

Rural Health & Primary Care Advisory Committee
Legislative Dining Room
September 13, 2012 • 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

M i n u t e s

Members Present

Roy Bardole
Kelley Donham
Laine Dvorak
Angela Halfwassen
Curtis Hanson
Dave Heaton
Kathy Nicholls
Maureen Reeves Horsley
Mike Rosmann
Ron Schafer
Lisa Schnedler
Mary Spracklin

Members Excused

Debora Hinnah
Brenda Lohman
Julie McMahan
Jeffrey Messerole
James Seymour
Julie Sproull
Diane Telfer
Mary Jo Wihelm

Others Present

Katie Jerkins
Deborah Thompson
Bob Russell, D.D.S.
Gloria Vermie

Rural Health and Primary Care Advisory Committee website:
http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/rural_health_primary_care.asp

Minutes Recorded by: Bureau Coordinator, Bureau of Oral & Health Delivery Systems	
Call to order	Kathy Nicholls, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35
Introductions	Members and guest introductions.
Minutes	February 2012 and June 2012 minutes were approved by a quorum. Mike Rosmann moved the minutes be accepted Angie Halfwassen seconded.
<p style="text-align: center;">Water Fluoridation Activities in the State of Iowa</p> <p><i>Maren Lenhart, Iowa Rural Health Association</i></p>	<p>Maren Lenhart, a student from Des Moines University in per internship with the Iowa Rural Health Association presented on community water fluoridation in Iowa. The presentation included an overview of community water systems, survey of community leaders and boards of health, survey of water operators, and a summary comparison of community water fluoridation survey responses. Support for this project was funded by the Iowa Delta Dental Foundation.</p> <p>Community Water System is a public water supply system which has at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents and may include cities, homeowners associations, mobile home parks, rural/regional water systems, universities, nursing homes, etc. There are 1,122 active CWSs known to Iowa Department of Public Health as of February 15, 2012. Of these, 509 of these systems are naturally fluoridated. Additionally, 530 of these systems provide fluoride-deficient water, and two systems the fluoridation status is unknown. CWS provide 83 percent of Iowa’s total population optimally fluoridated water and 19 counties receive 100 percent optimally fluoridated water. Private wells were not included in the study.</p> <p>Her presentation included several graphics indicating populations in Iowa that do not have optimal levels of fluoridation. There are 8 areas that do not meet optimal levels of fluoridation. Scott and Johnson Counties have several small waters systems that are sub optimal.</p> <p>Community Water Systems are required to test and monitor fluoride content. Fluoride</p>

	<p>monitoring is performed once a quarter to once every nine years. State laboratories report fluoridation results to Iowa Department of Natural Resources on a monthly basis. The Environmental Protection Agency, EPA oversees water systems in Iowa. There are good communications between the DNR and IDPH but there are no formal regulations that require communication and oversight. She noted the web sites available for the public to find fluoridation levels for communities and a tracking system for private wells for bacteria but not fluoride.</p> <p>She conducted two surveys, one for community leaders and one for water operators. Materials presented provided feedback regarding fluoridation status and intent to continue or discontinue fluoridation. Locations that discussed discontinuing noted cost of equipment and availability of fluoride in other products as rationale for discontinuing fluoridation.</p> <p>Delta Dental has funding for at least 10 communities to continue water fluoridation.</p> <p>Comments from the surveys indicated that IDPH, Hygienists and health care providers should lead in providing public education.</p> <p>Water operators responded that the newly proposed levels will impact fluoridation. They noted the numerous sources of fluoride in other products and the additional expense for monitoring. They reported concerns about over exposure for the operator and that it damages equipment.</p> <p>Group Discussion: Maureen Reeves Horsely asked questions regarding the health concerns of lack of fluoride as well as over exposure. Mike Rosmann asked about too much fluoride as well. The answer is that excess fluoride can cause fluorosis, a cosmetic mottling of the teeth. The amount of fluoride needed for this to occur is great.</p> <p>Maureen asked how the material from her presentation will be shared. Ms. Lenhart noted that a statewide working group will be established that will use this information to respond to communities and areas about fluoridation as well as provide information and resources. Maureen noted that she had an outstanding response rate and suggested sending grant information to the stakeholders who are reading the newsletters sent by the state. Ms. Lenhart will be sending results out to the 100+ respondents that said they would like more information.</p> <p>Katie Jerkins reviewed the results of the committee's letter sent to counties regarding fluoride. She noted only Johnson county responded and they were favorable. Mike Rosmann asked if someone could provide a comparison of costs for mottled teeth and the treatment of dental caries. Ms. Lenhart will explore the possibilities of making this information available. Additional discussion ensued regarding cost benefit and availability as well as addressing prenatal and early childhood fluoride promotion. Maureen noted that putting fluoride listed as a contaminant in water under arsenic provides a negative connotation. She suggested that it should have an asterisk with a footnote that explains further the benefits as well. She requested that this committee write a letter encouraging that the DNR make a link to IDPH for more information on the benefits of fluoride. Other health education measures were discussed that could promote the benefits of fluoride in targeted communities. Maureen made the motion to write the letter to have the DNR link to IDPH site showing benefits. The motion was seconded and carried approval. Maureen will write the letter. A second motion made by Maureen involved writing a letter to the editor and radio stations, hospitals and Boards of Health in the targeted areas of concern including benefits of fluoridation, link to IDOH and attach Delta Dental grant information. Polly Carver Kim will be contacted to provide assistance. A small committee of Maureen, Kelly and Angie will draft the letter.</p>
<p>2013 Legislative Priorities</p>	<p>Deb Thompson assisted the group in providing legislative tips that will assist in framing the legislative agenda. The committee reviewed the packet and Katie made notes for edits. Roy Bardole made the motion to approve the packet and Lisa seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.</p> <p>For the 2013 legislative breakfast priorities include continued support for PRIMECARRE; Fluoridation and I-Smile -oral health care will be combined; Local Public Health support;</p>

