

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, October 28, 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 **September 23, 2020 (Action Required)**
- C. 12:06 – 12:10 p.m. – **Special Recognitions/Celebrations**
- D. 12:10 - 12:15 pm - **Public Comment**
- E. 12:15 – 12:30 – Special Presentations: **Chemical Demilitarization Update** - Presenter: Irene Kornelly
- F. 12:30 – 12:45 pm - **Division Reports**
 - Operations & Health Promotion Division**
 - Monthly Financial Report – Georgia Alfonso **(Action Required)**
 - Contracts – Georgia Alfonso **(Action Required)**
- G. 12:45 – 1:00 pm – **Public Health Director’s Report**
 - 2021 – 2023 Strategic Plan
 - COVID-19 Update
 - General Updates
- H. 1:00 – 1:05 pm – **Unfinished Business**
- I. 1:05- 1:10 pm – **New Business**

ADJOURN

The Board of Health meeting was held by Zoom September 23, 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

Excused Absence 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
Jody Carrillo, Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness Division Director
Katie Davis, Operations and Health Promotion Division Director
Maria Telfer, Community Health Services Division Director
Ramona Chisman-Ewing, Executive Assistant

Staff Members: Dr. Christopher Urbina, *Medical Officer*, Vicki Carlton, Justin Gage, Sarah Joseph, Chad Wolgram

Guests:

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**

Board member Michael Nerenberg requested an amendment to the minutes under the Director's Report regarding the word 'results'; he stated the word should have been 'rates' – Minutes to be amended as follows:

Michael Nerenberg asked about the positive reporting test results **rates** during the daily briefings.

MOVED by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Ed Brown, to approve the August 26, 2020, BOH meeting minutes with the above amendment.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. **Special Recognitions/Celebrations**

None

D. **Public Comment**

None

E. **Special Presentations**

Medical Officer Update

Dr. Christopher Urbina updated the Board regarding the following:

- There have been eight Hepatitis A cases reported recently. The Department is using CDPHE for investigation.
- The Department will pair up flu and Hep A vaccination messaging to educate the public on the importance of receiving vaccine.
- There have been 15 campylobacter cases
- A little over 17 latent TB infections; no current active TB cases; one referral case
- Rabies - 18 positive cases in skunks, bats, and a bull calf
- During the COVID pandemic, STI's continue to rise (Syphilis and HIV cases combined)

- Wastewater surveillance – Pueblo is part of a large collaborative effort throughout the state; sampling began August 2, 2020 and are being collected twice a week. Wastewater viral RNA material spikes can predict an increase in positive COVID cases in parts of a community; this can be a useful surveillance tool in the future. Dr. Urbina stated the data he as reviewed has not revealed any large spikes in Pueblo County. More information about this type of wastewater surveillance data will be learned as this technology evolves.

Board member Eileen Dennis stated she attended an event where the presenter downplayed the COVID rates. She double checked the information from PDPHE and challenged the speaker to make sure he was correctly portraying COVID rate information to community members. She stated is it important to be vigilant and ensure correct information is being distributed in the community. Public Health Director Randy Evetts thanked Eileen for helping to ensure accurate information is being shared in the community. Donald Moore asked Dr. Urbina what he thought has helped to keep the COVID rates lower in Pueblo. Dr. Urbina stated he thinks it is a combination of things; Randy has done an excellent job of reaching out to community partners (hospitals, law enforcement, schools, etc.) to keep communication open. Also the Department has a great internal team of collaborators, grounded in science. The Communicable Disease (CD) team and Dr. Urbina share ideas and look up information based on facts; Dr. Urbina is then able to share information learned with other counties throughout Colorado. The CD team is working with providers on clinical guidelines for testing recommendations for school-aged children, which he is also sharing with other counties. Dr. Urbina was asked how long he thinks the COVID pandemic will last. Dr. Urbina stated he is concerned about people wanting to take ‘fast track’ vaccine, when it is a challenge to get them to take a regular flu vaccine. The challenge will also be getting the community levels up for herd immunity; this could take approximately a year to a year and a half once a vaccine is developed provided the virus doesn’t mutate significantly.

F. **Division Reports**

Operations and Health Promotion Division

2020 Budget Revision

Budget and Finance Director Georgia Alfonso presented the revised 2020 budget to the Board. Georgia pointed out the various funding sources for the Department’s budget to Board members including the grants received. Georgia also highlighted the Department’s expenses to the Board including the COVID surplus that will carry over into 2021. Board President Donald Moore acknowledged and appreciated Georgia and the entire Budget and Finance staff members keeping track of all of the Department’s revenues and expenses. He also stated for clarification, the HUD grant money is not going away and funding will be spent into 2022 when the grant is completed. Georgia informed the Board there have been very little expenditures for the HUD grant this year. The HUD grant will be a receivable once the reimbursement for expenses is submitted and the funding is received. Currently, the HUD grant has no effect on the Department’s financial and a small amount on the 2020 revised budget.

MOVED by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Ed Brown, to approve the 2020 revised budget as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Financial and Contract Cost Reports

Financial reports for the end of August 2020, were presented to the Board. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$40,816.63.

Donald Moore asked if the drop in cash on the financial statement over prior year was a timing issue. Georgia stated yes, it is a timing issue pertaining to the current accounts payable compared to last year and not a trend; the Department’s cash flow is solid.

MOVED by Eileen Dennis, seconded by Ed Brown, to accept the monthly financial report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INFORMATION ON OTHER CONTRACTS OR FUNDING:

Health Disparities 10/01/2020 – 6/30/2021 \$106,172

This contract is between CDPHE and PDPHE. This program is to improve the built environment of the 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. This amendment is to increase funding to the prior period level. (Task Order 2021*532, Amendment #1) No BOH action or legal review is required.

