working toward the new norm!

SHANNON ZOFFKA,
CEO/Executive Director



TAMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dan Anderson - Chairman

Larry Vest

Bill Faircloth

TAMA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Sherry Parks, PA-C, Chairman

Dr. Polly Hineman - Vice Chair

Micki Ferris, Member

Sally Custer, Member (January - June)

Duane Backen, Member (July - December)

Phyllis Dunlap, Member (July - December)

TAMA COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Polly Hineman, - Chairman
Melinda Sharff-Eggers - Vice Chair
Mike Buchanan, Member
Becky Heeren, Member
Cindy Hill, Member
Bruce McEtree, Member
Mike Marquess, Member

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Sherry Parks, PA-C - Board of Health Member
Melinda Sharff-Eggers - Advisory Board Member
John Kavalier - Member at Large

The text "THANK YOU!" is written in a bright, glowing orange-yellow font that resembles fire or sparks. The letters are thick and have a textured, shimmering appearance with many small, radiating lines extending from the edges, giving it a dynamic and energetic look. The background is solid black, which makes the glowing text stand out prominently.

OUR EMPLOYEES



**Shannon
Zoffka,
CEO/Executive
Director**



**Lori Johnson,
Assistant
Director/CFO**

**Chris Behrens,
Environmental
Health Specialist**



NURSING STAFF



**Front Row L-R:
Beth Eberle - RN,
Lee Anna Kriegel - RN,
Back Row L-R:
Dawn Jensen - RN,
Claire Shefchik - RN,
Penny Tyynismaa - Clinical Manager**

HOME CARE AIDE STAFF



**L-R: Robin Riffle - Home Helper,
Tracy Hathaway - Office Assistant/HCA,
Brenda Bridges - LPN,
Kathi Fehr - HCA Supervisor,
Gina Hoskey - HCA,
Gayle Walker - HCA**

SUPPORT STAFF



L-R:

Tracy Hathaway - Office Assistant/HCA,
Lori Johnson - Assistant Director/CFO,
Jolynn Harger - Executive/Fiscal Assistant,
Missy Massengale - Office Assistant

Services Provided 2021-2022

146 COVID Vaccination
Clinics were held -
6,812 shots were given

1,670
Condoms
Disbursed

33 Animal Bites
Followed

6 Blood
Pressures
were checked
at a Clinic

115 People
Received
Education at
the Nest

May 2022 - Present
6 CPR/AED
Trainings have
been held
49 People have
been trained

10
Communicable
Disease Cases
Followed

189 Pairs of
Feet Served at
Foot Clinics

85 Home Health Aide
Clients received
3,178 visits/2,253.75
hours of service

11 Speech Therapy
Patients received
72 Visits

6 Respite Patients
received
127 Visits/275.25
Hours of Service

35 Health
Promotion Visits
were performed for
29 Patients

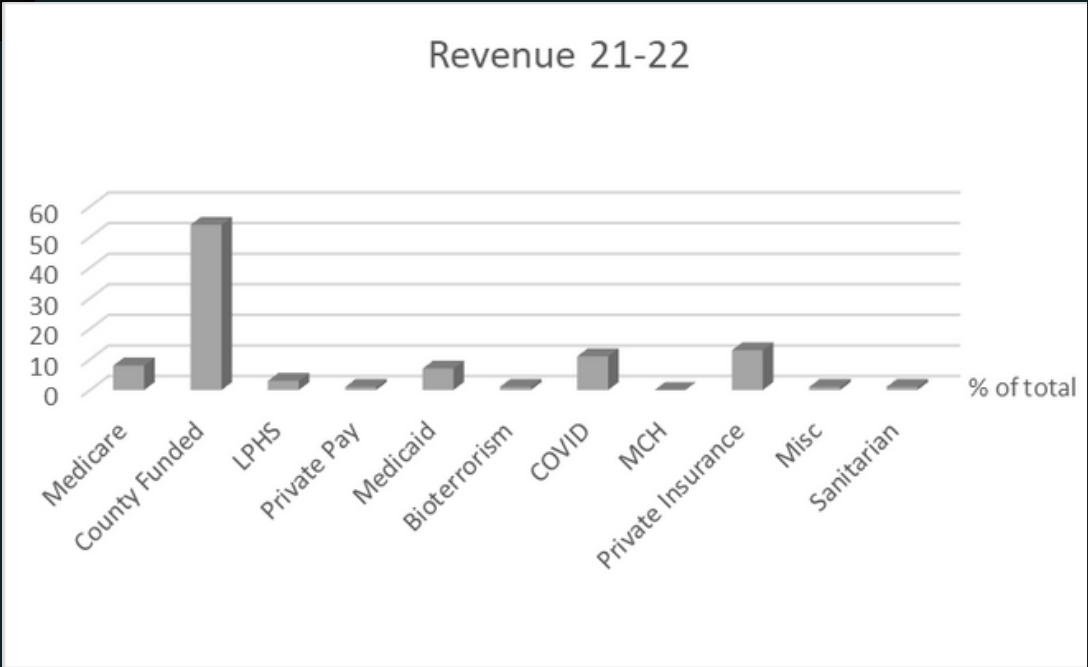
167 Disease &
Disability Patients
received 1,589
Skilled Nurse
Visits

71 Occupational
Therapy Patients
received 409 Visits

40 Homemaker
Patients received
1,495 visits/1,706.5
hours of service

28 Maternal
Health
Patients 39
Home Visits

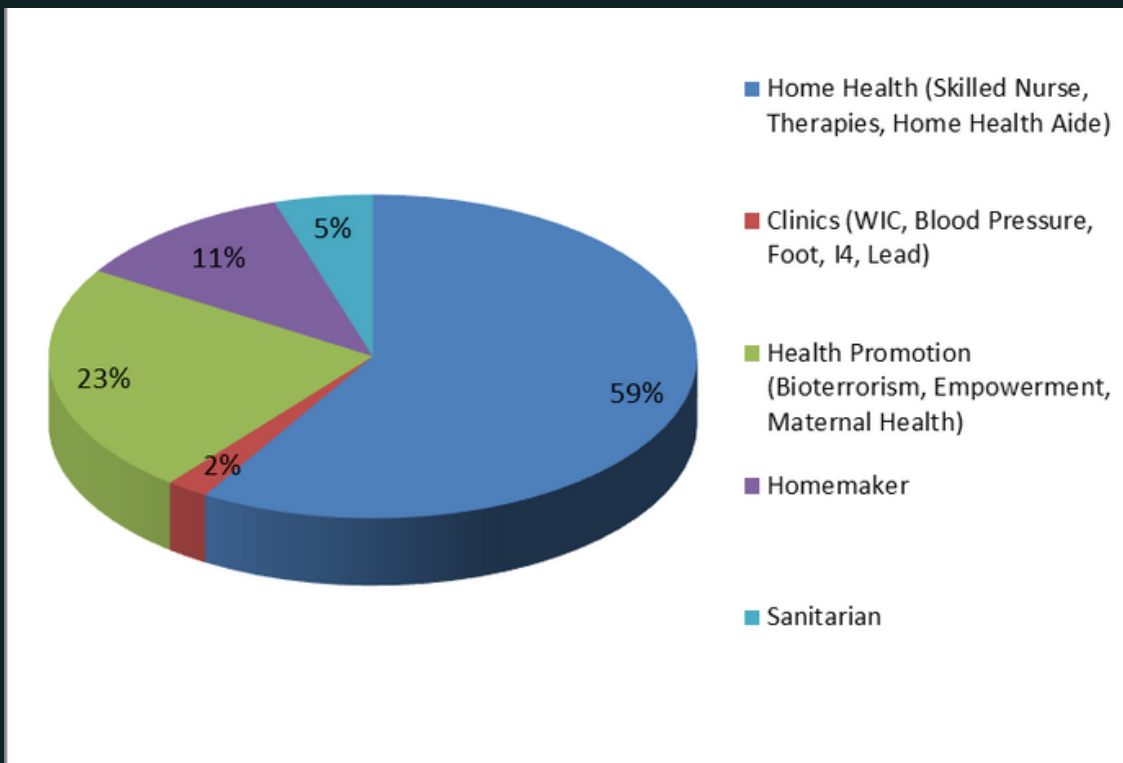
99 Physical
Therapy
Patients
received 787
Visits



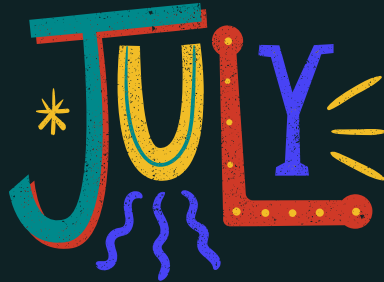
Payer	Revenue	%
Medicare	\$148,257.90	8%
County Funded	\$982,728.30	54%
LPHS	\$48,962.98	3%
Private Pay	\$23,264.16	1%
Medicaid	\$128,406.45	7%
Bio-terrorism	\$14,497.68	1%
COVID	\$197,609.35	11%
MCH	\$227.92	0%
Private Insurance	\$230,434.50	13%
MISC	\$16,888.72	1%
Sanitarian	\$22,119.87	1%
Total	\$1,813,397.89	100%



Programs	Expenditures	%
Home Health (Skilled Nurse, Therapies, Home Health Aide)	\$1,054,824.00	59%
Clinics (Blood Pressure, Foot, I-4)	\$38,060.00	2%
Health Promotion (Bioterrorism, Maternal Health)	\$415,760.00	23%
Homemaker	\$201,770.00	11%
Sanitarian	\$88,415.00	5%
Total Expenditures	\$1,798,829.00	100%



Year in Review



The OSHA COVID-19 Worksite Emergency Temporary Standard was released as a result of President Biden's Executive Order in January 2021. This contained several requirements which included: cleaning and disinfecting, PPE Standards, training of staff, recordkeeping, physical distancing, and standard and transmission based precautions. The guidance is in some way incongruent with the requirements set forth by CMS and the CDC, so we were directed to follow the most stringent guidelines offered.

Much discussion was held about whether the Sanitarian position should stay part time, be full time, and if we should have 28E Agreement with the Board of Supervisors with them supervising the position, with the Board of Health still hearing the reports. It was decided to keep the position as is and see how Chris adjusts.

August

The Delta Variant made up the majority of COVID-19 infections. The State of Iowa and Tama County saw a large increase in the number of infections. Booster doses for vaccinated people will begin in September.

Much discussion was held at the Board of Health meeting; with members of the Board of Supervisors joining and discussing the chances of a 28E Agreement between the two Boards regarding the Sanitarian position. When pressed for a decision, Dr. Hineman said that she feels the Board of Health has the right to decide what to do with the position. By a motion not being put forth, she feels the Board of Supervisors had their answer. Sherry Parks agreed.

SEPTEMBER

COVID infection rates continued to rise in Tama County and the rest of the state. We were unable to get updates from the Iowa Department of Public Health despite the increase in cases.

Gladbrook Lake and Holding members were present at the Board of Health meeting to talk about the Nuisance Contract that was sent to them for services performed at Union Grove Lake. Much discussion was held during the meeting.

October

Tama County began looking at how to meet the Vaccine Mandate for employers with over 100 employees, as they could lose Federal funding.

Following up on animal bites has become more difficult as owners of pets are not answering or return phone calls. We have had to rely on more support from the police to contact pet owners.

The Iowa Department of Public Health has proposed changes to the Local Public Health Services Funding.

We have had a hard time hiring anyone for the open PRN Aide/Homemaker positions. Seven interviews were conducted with only one person hired. The Board approved the hiring of a full time Home Care Aide or Home Helper.

Linn County has offered to come to Tama County quarterly and conduct STI Testing. They will do the testing, we just need to provide the space.

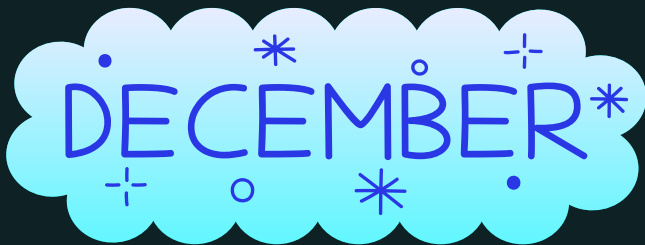
NOVEMBER

Home Health had a vaccine mandate issued via CMS. We are working with Iowa Health Care Association on how to interpret and meet the needs of the CMS Mandate. Home Health that receives CMS reimbursement must comply with the mandate or lose funding. Medical and religious exemptions are allowed.

We received two applicants for the full time Aide position and interviews will start soon.

Work begins preparing for an expected DIA Survey in early 2022. It will be our first survey since COVID began, and our first since we began using Electronic Health Records.

IDPH funding will be changing to focus on a larger population of Public Health. The funding formula will not change, but we will no longer be receiving money for individual care. We will receive funding to support salaries. The trend has been to spend funding on the entire county instead of just a small group of consumers.



No Board of Health Meeting was held in December 2021.



Robin Riffle was hired as a full time Homemaker.

The Board of Health is down two members with the resignations of Phyllis Dunlap and Duane Backen.

The CMS Vaccine Mandate was approved and we must be in compliance by 02/28/22. Staff must either provide proof of vaccination or a medical or religious exemption.

FEBRUARY

Sally Custer joined the Board of Health.

DIA conducted a Recertification and Infection Control Survey on January 22-24th. We had four deficiencies sighted. A plan of correction was submitted and received approval from DIA.

On February 16th, the State of Iowa's Public Health Emergency Disaster Proclamation expired. With the change in reporting requirements, we no longer have the capability to know the positive percentage rate of COVID infections for Tama County.

MARCH

Chris has finished his CIOWTS and Certified Pool Operator Trainings.

An Agency Text Communication Drill was conducted on 03/21, and we participated in the Statewide Tornado Drill on 03/23 utilizing our Disaster Call Tree.

We participated in the Food Insecurity Group that was initiated by ISU Extension. Staff helped hand out food at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry.

April

Shannon and Lori participated in a Table Top Exercise with Grundy County.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Our office distributed pinwheels, posters, and handouts to daycares, schools, libraries, and businesses in Tama County.

may

Tama County SKIP received car seats, pack n plays, bike helmets and sunscreen to pass out during events in June to promote safety.

A Family Fishing event will be held June 3rd at Cherry Lake.

Dawn Jensen, RN, resigned effective May 16th.

The infant formula shortage is a big concern for families with formula fed babies and they sought out our office wondering what they should do.

We will begin hosting Booster Vaccine Clinics, once a month beginning May 27th, as there has been an increase in interest.

june

No Board of Health Meeting was held in June 2022.