	<p>and I-CASH/Farm Safety. They will include an acknowledgement and praise for support of e-health, efforts for mental health and the Iowa Prescription Drug Program. Committees to assist Katie with the priorities include:</p> <p>PRIMECARRE – Lisa and Mike Fluoridation – Maureen and Angie Local Public Health – Lisa, Kathy and Kelly I-CASH/Farm Safety – Kelly and Mike</p>
<p>Lunch and Rural Norway Presentation <i>Gloria Vermie, Iowa Department of Public Health</i></p>	<p>While on vacation in Norway, Gloria Vermie had an opportunity to take a tour of rural farmers that participate in a rural agricultural health and safety program similar to Iowa’s programs. Gloria shared her experience with the committee through a PowerPoint presentation.</p>
<p>Rural Tracks Training Program <i>Kelley Donham, Iowa Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, The University of Iowa</i></p>	<p>Kelley Donham talked about the education program within I-CASH and the new rural health track at the school of medicine at the University of Iowa. He emphasized the need for medical education of treatment for farm populations. The program started in the early seventies of which Laine Dvorak, a committee member was an early attendant. Agricultural medicine goes beyond the physician, to other providers all working as a team in a community to provide a multidisciplinary approach to keeping farm families healthy. The agricultural program is a week long training that is open to health care providers nationally. It provides exposure to farms and issues that enable providers to widen their approach to farm populations. Students have come as far as Australia and Turkey. Programs have started up in other states and countries as a result. He presented pictures of programs in Turkey that one attendant physician of their program started. He outlined the curriculum and described their requirements as well as the incentives for loan repayment. The course is offered in the spring and summer.</p>
<p>Rhythm of the Seasons Book <i>Marilyn Adams</i></p>	<p>Author Marilyn Adams presented her book entitled “Rhythm of the Seasons: A Journey Beyond Loss. She wrote this after losing her son in a farm accident. It highlights vignettes of her son Keith’s life. It is used to teach kids farm safety. She described her personal story of the loss of her son due to a farm accident that could have been prevented if farm safety facts were known and taught as they are now. She also discussed the mental health aspects of grief and her responses to the loss of her son. She presented copies of the book to members as a celebration of 25 years of Farm Safety for Kids.</p>
<p>Committee Member and IDPH Update <i>Dr. Bob Russell</i></p>	<p>Katie provided an overview of the meeting and reviewed the letters to be written and sent to newspapers, radio, hospitals and local boards of health with links to I-Smile. Beth Jones of Delta Dental will assist and fund postage. Dr. Russell was unavailable for his update.</p>
<p>Plan Next Meeting Agenda</p>	<p>Topics for the December meeting were discussed. December 13th is the next meeting date. Katie will email the date for the legislative breakfast. Debra Thompson will come to provide a legislative update. Also discussed was the topic of the DHS Mental Health Redesign effort.</p> <p>Last announcement from Kelly included the health risks from the drought in relation to crop dust and molds. The first impact is to the health of animals in their feed and secondly to farmers who will need to wear protective masks. He also brought to the committee’s attention the danger of “silo gases”. Diane Rowland a psychologist will start October 1 with I-CASH and focus on children.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Mary Spracklin made the motion to adjourn, Lisa Schnedler seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:25pm</p>