

Board of Health AGENDA

NOTICE REGARDING COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus): To adhere to COVID-19 social distancing precautions, all on-site public Board of Health meetings are postponed until further notice. To allow access to this meeting, and future Board of Health meetings, call 719-583-4513 for more information.

The Board of Health meeting will be held **Wednesday, December 23, 2020, at 12:00 noon by Zoom.**

- A. 12:00 - 12:03 p.m. – Call to Order and Approval / Changes to Agenda (**Action Required**)
- B. 12:03 - 12:06 p.m. – Approval of Board of Health Meeting Minutes held **November 24, 2020 (Action Required)**
- C. 12:06 – 12:10 p.m. – **Special Recognitions/Celebrations**
- D. 12:10 - 12:15 pm - **Public Comment**
- E. 12:15-12:35 pm **Budget and Finance** – Georgia Alfonso
 - Monthly Financial Report (**Action Required**)
 - Contracts (**Action Required**)
 - 2021 Budget (**Action Required**)
- F. 12:35-12:50 pm **2021-2023 Strategic Plan with 2021 Workplan** -Randy Evetts
- G. 12:50-1:10 pm- **Public Health Director’s Report**
 - COVID-19 Update
 - General Updates
- H. 1:10 – 1:15 pm – **Unfinished Business**
- I. 1:15- 1:20 pm – **New Business**

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The Board of Health meeting was held by Zoom November 24, 2020, at 12:00 noon.

Board Members

Present: Donald Moore, Board President
Michael J. Nerenberg, Board Vice President
Ed Brown, City Council Member
Eileen Dennis, Board Member
Garrison Ortiz, County Commissioner

Legal Counsel: Marci Day, Assistant County Attorney

Administrative Staff

Members Present: Randy Evetts, Public Health Director
Katie Davis, Deputy Director
Georgia Alfonso, Budget and Finance Director
Jody Carrillo, Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness Division Director
Maria Telfer, Community Health Services Division Director
Ramona Chisman-Ewing, Executive Assistant

Staff Members: Dr. Christopher Urbina, *Medical Officer*, Vicki Carlton, Shylo Dennison, Justin Gage, Sarah Joseph, Aaron Martinez, Kim Sugar, Zak Van Ooyen, Chad Wolgram

Guests: Mark Aliff, City Councilman

A. **Call to Order and Approve or Make Changes to the Agenda**

Board President, Donald Moore, called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the Agenda.

MOVED by Eileen Dennis, seconded by Garrison Ortiz, to approve the Agenda.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Ed Brown, to approve the October 28, 2020, BOH meeting minutes as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. **Special Recognitions/Celebrations**

- Randy thanked city and county partners for their support during the COVID-19 response, including local business owners who are working to keep citizens/patrons safe during this pandemic.
- Garrison Ortiz recognized Public Health Director Randy Evetts for his diligent work during the COVID-19 response.
- Michael Nerenberg thanked Department staff members who went to Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association to administer COVID-19 testing, Hep A, and flu shots to clients.
- Donald Moore thanked Regional Epidemiologist Margaret Comstock for her assistance to the Pueblo Community Health Center regarding case investigation and communicable disease.
- Ed thanked PDPHE staff members for their involvement and assistance to community members who live in the Eilers neighborhood.

D. **Public Comment**

Michael Nerenberg stated he has heard concerns about the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) football championships that will be coming to town next week during the pandemic. Garrison Ortiz stated he has been working with Randy and the state for clarification/guidance about this event. This is a CHSSA event, which is state sanctioned. Randy has a phone conference today with the state to learn more about their direction for the event.

F. **Division Reports**
Operations and Health Promotion Division

Financial and Contract Cost Reports

Financial reports for the end of October 2020, were presented to the Board. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$630,225.21.

Expenses and revenues for 2020 are greater than 2019, due to additional income and expenses for the COVID-19 response. The Department wants to carry over as much funding into 2021 as possible, as CARES funding for the COVID-19 response ends December 30, 2020. The Department may need to request supplemental funding in 2021 from the City, County, and/or BOH depending on the response needs in 2021. Donald asked Georgia to explain the difference between restricted (funds for specific programs), committed (require Board action-general operating, employee benefits, etc.), assigned (core services determined by Public Health Director), and unassigned funds (reserve). Garrison asked how to assign funding to ensure the COVID-19 CARES funding is kept separate from the regular budget. Georgia stated the Department is putting CARES funding into unassigned reserve funds. Garrison asked Georgia the amount PDPHE is requesting in 2021 from the County and she stated it is the same amount as 2020.

MOVED by Ed Brown, seconded by Michael Nerenberg, to accept the monthly financial report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2021 Budget Update

- Georgia is working on finalizing the draft 2021 budget for the December BOH Work Session.
- No Information on other contracts or funding for this month.

