

Story County Board of Health Report

Prepared by Story County Public
Health

November - December 2025



Funding Source	Grant \$ Funded	Grant \$ Spent	Grant \$ % Spent/Remains
POPULATION HEALTH	\$207,171	\$111,462.38	54% / \$95,708.62

The 10 Essential Services – Putting Framework into Practice

Essential Service	Our Contribution	Numbers
<p>1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latent TB med management • Monitor Epi Update, Respiratory Report • Story County Quality of Life Alliance quarterly meeting. • Community Health Improvement Plan <p>https://www.mgmc.org/app/files/public/973752cf-5ce3-4519-afea-02d27094c295/Story%20County%20Health%20Improvement%20Plan%202020.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We administered 137 VFC (Vaccines for Children) and VFA (Vaccines for Adults) vaccines. • Latent TB cases: 12 cases. We continue to follow up on the 15 contacts of an active case. • We completed 6 TB tests. • We administered 1 private pay vaccination. • HHS MMR Initiative MMR Vaccine. Through an initiative from HHS, we can offer the MMR vaccine at no cost to all individuals – insured or not. • HHS Flu vaccine initiative for farmworkers continues. Billboard on east 30 will be up for 4 weeks starting December 12 to promote a fee flu vaccine at our office. • State Hygienic Laboratory conducts viral testing twice weekly on samples from Ames Wastewater Treatment Plant. • We continue to share the Epi Updates, HAN alerts, and Respiratory Report with providers and the public as applicable and appropriate.
<p>2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards and their root causes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CADE (Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology) investigations completed. Education is provided during these investigations to prevent the spread of infection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CADE case investigations completed: 2 Cryptosporidium; 1 Pertussis; 1 Ehrlichiosis; 1 Shigella. • Investigated by HHS (Health and Human Services): 2 Lyme; 4 Salmonella; 7 Campylobacter.

<p>3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keys to Dementia Prevention https://www.brainhelpandhope.org/ • Senior Health Clinics https://www.mgmc.org/care/senior-health/ • Resources in office given to individuals as needed on a variety of topics • CIHCC Communication (JIS) monthly meeting • Social media is being used to promote specialty months, education, and health alerts. https://www.facebook.com/storycountypublichealth • Baby Basics Class https://www.mgmc.org/healthy-living/calendar/event-search-results-detail/?eventId=fe6d2db5-5bea-f011-a885-000d3a611c21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCI (Mild Cognitive Impairment) Keys to Dementia Prevention course in Ames finished mid-December with 16 participants. • Other local public health departments offer “Coffee with a nurse” events; our senior health clinics provide an opportunity for seniors to ask questions about their health, learn about local resources available, and talk one on one with public health nurses. • A needs survey is provided for each client in our office, and resources are then provided as they indicate. We also began taking a resource binder to all senior health clinics and Bingocize classes. • CIHCC Communication meetings (JIS Joint Information Systems) inform us of best practices for public education, including social media. Ideas are generated and strategies discussed to prevent misinformation. These meetings also ensure consistent messaging across counties. • We have 272 Facebook followers. Our Instagram account is active as well, with a small following of 31 followers. • We use Board of Health funding to provide Baby Basics. This class is for expecting new parents which provides the latest information and helpful hints for a joyful beginning with a baby. Mid-Iowa Community Action provides the instruction for this course. • Community presentation completed in November on the topic of dementia prevention. This was at Huxley 3 C’s with 23 participants.
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<p>4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAACP Health Committee – SCPH has a member on the committee. • BooSt Together for Children – SCPH has a Board member. • Story County Immigrant and Refugee Collaboration, Story County Transportation Coalition, and Story County Hunger Collaboration – we have a member on each collaboration. • Collaborating with MGMC Music Therapy. • Continue to support school nurses with immunization questions and translations as needed. We assist in putting records into IRIS (Immunization Registry Information System) and notifying nurses as needed of vaccines required. • SCPH continues as a site for the Raising Readers program. • Continue collaboration with American Heart Association as a potential host site for new Rural at Heart program. • Bingocize offered to seniors. https://www.bingocize.com/?srsltid=AfmBOoql6H7rrTczjBLZLqcyqINzGgErxn8TXN0yoALpxuE6VtraUGGY • Gun Locks are given to anyone who wants one at our office. We 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurse tabled at First Annual Wellness Resource Fair at Ames Public Library. Low attendance, but networking was productive. • Story County Mental Health Task Force attended; services and resources learned about. • Fellows Elementary School Science Night was in early November. A nurse and intern were there with Guthrie county’s big brain and various educational materials. 671 people toured the brain and learned why protection of the brain is vital. • Provide senior health promotion (foot care and BP screenings) each month at 7 sites in Ames, 1 in Cambridge, 1 in Colo, 1 in Collins, 1 in Nevada, and 1 in Story City. This is done in part with funding from Area Agency on Aging and United Way. We promote mental wellness by including a Music Therapist at senior health clinics. We are also promoting community resources. • The Transportation Collaboration continues to advocate for access. • Hunger Collaboration continues to push for policy and programming to assist those with nutrition/food needs. • The Story County Immigrant and Refugee Collaboration continues to be a resource and support for immigrants, refugees, and those that support them. • BooSt has funds they will decide how to allocate to best serve the youngest residents of Boone and Story counties. • Talk it up, Lock it Up promotion (thanks to Polk County Health Department) and free gun locks (from the Veteran’s Administration). We have them in the office
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	<p>received these from the Veterans Administration. They also include information regarding mental health resources and suicide prevention.</p>	<p>and give them at no charge. Over 290 locks have been distributed in the past year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bingocize (Falls Prevention curriculum) at 60 Forward. Participants meet twice weekly for exercise. Bingocize was also facilitated at Keystone Apartments (Nutrition curriculum). • NAACP Health Committee volunteered to serve and clean up Food at First in December. We had 8 committee members serving. • MICA Mobile Food Pantry was invited to meet with Keystone Bingocize participants. Seventeen food bags were distributed, and the relationship with MICA resources will continue at Keystone.
<p>5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All nurses are members of IPHA (Iowa Public Health Association) https://iowapha.org/ • Attended and participated in public health coalition meetings. Attended and participated in webinars and meetings to learn about potential changes to Iowa Public Health. • One nurse participates in the Iowa Immunizes Vaccine Equity Group. • Two nurses participate in the Iowa Immunizes Coalition committees – Communications and Policy & Advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Narcan distribution continues – supported by Iowa HHS. A QR code was created for individuals to scan if Narcan was administered. No one has scanned, which Iowa HHS informs us is not unique. We have given out 27 boxes of Narcan. • We continue to monitor the changing landscape of federal policies and how that will impact our local public health.
<p>6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educating CADE cases about isolation/exclusion. Completing accurate and thorough case investigations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No exclusions needed.

