

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025 9:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center. Present: Chairperson Meisheid, Vice Chairperson Running-Marquardt and Supervisor Scheetz. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Meisheid called the meeting to order.

The Board heard updates from the following Elected Officials:

David Thielen, LCCS Executive Dir. – budget update; working closely with Policy & Administration on measles quarantine requirements; half the amount of people are unsheltered in Linn County compared to January; discussed changes for Winter Weather Shelter; ongoing meetings with Planning & Development on their Community Plan; working through Disability Access Point layout from July 1; Options recently did accreditation process; Early Childhood Iowa/DECAT has 33 total contracts; all HHS programs are being pushed toward regionalization; Juvenile Detention security updates are currently underway; averaging around 20 detainees most days; gearing up for the start of Grantwood AEA schooling this fall at Juvenile Detention; Disability Rights Iowa recently visited Juvenile Detention; Ryan White Program has very good enrollment; went over financials; things going well for Access Center overall; estimated date of withdraw management is September 8th, they received a full license; Director of Access Center recently went on a podcast reaching out to rural citizens; funding for the Child Development Center successfully came through (next year is uncertain); Home Health has been reaching more individuals.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she continues to hear positive feedback from the community regarding Options and thanked staff for the hard work they do.

Pramod Dwivedi, Health Department Dir., and staff – presented a PowerPoint regarding measles and recent Linn County case response.

Discussion continued about a mobile unit clinic for vaccinations and quarantine statistics.

Board members expressed their sincere appreciation for Public Health's work during this event.

Dennis Goemaat, Conservation Dir. – discussed Morgan Creek Trail update.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt expressed gratitude to the citizens who allowed access onto their property for work on this trail to be completed.

Goemaat continued: Pinicon Ridge Mountain Bike Trail construction; Morgan Creek Park Lodge is anticipated to be completed in the first half of 2026; Grant Wood Trail believed to be completed by this fall; Center Point Depot Renovation is going well; Morgan Creek Wetland construction hopes to begin this fall; Cedar Rapids Community Schools used Morgan Creek Park (MCP) over the summer as a distribution site for lunches and it went very well; Shade Shelter at MCP is hoping to be completed by the end of the year; challenges in the campgrounds this season due to changing ordinances in the cities pushing people in need of assistance to relocate to campgrounds; received complaints from other campers and a zero tolerance policy has been enacted regarding altercations and illegal substances.

Supervisor Scheetz inquired if Goemaat has talked to the Homeless Systems Manager, J'nae Peterman.

Goemaat said staff members between both departments have been in contact and are hoping to find a path to move forward.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt expressed appreciation to Goemaat for leading the water quality & mitigation plan, as well as his other leadership roles and ability to have an open mind to find solutions for Linn County citizens.

Dustin Peterson, Veteran Services Dir. – FY26 budget update; served 120 Veterans in 3 weeks of July and commends Veteran Services staff for their work; Cedar Valley Veterans Network career networking event had good attendance; next event is Wednesday, September 3rd from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.; conducted an outreach event at Murdoch Funeral Homes at a Funeral Director's meeting; Presented information on available programs for Veterans' burial assistance and family members' benefits; will attend FRYfest and have a joint booth with surrounding county Veteran Affairs/Services departments; nearly 75% of customers are being referred by returning customers; discussed the positive feedback received after moving a customer service window; upcoming September Veterans in Motion event which will provide up to 20 veterans with an opportunity to experience a few hours of working with animals and enjoying the outdoors; Veteran of the Month award continues to receive nominations; shared a recent success story of helping a local veteran obtain a large amount of backpay after clerical error; in July 2025, Linn County veterans received over 7 million in federal benefits.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt inquired if Peterson has connected with J'nae Peterman and requested Veteran Services reach out to her to better coordinate help for Linn County veterans; she suggested publicly recognizing Veterans of the Month at Board Meetings.

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Adjournment at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

TODD E. TAYLOR, Linn County Auditor
Ana Brunscheen, Executive Assistant

Approved by:

BRANDY Z. MEISHEID, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors