

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, August 26, 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 **July 22, 2020 (Action Required)**
- C. 12:06 – 12:10 p.m. – **Special Recognitions/Celebrations**
- D. 12:10 - 12:15 pm - **Public Comment**
- E. 12:15 – 1:00 – Special Presentations:
 - **Southern Colorado Health Network** – Sarah Money
 - **Southern Colorado Harm Reduction** – Danielle Harwell
 - **2021 Budget Revision** – Georgia Alfonso **(Action Required)**
- F. 1:00 – 1:15 pm – **Public Health Director’s Report**
 - COVID-19 Update
 - General Updates
 - Confirm BOH Meeting Dates for November and December
- G. 1:15 – 1:30 pm - **Division Reports**
 - Operations & Health Promotion Division**
 - Monthly Financial Report – Georgia Alfonso **(Action Required)**
 - Contracts – Georgia Alfonso **(Action Required)**
- H. 1:30 – 1:35 pm – **Unfinished Business**
- I. 1:35- 1:45 pm – **New Business**

ADJOURN

The Board of Health meeting was held by Zoom July 22, 2020, 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
Georgia Alfonso, Budget and Finance Director
Chad Wolgram, Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness Program Manager
Katie Davis, Operations and Health Promotion Division Director
Maria Telfer, Community Health Services Division Director
Dr. Christopher Urbina, Medical Officer
Ramona Chisman-Ewing, Executive Assistant

Staff Members: Vicki Carlton, Derrick Coe, Shylo Dennison, Chelsea Hollowell, Sarah Joseph, Kim Sugar, Zak VanOoyen, Chad Wolgram

Guests: Mitch Downs and Amber Stoops, *Osborne, Parsons & Rosacker, LLP.*

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 Michael Nerenberg, to approve the Agenda.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Ed Brown, to approve the June 24, 2020, BOH meeting minutes as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. **Special Recognitions/Celebrations**

Randy Evetts thanked all Department staff members for their flexibility and hard work on the COVID-19 response. Board President Donald Moore stated despite the number of positive cases rising, he is aware staff members are applying their best efforts towards the COVID-19 response. He also stated he knows staff members are being cooperative and collaborative with outside agencies to assist community members through this crisis. He does not want people to be disheartened by the numbers, but remain positive as the community works its way through this public health crisis.

D. **Public Comment**

None

E. **Special Presentations**

COVID Surveillance

Medical Officer Dr. Chris Urbina provided a presentation regarding waste water surveillance for COVID-19. Researchers at Colorado State University-Ft. Collins are currently perfecting the testing and the technology. Smaller catchment areas may increase testing identified populations at risk, such as long-term care facilities, dorms, etc. or a specific area of town. This technology can be used determine COVID presence in a community before an outbreak occurs. Publications suggest detection could be weeks ahead of an outbreak. This type of testing uses lab-based testing (not CLIA-certified clinical testing), which substantially reduces cost. Early intervention helps prevent the spread of COVID-19. Dr.

Urbina listed several key reference sources associated with this type of testing.

The Board asked Dr. Urbina if specific areas of a community could be monitored. Dr. Urbina acknowledged that the testing can be specific to a building, neighborhood, or community. Pueblo is a potential pilot site for CSU. Dr. Urbina will identify who in Pueblo has participated in the discussions. Cost savings could be well worth the trial. Board member Garrison Ortiz asked how soon the testing could be used. Dr. Urbina estimates that within the next year this should be possible. This wastewater testing for COVID-19 could eliminate having to test everyone on an individual basis. Board member Eileen Dennis asked if people who are on individual septic systems could have their wastewater tested. Dr. Urbina stated something else might have to be done for people who have their own individual wastewater septic systems, as the testing is currently setup to use the public wastewater system and not individual systems.

2019 Audit Report

Accountants Mitch Downs and Amber Stoops from Osborne, Parsons & Rosacker, LLP updated the Board regarding the 2019 Department audit. The following highlights some of the 2019 audit findings:

- The auditor's report found no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses relating to internal control disclosed.
- No instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements were disclosed.
- No significant control deficiencies or material weaknesses were disclosed during the audit of the WIC program, the major federal award program tested.
- No past adjustments.
- Auditors received access to all staff and supporting documents requested.
- Auditors conducted credit card testing.
- Auditors tested for accurate journal entries, account receivable and payable, payroll, etc.
- Changes in pension liability are expected in the future depending on the market and PERA.
- The Department was determined to be a low-risk auditee; overall the audit went very well.

At the conclusion of the presentation the Board was asked if they had any questions. Eileen Dennis expressed concern regarding a past employee who was able to work around the internal controls when it came to accepting cash. An internal control was in place, but the operational control had to be corrected, and was, to avoid further incidents in the future. Donald Moore asked about the shift in administrative expenses. Mitch stated this was a direct result due to pension expenses. Donald asked about the negative figure in the financial statement associated with unfunded liability. Mitch informed Donald it is the pension liability associated with PERA and is manageable, but should be 'watched' over time. The Department will be notified if the cash pension payments are going to be adjusted in the future. Budget and Finance Director Georgia Alfonso informed the Board in July, both the Department and employees PERA contributions will increase. Donald and Randy acknowledged and thanked the business and finance office staff members for their hard work to ensure a satisfactory audit.

MOVED by Eileen Dennis, seconded by Ed Brown, to accept the 2019 audit report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2021 – 2024 Strategic Plan Update

Randy Evetts and Public Health Planner Derek Coe gave the Board an update regarding the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan. The Department's proposed focus areas, objectives, and goals were presented to the Board. Currently, the plan has two focus areas; Population Health and Organizational Excellence. There are three goals under Population Health and two goals under Organizational Excellence, in addition to several proposed objectives under each goal. Next steps include receiving feedback from staff members associated with the goals and objectives. The final Strategic Plan will be presented to the BOH in October 2020 for feedback and approval. Randy noted there were three key elements that were addressed in this strategic planning process:

1. The strategic plan should be more externally focused than the previous plan.
2. The plan should encourage cross-divisional work.
3. Work should focus at a neighborhood or subpopulation level when appropriate.

Dr. Nerenberg stated maybe the Department could also focus on ‘populations’ and not just neighborhoods to avoid overlooking people. Randy noted population health is still an absolute priority but through this plan, the intent is to also be able to work at a neighborhood or subpopulation level when indicated to improve outcomes. Garrison Ortiz asked about the goal under Population Health associated with the Emergency Preparedness Response (EPR) plan, and if it was the EPR plan for Pueblo County. Randy stated the Department works to review its own EPR plan which is a part of the overall comprehensive County EPR plan.

F. **Public Health Director’s Report**

COVID-19 Update

- In the last two weeks there have been 114 new COVID cases, which triggers the Pueblo County’s variance of 84 cases.
- Randy will be meeting with the State for guidance on a mitigation plan, due to the increased number of cases. The increase in cases does not seem to be associated with places of business who have been granted variances, but rather an increase in family/personal gatherings.
- Garrison Ortiz stated Pueblo County Commissioners and community partners will be discussing what can be done to retain the current variance.
- Calls continue to be received about issues in the community such as no enforcement of the mask requirement; the latest concern is regarding schools reopening in the fall.
- CARES funding: City and County approved 1.5 million for the COVID response, which must be spent by December 2020.

The CARES funding will allow PDPHE to add case investigators, contact tracers, public health nurses, environmental health specialists, additional support for the regional epidemiologist, HR, and IT support. Garrison reiterated the County’s support through the CARES funds. He inquired if the funds awarded are adequate to hire the additional positions needed. Randy stated currently the funding awarded is adequate, but needs might change in the future. For example, if the Department decide to expand testing at the testing site, then additional personnel may be required.

Donald shared Pueblo Community Health Center staff members are reporting the testing site at the Fair grounds has been running very smoothly. Garrison stated, as testing increases, so will the number of positive cases, so he wondered if the state expressed using some type of ratio from the overall sample size to monitor instead of the number of overall positive tests. Randy agreed the number of positives will increase as the numbers tested increases. The positivity rate is an important number to watch, as well as the numbers hospitalized. As the numbers increase, variances may be affected, so discussion is on-going with the state to look at the rate changes, number of people hospitalized, etc.

G. **Division Reports**

Operations and Health Promotion Division

Financial and Contract Cost Reports

Financial reports for the end of May 2020, were presented to the Board. Expenditures exceeded revenues by (\$134,815.89). Georgia Alfonso reported most of these dollars are due to the increased expenses for COVID-19 response and she expects these dollars to be reimbursed through additional CARES funding from the state.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INFORMATION CONTRACTS OR FUNDING:

Health Disparities	7/15/2020 – 6/30/2021	\$84,540
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This contract is between CDPHE and PDPHE. This program is to improve the built environment of Colorado Smelter Superfund Site neighborhoods to increase physical activity, improve community safety, connectedness and pride. This contract is an amendment of a program PDPHE has previously worked in. No addition FTE will be hired. There is a decrease in funding due to the anticipation of state funding reductions. The reductions did not happen so an amendment will be issued to increase funding to the prior level. (Task Order 2021*532) No BOH action required. Pending legal review.

H. **Unfinished Business**

Michael Nerenberg asked about the diesel smell in the Grove neighborhood and if there have been any updates on this issue. Program Manager Chad Wolgram will look into any updates and pass along any information to him. Chad stated as the area receives rain, the groundwater level rises, which could cause the smell to waft out of the wastewater drainage system. The state and EPA are managing this situation.

I. **New Business**

Executive Session

MOVED by Ed Brown, seconded by Michael Nerenberg, to convene into Executive Session for the following:

For discussion of a personnel matter under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(f) and not involving: any specific employees who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of the Board; the appointment of any person to fill an office of the Board; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Ed Brown, to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene into the regular Board of Health meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Board President Donald Moore adjourned the regular Board of Health meeting.

The next regular BOH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 26, 2020, at 12:00 noon.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Donald Moore, Board of Health President



Randy Evetts, MPA, Public Health Director