

## **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, September 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 **August 26, 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:
  - **Medical Officer Update** – Dr. Christopher Urbina
- F. 12:30 – 12:45 pm - **Division Reports**
  - Operations & Health Promotion Division**
    - 2020 Budget Revision – Georgia Alfonso **(Action Required)**
    - Monthly Financial Report – Georgia Alfonso **(Action Required)**
    - Contracts – Georgia Alfonso **(Action Required)**
- G. 12:45 – 1:00 pm – **Public Health Director’s Report**
  - COVID-19 Update
  - General Updates
- H. 1:00 – 1:05 pm – **Unfinished Business**
- I. 1:05- 1:10 pm – **New Business**
- J. 1:10 – 1:30 p.m. - **Executive Session**
  - 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.

**ADJOURN**

*Prevent • Promote • Protect*

101 West 9th Street • Pueblo, CO 81003 • (719) 583-4300 • pueblohealth.org



The Board of Health meeting was held by Zoom August 26, 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  
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:** Vicki Carlton, Shylo Dennison, Sarah Joseph, Aaron Martinez, Zak VanOoyen, Chad Wolgram

**Guests:** Danielle Harwell, *Southern Colorado Harm Reduction (SCHR) Project Director* and Alexis Ellis, *SCHR Board member*; Sarah Money, *Syringe Access Program Manager*, Bob Benvenuto, Christine Charron, Melissa Chizmar, *Access Point Pueblo*

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 Ed Brown, seconded by Michael Nerenberg, to approve the July 22, 2020, BOH meeting minutes as submitted.

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

C. **Special Recognitions/Celebrations**

Public Health Director Randy Evetts thanked everyone for their support during this COVID-19 crisis and acknowledged how important community partnership support is.

D. **Public Comment**

None

E. **Special Presentations**

*Southern Colorado Health Network (SCHN)*

Syringe Access Program Manager Sarah Money updated the Board regarding the following data:

- Demographic data for clients SCHN serves:
  - 55% male
  - 45% female, including a few transgender clients each month
  - Clients range between 25-45 years of age
  - 45% Hispanic/Latino
  - 55% Non-Hispanic/Latino
- A five-year comparison of the number of syringes collected, distributed, total number of visits and the number of new clients served per year was presented. Sarah is new to her position and stated she is going to review the number of new clients listed in the PowerPoint to ensure the data is accurate.
- Program barriers, changes and achievements:

- SCHN experienced some data corruption issues, as a result fentanyl testing results were put on hold in March, but resumed again in May.
- Adjusting to COVID requirements, such as meeting outside.
- The unexpected change in the program manager, as well as staffing changes.
- SCHN continues to serve the population that needs their services and works with community partners to ensure accurate and helpful contributions in the community.
- Data information was presented pertaining to the number of HIV tests, naloxone distributed, and total heroin samples tested along with meth sampling done July 2019 - June 2020.
- Approximately 176 lives were saved by reversal overdose treatment during this time.

Board member Donald Moore complimented Sarah on SCHN's community pride and involvement. He asked what the primary barrier might be to SCHN. Sarah stated just making community members aware of their services is a challenge; more visibility of these services would be very helpful. Bob Benvenuto stated he thinks there is a significant increase in the number of individuals participating in the program. As client services increase, so will the need for resources. Donald recommended Sarah connect with other agencies, including some of the people attending the Board meeting for additional needed resources and collaboration efforts.

#### Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association (SCHRA)

Danielle Harwell, SCHRA Project Director updated the Board regarding the following data:

- SCHRA does prevention intervention to prevent the spread of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases by distributing condoms and STI flyers, including on-site medical education.
- Hepatitis A and flu vaccines are also given to clients if needed.
- Access to services and treatment; referrals to substance use disorder treatment including medication assisted treatment, mental health, and medical care.
- SCHRA is diligent in maintaining open lines of communication with the clients they serve.
- Danielle highlighted volunteer training; safety protocols and education to safely serve clients.
- Data was given regarding clients served:
  - Total Clients – 2, 222 as of July 31, 2020
  - 9% military veterans
  - 50% Hispanic/Latino
  - 42% White/Caucasian
  - 4% Native American
  - 4% African American, Pacific Islander and multi-racial
  - 44.3% female
  - 55.5% male
  - 0.09% transgender
  - Clients range between 19-65+ in age
- Number of syringes and supplies used from July 2019-2020, including annual comparison.
- Danielle presented data for Naloxone and Fentanyl test strips distributed and discussed training for use provided to clients.
- Approximately 140 lives were saved from reversal overdose treatment during this time.