Supplemental COVID-19 Budget Request

Georgia stated the Board may be asked for additional funding for the COVID-19 response in June 2021 by using reserves, unless additional federal funding is received in 2021. The current COVID-19 response staffing expense each month is \$230,000/month. Randy informed the Board he is concerned about 'gaps' in the funding when the CARES funding is depleted, if no additional COVID-19 response funding is received. The Department would then have a deficit of \$275,000.00 from January to June 2021 if no additional funding is received; reserves would have to be used. Randy hopes to hear about additional funding by March 2021 after the new administration takes office. There are also a lot of unknowns about testing in 2021, as well as vaccine distribution. Georgia stated she is comfortable to maintain the current COVID-19 response January through March 2021. Donald Moore stated it would be helpful for the Board to have a 'summary' of the current status of funding, projections, and the use of funds, as soon as information becomes available, possibly sometime in March 2021.

G. **Public Health Director's Report**

Public Health Order Resolution

Public Health Orders have been put into place for people who are positive for COVID-19. Randy currently has the authority to issue public health orders during a state of emergency and/or to control the spread of communicable diseases. This resolution confirms the Board of Health's assignment of responsibility and authority for Randy to issue public health orders when necessary. The Board agreed the Public Health Director has always had this authority, but it is good to formalize this authority in a formal resolution. The Board was informed by Marci Day the language in the resolution was taken directly from the state statute that already exists. Dr. Urbina agreed with the Board's decision to approve this resolution, as this helps public health work with elected officials and leaders in Pueblo County to ensure the safety of the citizens of Pueblo County.

MOVED by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Ed Brown, to approve the Public Health Order Resolution as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COVID-19 Update

- A new level has also been added to the COVID-19 dial and Pueblo County has moved to level red on that dial.
- Pueblo has had approximately 3,700 case in the past 14 days.
- 16% positivity rate; 92 deaths; 90 total outbreaks with 72 active cases; another 50+ under

investigation – it has been difficult to keep up with the case load.

- 128 COVID-19 patients at Parkview Medical Center today.
- 14 COVID-19 patients at St. Mary-Corwin today.
- Tested 1,500 people at the State Fairgrounds Monday, November 23, 2020; over 5,000 people were tested last week.
- Another test site will open next week on the Northside.
- Walkup clinics have also started in the community including, Avondale, Beulah, and Colorado City.
- The hearing for Bumperz is scheduled for December 23, which Randy will attend.
- 19 staff members are currently working on case investigation and contact tracing.
- Staff members will be working over the holidays and the weekends to educate the public, support local businesses, and also work on contact tracing.
- The Department is working with the state on vaccination plans – this plan is a tiered structure with in-patient health care workers as the first to be vaccinated.
- The Department is also working closely with the Emergency Operation Center to prepare for this.
- The state sent an ultra-cold freezer to the Department to hold vaccine when it arrives.
- It is anticipated, the hospitals and local pharmacies will be identified as the entities to give the vaccine.

Dr. Urbina informed the Board of the vaccine storage options using dry ice and the timeline for giving the vaccine to people. Donald asked about the number of doses required, which is two, and the challenge to get people to come in for the second dose. The Board asked several questions about managing patients at local hospitals (number of ICU beds, overflow, etc.); Randy responded with as much information as he knew. Another challenge has been for long-term care facilities taking patients back after a hospital stay, due to concerns of spreading COVID-19. There is also concern regarding the ability to keep staffing needs adequate in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other critical inpatient and outpatient care facilities. Dr. Urbina stated these agencies are looking into critical infrastructure staffing needs to ensure adequate care of patients

General Updates

- Discussed possible dates for the December Work Session. Executive Assistant Ramona will work to come to a consensus for the next meeting and inform the Board of a good date and time. Currently, December 14 or 17 is open for most BOH members.

H. Unfinished Business

None

I. New Business

Garrison Ortiz informed the Board there is a program pilot being implemented in Mesa County called a 5-Star Program. This program is a voluntary program for the entire business community. Businesses can opt in and make a call to the health department, which activates a team to go out and inspect that business to ensure they are conducting business as safely as possible and local health standards are being met. The business would be designated as a '5-star' business and their business would be promoted by local government as a safe and responsible business. This designation would allow 5-star businesses in a county to continue to operate regardless where that county is on the COVID-19 dial. This program is being considered for Pueblo and counties state-wide. Garrison is attending a meeting for additional details today wanted to inform the Board about this possible program. Dr. Nerenberg asked if this would be for any business or only those where people go in for a short amount of time and how long would businesses maintain this 5-star rating before have to be re-inspected. Garrison stated he read a business must sign a form and can be pulled from the program if they fail an inspection, have a violation, etc. Dr. Urbina stated he would want every business to be in the 5-star program. Dr. Urbina asked Garrison to ask Mesa County about their compliance rate. Garrison thought it was collaboration from all entities (City, County, health department) to go and inspect the individual businesses who apply for this status. Eileen also asked Garrison to ask Mesa County about measuring the success rate of this piloted program.

The next regular BOH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 23, 2020, at 12:00 noon by Zoom.

MOVED by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Eileen Dennis, to adjourn the Board of Health meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Donald Moore, Board of Health President



Randy Evetts, MPA, Public Health Director