<p>protect the public's health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunization Audits conducted – all schools and licensed childcare in county. 	
<p>7. Ensure an effective system that enables access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program • Vaccines for Adults (VFA) Program • Ensuring medical translation is available for non-English speaking clients. • Using needs assessment to identify the needs of clients and respond appropriately by providing requested information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VFC and VFA immunizations are given at no cost to individuals who qualify for the programs. • Language Line on iPad continues to make translation easier and more personal. The video translation line ensures accurate medical translation is occurring as we have seen an increase in non-English speaking clients. We also can access the traditional telephone language line. • We continue our health promotion and disease prevention initiative in the office by having free condoms and female receptive condoms from My Iowa. • We aim to offer literature in many languages to ensure information is understandable.
<p>8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intern from Utah State University is completing her MPH and is with us 3 days each week. • SCPH nurse is a member of the MGMC Nursing Workforce Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internships are offered to students each semester. • We continue to have 5 PRN nurses working at SCPH. They bring various experiences and expertise with them. • Collaborating with ISU Dr. Welk's kinesiology students. They meet with local public health departments to engage communities. Students working in Story County will initiate Bingocycle at Stonehaven apartments. • Rural at Heart is officially approved by American Heart Association. A Community Connector has not yet been hired.

<p>9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring PRN staff and ensuring they are competent. Continuous ongoing education to stay up to date with HAN (Health Alert Network) alerts, changing ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) recommendations and VFC regulations. • Continuing educational opportunities to ensure we are providing evidence-based, best practice for public health practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 full time SCPH nurse, 2 part time SCPH nurses. Five PRN nurses; 3 assist with senior clinics and community outreach and 2 also assist with VFC/VFA clinics. • We continue to evaluate current policies and procedures to ensure we are following evidence-based best practices. • MyCity MyHealth conference was attended in November by a nurse. Learned about pertinent issues regarding public health and strengthened collaborations with other public health professionals. • Two more nurses and our intern became Make It OK ambassadors in December. https://www.iowahealthieststate.com/make-it-ok
<p>10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating with BOH and updating them on SCPH events and funding. • Emergency preparedness (this is separate funding – not supported by BOH grants). • Continuous learning – enrolling in classes and webinars to increase and maintain competence. One nurse is a member of American Public Health Association which aids in keeping up to date with national landscape of public health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Kruse and Ken Sharp hold monthly webinars regarding Iowa’s public health system re-alignment. There still remain many unknowns, but they have confirmed regionalization will happen. The state was awarded new Rural Health grants which will focus on provider recruitment. https://hhs.iowa.gov/initiatives/healthy-hometowns-iowas-rural-health-transformation-plan • Emergency Coalition of 14 counties meets monthly. https://1a.prepareiowa.org/ • IHHS – HAN system. We ensure our EMResource is up to date each quarter. We ensure appropriate individuals receiving HAN alerts are responding accordingly.

Current and future activities:

Leading measures established for the CHIP. These will assist us in ensuring we are meeting longer term goals and making the impact we desire to make. We have made improvements in literature to be given out and will have a new focus on encouraging parents/guardians to take children to well child visits.

Immunization audits of licensed childcare centers are complete. 98.63% of 2558 enrolled had valid certificates. The religious exemption rate was 2.62%. That is the highest it has been, but not a surprise since the K-12 audit also had the highest exemption rate.

One part time nurse will transition to full time status. We will then be staffed with 2 full time nurses, 1 part time nurse, and 5 PRN nurses.

Bingocize new sessions began at 60 Forward and will begin at Meadows Apartments.

Heart Health presentation for Prime Time Alive will occur Feb 25.

A new session of Keys to Dementia Prevention began (Jan 5) at 60 Forward with a maximum of 15 participants.

Pick A Better Snack education <https://hhs.iowa.gov/pick-better-snack> began (Jan 8) at Roland Story, Collins-Maxwell, and Nevada kindergartens. This will continue every month during the school year. We will reach 203 students with this program.

Continuing to explore funding sources for Credible Mind. It is a free, confidential, 24/7 digital platform offering expert-vetted mental health and well-being resources like articles, videos, podcasts, and assessments to help individuals with stress, anxiety, burnout, and overall emotional health, promoting self-care and early intervention through personalized, evidence-based content.

“Make it OK” presentations are scheduled for February and March for Story City Chamber of Commerce and Huxley 3 C’s.