

Jasper County Board of Health Minutes

Thursday, May 14, 2026, 11:00 AM

Jasper County Office Building, 315 W. 3rd St. N., Large Conference Room, Newton, Iowa

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Call to Order. Time: 11:00 AM

- Roll Call of Jasper County Board of Health members:
Julie Smith, Chair, Dr. Andrew Cope, Medical Director, Donna Akins, Jody Eaton, Doug Cupples, Board of Supervisors. Board members absent: None
- Introduction of others present: Becky Pryor, Kristina Winfield, Melissa Gary, Kevin Luetters, Community Development.
 - Zoom - Lauren Asman, EFR. Emma Krapfl, American Lung of Iowa, Megan Thompson, MICA, Heather Bombei, IHHS.
- Minutes: Motion to approve the March 12, 2026, minutes. See the 2-page attachment.
 - Motion: Dr. Cope Second: Donna Akins, in Favor: All Motion passed: unanimously
- Agenda Approval: Motion to consider and approve the agenda. See the 2-page attachment.
 - Motion: Dr. Cope Second: Jody Eaton, in Favor: All: Motion passed: unanimously
- Citizen Comments: None

Outside Agency Reports: (Information Only)

Environmental Health: Kevin Luetters, Community Development Director

- March and April reports. See 2-page attachment. Inspections have been slow. Septic Tank Pumper inspections are complete with 1 new pumper in Jasper County.

EFR: Lauren Asman, Program Specialist

Lauren reported progress on Jasper Marion State Opioid Response, with only 8 more trainings needed out of 48 required, and mentioned upcoming work with the Salvation Army in Newton regarding naloxone distribution.

American Lung Association of Iowa: Emma Krapfl

- FY26 Q3 Newsletter and Q4 reporting form. See 5-page attachment.
Emma reported on the Tobacco Prevention Grant, noting that the Baxter ISTEP chapter no longer exists, but she completed presentations at Baxter School and had 14 Quitline enrollments in Quarter 3, the highest number in one year. 31 Quitline Iowa calls. Presenting at MCH meeting in June and working on a webinar for youth support.

Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA): Maternal and Child Health. Megan Thompson.

- MICA Health Newsletter, March 2026. See 3-page attachment.
Megan updated on WIC participation, which remains steady at 470 families. She also mentioned that in October, MICA plans to move the Newton WIC clinic from the second to the third Monday of the month. Megan announced a new initiative allowing X-rays to be performed during school-based sealant programs to reduce barriers for families.

Old Business:

- [IHHS Updates](#) (Discussion) See 32-page attachment
Becky reported on the public health system realignment and several program changes. Becky provided

an overview of the HHS handout on establishing lead entities in each of the 7 districts for public health services, explaining that Polk County is likely to be selected as the lead entity for Jasper County's region. The Board of Health would remain the decision maker under Iowa Code 137, and local staff responsibilities would continue largely unchanged, though contracts would flow through the lead entity.

- Motion to end the Home Care Reimbursement Program on 6.30.2027.
 - Motion: Dr. Cope Second: Donna Akins in Favor: All. Motion passed: unanimously

New Business:

- **General Assistance:**
Becky reported a plan to back up General Assistance. This will give the General Assistance backup. The General Assistant Director would like to discuss the program's future with the Board of Supervisors.
- **Thrive Iowa Grant,** Information only. See 1-page attachment
Becky reported on the Thrive Iowa grant. She explained the decision to decline the grant was due to several factors, including HHS changes to public health, limited staff and ability to hire, and the narrow scope of participants who would be served. Becky explained that one of the community partners is interested in the Thrive Iowa program and that they can better accommodate requirements. Becky reported that the health department will assist the program with resources and mentoring.

Organization Reports:

- **CHA/CHIP:** Worked on housing flow sheet, Alcohol Treatment Resources, Mental Health month, summer food program resources, open houses for Capstone IOP program and Hickory Recovery in Grinnell. Housing ribbon cutting this month. CISS work on housing in Newton.
- **Students:** 2 nursing students completed hours this semester.
- Also see the Health Department Report. See 1-page attachment. Resource guide and events calendar updated often.
- Emergency Preparedness: Drills and contacts. Updated plans, including NIMS cast and PHERP.
- Immunizations and Communicable Diseases
CD: Kristina arrived late due to a webinar from IHHS. She explained new updates on the Hantavirus and the state's plan if the virus is found in Iowa.
TB: State issues with TB medication.
Immunizations: She reported that JCHD immunization numbers have decreased. This may be attributed to the new pediatrician and primary care physicians administering more immunizations during well-child checks.
Kristina is working with Newton Clinic and Schools on immunizations.
Becky and Kristina met with Quick Care Urgent Care.
VFC program: Evaluation of program
Flu: County employees and Medicare pay for flu shots
- Events:
Senior Health and Fitness Fair at the Newton YMCA May 27th.
Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA was in April. About 340 people in attendance.
Car Seat checks: Melissa will be checking car seats on May 16 at the Pregnancy Center of Central Iowa.
Jasper County Cares Coalition. There were 54 people in attendance yesterday, including 8 new people from new agencies. See 1-page attachment

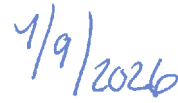
Next meeting: Thursday, July 9, 2026, 11:00 AM

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion: Doug Cupples Second: Jody Eaton In Favor: All

Motion passed: unanimously
Time: 11:45 AM



Board Member Signature



Date

Minutes taken by Melissa Gary on May 14, 2026