Maternal & Child Health (MCH) 10/1/20 – 09/30/21 \$ 137,918

This contract is between CDPHE and PDPHE. This contract is to extend funding to cover costs related to implementing population health strategies and provide services that will measurably impact the health and wellbeing of the MCH population. Also, this program will provide information and resources for community stakeholders and families of Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN). The implementation of telehealth services was completed, so funding was not extended for this activity. There is no change in FTE. (Contract Amendment #4 2019*2289). No BOH action or legal review is required.

WIC Program 10/1/20 – 9/30/21 \$989,614

This contract is between CDPHE and PDPHE. This contract is to extend the funding to administer the Special Supplemental Nutritional Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The Pueblo WIC office will continue to do the oversight for Las Animas and Huerfano Counties and Bent County. The funding is a decrease of \$24,777 for WIC direct services. Additional funds could be distributed once the WIC state office has received notice from the USDA for the Federal Fiscal Year 2021. (2021*2590 Option Letter #2) This is an Option Letter with only date and amount changes. No BOH action or legal review is required.

HRSA Opioid Regional Partnership 9/1/20 – 2/28/22 \$200,000

This contract is between Health Resources and Services Administration. This contract is to work regionally with Otero County Health Department and Conejos County Health Department to gather data to strengthen and expand the capacity of rural communities to reduce morbidity and mortality resulting from substance use disorder. This is new contract that will support a .5FTE. A Notice of Award has been received; no BOH action is required.

Board member Michael Nerenberg asked what kind of partnership is the HRSA contract. Katie Davis stated it is similar to a contract the Department had with Las Animas/Huerfano counties for the last year and a half. The Department will provide technical assistance to both of these counties to help develop a good plan in place to reduce morbidity and mortality resulting from substance use disorder in their counties. Otero County has done some work, but Conejos County is just starting on their plan. Michael Nerenberg offered his assistance should the counties need help.

F. Public Health Director's Report

COVID-19 Update

- Across the state, the week of September 13, 2020, there has been an increase in COVID cases by 54 percent from the previous week.
- The largest increase was in 18-25 yr. old age range, with an increase of 74 percent for the same week in September.
- Overall, testing numbers have also increased in the state.
- Hospital admissions are still low and stable.
- The state effective reproductive rate is at 1.07 percent, with social distancing at about 65 percent.
- Pueblo has seen an increase in testing; Monday, September 21, 331 people were tested and Tuesday, September 22, 214 were tested. MAKO is averaging approximately 100 tests/per day and test results are regularly known within 24/48 hours.
- Pueblo's positivity rates have been approximately 1.4 percent.
- Six people in Pueblo County are currently hospitalized with COVID.
- Currently, 96 percent of contact tracing cases are started within 24 hours.
- There are 61 hospitalized cases in the state
- CDPHE issued a revised Public Health Order regarding the 'safer at home' guidance. The 'safer

at home' guidance has been broken into three sub-pieces. PDPHE was placed into level #2 of this guidance, but elected officials are requesting to move Pueblo County into level #1, which is more consistent with Pueblo's current metrics.

- Over the past six/eight weeks the Department has hired approximately 24 people and are backfilling some positions for coverage. Additional nursing/medical assistant positions are also being filled.
- Since schools have opened, there has been an increase in potential exposure cases.
- A challenge in the community has been people don't feel well, they go to get tested, but also go back to work or school just to be informed shortly after, they are positive. As a result, they are also exposing their co-workers to COVID. The best message for people feeling ill in the community is to get tested and stay home until their test results are known to avoid exposing others.
- New Public Health Orders have been issued regarding restaurants and bars that serve alcohol and food. The 'last call' for communities at a 'level #1' will be 12:00 midnight; at a 'level #2,' such as Pueblo, is 11:00 p.m.; at a 'level #3' will be 10:00 p.m. The Department has to keep track of all of the times associated with the various levels, as things change on an on-going basis.
- CHSAA (Colorado High School Activities Association) announced it will allow football to start. The state has said local public health department have to figure out the number of people that can attend a game. The Department is working on receiving more clarification associated with this announcement.
- COVID vaccine fast tracking is occurring; vaccine might be available as early as October or November or possibly the first of 2021. The Department is preplanning for any outcome regarding vaccine; what agencies will do the vaccinations and how it will be distributed.
- The Department has been able to purchase some non-medical grade PPE and is distributing it out to vulnerable populations (Los Pobres, Pueblo Rescue Mission, etc.).

Board member Michael Nerenberg commented on the importance of not to forget the high-risk population that does not have regular health care resources when vaccine becomes available. Randy stated public health will be involved in the vaccine distribution and the vulnerable populations are at the forefront of all planning discussion. Donald Moore acknowledged the amount of work the Human Resources department has been taking on, in such a short amount of time, for the additional hiring and he also stated he appreciates the updates regarding wastewater surveillance progress.

H. **Unfinished Business**

Board members were reminded of the following Board meeting dates:

- Tuesday, November 24, 2020
- Wednesday, December 23, 2020

I. **New Business**

None

J. **Executive Session**

MOVED by Eileen Dennis, seconded by Ed Brown, to move into Executive Session for the following reason:

- 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 go back into the regular BOH meeting.

The next regular BOH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2020, at 12:00 noon.

MOVED by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Ed Brown, to adjourn the Board of Health meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Donald Moore, Board of Health President



Randy Evetts, MPA, Public Health Director