

Quick Reads

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HHS subcommittee at IDPH

IDPH was pleased to host the first traveling [Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee](#) meeting of the session. A large crowd listened to [budget presentations](#) from Des Moines University, University of Iowa Health Care and Des Moines-area psychiatric residency programs.



Director Gerd Clabaugh delivers opening remarks at the HHS budget subcommittee meeting January 31.

88th General Assembly convenes

The [2019 Iowa Legislature](#) gavelled into session January 14. IDPH has two policy proposals for this session. One would allow incarcerated Iowans to gain professional skills and licensure through a Department of Corrections Barbering Apprenticeship. A second proposal would criminalize the unlicensed practice of massage therapy to a serious misdemeanor to be consistent with similar criminal provisions for the unlicensed practice of other professions.

If you are interested in receiving the IDPH Legislative Update on a regular basis, click [here](#).

2018 QI summary

IDPH's [Quality Improvement](#) initiative continues to see success. In 2018, eight QI training sessions were offered to IDPH staff and another four to partner organizations. 130 IDPH staff participated in 19 QI "Adventures" during the year. These adventures focus on one issue or problem and require staff commitment to attend meetings where processes and procedures are examined, challenged and ultimately, improved. Every department division participated in at least one QI Adventure in 2018 and the culture of quality improvement at the department was listed as its top strength in the PHAB accreditation site visit report. Additionally, five new members were added to the QI Council. These numbers speak to IDPH's commitment to continual improvement.



Members of the IDPH Quality Improvement Council (Front Row L-R): Andrea Bentzinger, Jill Lange, Emily Vogt, Katie Herting, Kelsey Feller, Katie Bee. Back Row L-R: Justyn Lewis, Maggie Ferguson, Sarah Reisetter, Andrew Connet, Ellen Maahs, Marisa Roseberry



Governor Reynolds spotlights public health

Three formal proclamations are planned in March. Governor Reynolds will sign proclamations designating March as [Brain Injury](#) Awareness Month, [Colorectal Cancer](#) Awareness Month and [Problem Gambling](#) Awareness Month.

Stop the Bleed

A significant preventable cause of death is uncontrolled bleeding prior to hospitalization. The nationally recognized [Stop the Bleed®](#) training teaches the public how to find the bleeding injury and stop the bleeding until emergency medical help arrives. IDPH staff participated in a Stop the Bleed® training last month and another staff training is in July. To find a class near you or to learn more about the program, visit the IDPH Stop the Bleed® [web page](#).



Rhonda Rairden-Nelson practices tourniquet use on fellow IDPH staffer Diane Williams.

Walking College

Applications are open for the 2019 [Iowa Walking College](#). This six-month program explores ways to improve community walkability through online and face-to-face meetings. Part of the Healthiest State Initiative, the 2017 Walking College resulted in [15 action plans](#) being implemented in the communities where the participants live and work.

IDPH spotlight: Board Licensure of Healthcare Professionals

Nearly every Iowan has relied upon a healthcare professional or business regulated by the [boards of IDPH](#). The number of individuals licensed by these boards is impressive. There are nearly 150,000 licensed healthcare professionals currently active in the state, who are regulated by 23 separate licensing boards. Board members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Iowa Senate.

Each year, more than 1,200 new license applications and 27,000 renewal applications are processed in the [Bureau of Professional Licensure](#) alone. The four “Big Boards” are pulling big weight, as well. The Board of [Nursing](#) oversees the licensure and practice of almost 70,000 nurses. The Board of [Medicine](#) regulates nearly 13,000 physicians. The [Dental](#) Board licenses and regulates more than 9,000 dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants, and the Board of [Pharmacy](#) regulates and licenses more than 6,200 pharmacists and almost 2,000 pharmacies.

All the licensing boards have one thing in common: a goal of protecting and improving the public’s health by enforcing competency standards. Licensing is an effective way to keep untrained and dishonest individuals from practicing in any healthcare profession.

These boards license qualified professionals, address all complaints filed against licensees, and enforce discipline when necessary. About 1500 complaints are submitted every year and the respective licensing board must take action on each.

All Iowans deserve ethical and safe healthcare and the department’s licensing boards help ensure that occurs.



