



**OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE  
STATE OF IOWA**

Rob Sand  
Auditor of State

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**NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: Brian Brustkern  
515/281-5834

FOR RELEASE

February 1, 2024

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Auditor of State Rob Sand today released a report on the Iowa Department of Public Health for the year ended June 30, 2022.

The Department exercises general supervision over public health programs, promotes health and sanitation, carries out specific responsibilities required by law and administers state and federal laws related to public health and vital records. The Department also exercises administrative authority over the medical, dental, pharmacy and nursing boards.

**AUDIT FINDINGS:**

Sand reported three findings related to board membership. The findings are reported on pages 3 and 4 of this report. Sand recommended the Department establish policies and procedures to ensure compliance over boards as required by the Code of Iowa.

Management of the Iowa Department of Public Health have a fiduciary responsibility to provide oversight of the Department's operations and financial transactions. Oversight is typically defined as the "watchful and responsible care" management exercises in its fiduciary capacity.

A copy of the report is available for review on the Auditor of State's website at [Audit Reports – Auditor of State](#)

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**REPORT OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE  
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**JUNE 30, 2022**

**Iowa Department of Public Health**



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January 19, 2024

Iowa Department of Public Health  
Des Moines, Iowa

To Kelly Garcia, Director of the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services:

I am pleased to submit to you the Report of Recommendations for the Iowa Department of Public Health for the year ended June 30, 2022. The report includes findings pertaining to the Department's internal control and compliance which resulted from the fiscal year 2022 audit.

I appreciate the cooperation and courtesy extended by the officials and employees of the Iowa Department of Public Health throughout the audit. If I or this office can be of any further assistance, please contact me or my staff at 515-281-5834.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Sand", written in a cursive style.

Rob Sand  
Auditor of State

**Iowa Department of Public Health**



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January 19, 2024

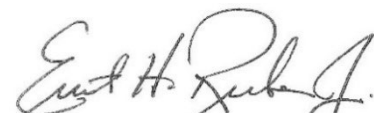
To Kelly Garcia, Director of the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services:

The Iowa Department of Public Health is a part of the State of Iowa and, as such, has been included in our audits of the State's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and the State's Single Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 2022.

In conducting our audits, we became aware of certain aspects concerning the Department's operations for which we believe corrective action is necessary. As a result, we have developed recommendations which are reported on the following pages. We believe you should be aware of these recommendations, which include those reported in the State's Report on Internal Control. These recommendations have been discussed with Department personnel and their responses to these recommendations are included in this report. While we have expressed our conclusions on the Department's responses, we did not audit the Iowa Department of Public Health's responses and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

This report, a public record by law, is intended solely for the information and use of the officials and employees of the Iowa Department of Public Health, citizens of the State of Iowa and other parties to whom the Iowa Department of Public Health may report. This report is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We would like to acknowledge the many courtesies and assistance extended to us by personnel of the Department during the course of our audits. Should you have questions concerning any of the above matters, we shall be pleased to discuss them with you at your convenience. Individuals who participated in our audits of the Department are listed on page 5 and they are available to discuss these matters with you.

  
Ernest H. Ruben, Jr., CPA  
Chief Deputy Auditor of State

cc: Honorable Kim Reynolds, Governor  
Kraig Paulsen, Director, Department of Management  
Tim McDermott, Director, Legislative Services Agency

Report of Recommendations to the  
Iowa Department of Public Health

June 30, 2022

**Findings Reported in the State's Single Audit Report:**

No matters were noted.

**Findings Reported in the State's Report on Internal Control:**

No matters were noted.

**Other Findings Related to Internal Control:**

No matters were noted.

**Finding Related to Statutory Requirements and Other Matters:**

(1) State Board of Health

Per Chapter 136.1 of the Code of Iowa, the State Board of Health shall consist of 11 members including:

- Two members learned in health-related disciplines.
- Three members who have direct experience with public health.
- Two members who have direct experience with substance abuse treatment or prevention.
- Four members representing the general public.
- At least one of such members shall be licensed in the practice of medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery under Chapter 148.

During the year ended June 30, 2022, only ten members were appointed.

Recommendation – Members should be appointed to meet the eleven-member requirement.

Response – The Department worked collaboratively to track and fill vacancies during fiscal year 2022. Effective July 1, 2023, the State Board of Health was eliminated and combined with the former Council on Human Services to create the new Health and Human Services Council. The Department and the Governor's Office have worked collaboratively to identify and fill seats for this new governing body. Effective July 1, 2023, all seats of the new Council have been appointed.

Conclusion – Response accepted.

Report of Recommendations to the  
Iowa Department of Public Health

June 30, 2022

(2) State Board of Medicine

Per Chapter 147.14(1)(a), the State Board of Medicine shall consist of ten members including:

- Five members licensed to practice medicine and surgery.
- Two members licensed to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery.
- Three members not licensed to practice either medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery, and who shall represent the general public.

During the year ended June 30, 2022, the State Board of Medicine did not have ten members. For five out of twelve meetings, only nine members were appointed. For four out of twelve meetings, only eight members were appointed. For three out of twelve meetings, only seven members were appointed.

Recommendation – Members should be appointed to meet the ten-member requirement.

Response – The Board of Medicine has a sufficient number of board members for a quorum and is conducting business as usual through regular scheduled board meetings.

Conclusion – Response acknowledged. The Department should ensure members are appointed to meet the ten-member requirement.

(3) State Board of Nursing

Per Chapter 147.14(1)(b), the State Board of Nursing shall consist of seven members including:

- Four registered nurses, two of whom shall be actively engaged in practice and two of who shall be nurse educators from nursing education programs: of these, one in higher education and one in area community and vocational-technical registered nurse education.
- One licensed practical nurse actively engaged in practice.
- Two members not registered nurses or licensed practical nurses who shall represent the general public and who are not members of health care delivery systems.

During the year ended June 30, 2022, the State Board of Nursing did not have seven members. For one of 11 meetings, only four members were appointed. For one of 11 meetings, only five members were appointed. For six of 11 meetings, only six members were appointed.

Recommendation – Members should be appointed to meet the seven-member requirement.

Response – All positions for the Board of Nursing are now filled for fiscal year 2023.

Conclusion – Response accepted.



Report of Recommendations to the  
Iowa Department of Public Health

June 30, 2022

**Staff:**

Questions or requests for further assistance should be directed to:

Ernest H. Ruben, Jr., CPA, Chief Deputy  
Tiffany M. Ainger, CPA, Manager  
Micaela A. Tintjer, CPA, Senior Auditor II

Other individuals who participated in the audits include:

Jared A. Marshall, Staff Auditor  
Hunter W. Penton, Staff Auditor  
Chris L. Poague, Staff Auditor  
Kelsey R. Sauer, Staff Auditor  
Jorge M. Morales, Assistant Auditor  
Matthew F. Perry, Assistant Auditor  
Amila Tursunovic, Assistant Auditor  
Seth W. Franklin, Auditor Intern