



## Iowa Public Health Leadership Academy Session 5 Summary

### IOWA PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Session 5 of the Public Health Leadership Academy focused on ethics and decision making in public health. A brief introduction to ethics and public health ethics was given, with the majority of the content presented through local examples. Speakers included Dr. Michael Pentella, Nola Aigner-Davis, Brooke Barnes and Margaret Jaynes.

The session began with a short introduction to public health ethics, followed by examples of ethical policy development, an example of implementing ethical policy and public health information sharing/ethical dilemmas.

#### Ethics & Decision Making in Public Health

- Introduction to Public Health Ethics
  - o What are ethics/public health ethics?
  - o Belmont Principles
  - o Public Health Code of Ethics
  - o Clinical vs. public health ethics/law vs. ethics
  - o Ethical challenges public health professionals may face
  - o Making ethical decisions/implementing public health ethics
  - o Flint, MI example
- Ethical Policy Development
  - o How to determine what goes into a policy or program
    - Ethics Committee development in Scott County
      - Specific Board of Health role
      - Questions that the committee would go through if an ethics dilemma comes up
      - Specific example from the H1N1 vaccine– looking forward towards COVID
      - Confidentially agreements
  - o Developing conflict of interest statements
    - Process
    - Example of a Conflict of Interest statement
- Implementing Policy Case Study
  - o Environmental Health perspective: Implementing a policy & ethical considerations
    - Mobile Home Park Closure
      - Ethics & decision making that went into the policy
        - o Regulations/environmental health rules
        - o Board & staff actions
- Working with the media
  - o Public Health Law
    - Sharing information with the public
    - Release of information about cases
    - Thinking about the Board members' role locally
  - o Examples:
    - Public Health Law and how to talk about people/organizations
      - Foodborne Outbreak at Roosevelt HS
    - E. coli Case
    - COVID-19
      - Working with hospitals on COVID
      - Homeless shelter for COVID patients & demographic issues

#### Local Public Health Examples

- Implementing an ethics committee: Scott County Ethics Committee – Brooke Barnes
- Environmental ethical policy: Closing Crestview Mobile Home Park in Story County - Margaret Jaynes
- Information sharing & ethics: Working with the Media – Polk County Health Department – Nola Aigner Davis

**Additional Questions from Participants:** The following questions were posed by leadership academy participants:

- What is accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board?
- Is it ethical to ban a large gathering from happening in a county during COVID-19?

- Should the Board of Health investigate a case of arson (in reference to the Crestview Mobile Home Park example)

