AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Suspension of Bylaws to Conduct Board of Health Meeting Virtually (Action)

3. Public Comments

4. Racism: A Public Health Crisis Position Statement (Discussion) (Pages 2-3)

5. Adjournment
Racism: A Public Health Crisis Position Statement

Peoria County Board of Health Supports an Equity Approach to Address Racism.

*The Peoria County Board of Health supports the need to recognize racism and other discriminatory practices as a public health crisis and reaffirming our role in providing an equitable approach towards health.*

Racism is a public health crisis; it creates inequity in those factors that influence health. This leads to disparities in the quality and length of life for people of color. As recent events have demonstrated, race continues to play a role not only in the brutality seen, but even in how a novel virus disproportionately impacts people of color and vulnerable populations. Racial/ethnic populations, in particular, face various social determinants to health due to concentrated poverty, discrimination, lack of access to quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care. These inequities that exist in both urban and rural populations result in a higher prevalence of chronic diseases and higher chronic disease mortality rates, as well as higher rates of suicide, injury, and substance use.

We would fail as a trusted public health leader if we do not recognize and speak out on the impact of racism.

The vision of the Peoria City/County Health Department, as established by the Peoria County Board of Health, is to be a trusted leader in a healthy, thriving community. This statement highlights the role we play and the support of all members of our community, regardless of their race.

The Peoria County Board of Health and Peoria City/County Health Department reaffirms our commitment in addressing equity, which includes addressing structural and institutional racism and discriminatory practices. Health equity is a strategic priority for the Peoria County Board of Health. Achieving health equity is when everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible regardless of race and location. Improving community health and longevity starts with ensuring all communities are safe and have equitable access to health care, healthy food, good schools, affordable housing, and jobs to establish and maintain a healthy lifestyle. The Peoria City/County Health Department and Board of Health advocates for and is committed to;

- Health Equity in policies and practices,
- Diversity appreciation in the community and workplace,
- Reinvestment in communities of color,
- Supporting community-based interventions,
- Reforming structural systems, and
- Voting.
Some recent Peoria City/County Health Department projects and partnerships to advance equity in our community include:

- Established the first Southside Farmers Market to combat the perpetual food desert and food insecurities in the 61605 area code.
- Recently received 1.5 million dollars from the Edwards Coal Plant Settlement for lung health education and interventions in the Peoria County communities of concern priority zip codes.
- Currently partnering with the Regional Office of Education and Peoria Public School District 150 to ensure students have access to healthy meals, access to technology, and other resources needed for remote learning during COVID-19 recovery and long-term sustainability.
- Recently opened a Heartland Health Services Clinic at the Peoria City/County Health Department to provide primary care services and Medication Assisted Treatment to augment the Peoria City/County Health Department’s existing clinical services for greater access to comprehensive community health services.
- Implementation of the 2020-2022 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) developed by regional health systems and community organizations to provide health education and treatment interventions that address the region’s identified health priorities related to mental health, substance use, healthy eating and active living and cancer. The CHIP Plan emphasizes targeted resources and programs to the most vulnerable populations.

The Peoria County Board of Health and Peoria City/County Health Department will continue to develop impactful and purposeful partnerships in building and improving our communities.