Board President Donald Moore thanked Danielle for a very informative presentation. Michael Nerenberg commented on the number of lives saved from overdose by both SCHRA and SCHN. Randy Evetts asked if there was a significant overlap of services by both agencies. It was said approximately 75 percent of clients have used both agencies at one time or the other. Sarah Money stated she would like to see this percent looked at more closely to see what the actual overlap might be. Donald Moore asked how the number of returned syringe rates in this community compares to other similar communities. Mike Nerenberg stated nationwide, statistically any rate over 60 percent is a good return rate. Board member Garrison Ortiz asked if there was overlap regarding the number of returned syringes. Sarah Money stated she thinks there is definitely overlap of syringe returns from both agencies. Donald Moore thanked Board member Michael Nerenberg for his involvement in this community need. Donald also complimented both Sarah and Danielle for very informative presentations.

#### 2020 Budget Revisions

Budget and Finance Director Georgia Alfonso will present the 2020 Budget revisions to the Board at the September BOH meeting. Donald asked why revise the budget instead of just reporting on the variance.

Georgia stated the auditors require a revised budget presentation to the Board, due to the large dollar amounts received from programs for COVID response such as the CARES Act, ELC through CDPHE, etc. that will affect the current budget.

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

**COVID-19 Update**

- The Department has been busy hiring additional staff members to respond to COVID-19 response.
- The testing site has been temporarily relocated just outside the fairgrounds until the Fair is over; at that time the testing site will move back to its original location inside the fairgrounds.
- The testing site is currently averaging 155 tests per day, but dropped slightly in August.
- PDPHE is working with MAKO Medical to take over the COVID-19 testing site; discussion will also take place with the City and County about this change.
- An additional saliva 'rapid' test is being validated in the next month or so for use.
- Recent Outbreaks:
  - August 24 outbreak at a construction site involved a number of subcontractors from various counties; many have tested positive. Because the contractors are from multiple counties, this is a cross-jurisdictional situation both CDPHE and PDPHE are working on together.
  - Belmont Lodge Health Care Center.
  - Two separate Taco Bell locations in Pueblo.
- There has been a decrease in number of positive cases at the state level, but a slight increase in hospitalizations.
- The reproductive rate of the virus is still below 1 in the state, with social distancing estimated at about 79%.
- Primary increase in COVID cases is for ages 20-50 years old. At the state level, there has been a slight decrease in COVID cases between 0-9 years old.
- The state is working to expand its capacity for testing and has added additional labs to support the overflow to increase the turnaround time for test results.

Board member Eileen Dennis asked if anything special is being done for the schools as they begin to open up. As the new school year begins, the Department has identified multidisciplinary teams for each school district made up of a public health nurse, a communicable disease specialist, environmental health specialist, an epidemiologist is available for consult if needed, in addition to the Department's Public Information Officer. If the schools make a request for activation of the team, the planned response time is within 30 minutes. The MAKO Medical labs will also be available for fast-track testing if needed. At the state level, a response system is also being developed.

Eileen asked if private testing sites were also reporting their numbers to the state. Randy responded yes; all of the numbers are reported to the state reporting system.

Michael Nerenberg asked about the positive reporting test ~~results~~ **rates** (Minutes amended at 9-23-20 BOH meeting) during the daily briefings. He also wondered if there has been any upsurge in cases due to people who attended the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota. Randy stated he has no information pertaining to the people who attended the motorcycle rally. He also noted the Department is giving weekly updates on its website including the percent of positive cases; overall the state is averaging approximately 2-3% positive cases.

Board member Garrison Ortiz asked about the state of the Pueblo County variance. The variance process developed by the state is being adjusted to make the numbers more relevant. Pueblo's number of positive cases is low enough to ensure the variance currently stays in place. Garrison stated the County not only looks at the number of positive cases reported, but also the number of people tested, including the number of hospitalizations. Numbers reported by both hospitals are looked at daily.

Donald Moore said the state has a good data portal that reports the different variables in the different counties. Donald commended the Department, including the community, for coming together to help lower the COVID-19 rates in Pueblo County. Voluntary compliance is vital, but some complaints continue regarding the validity of the public health orders by some businesses, including mask

requirements and people failing to comply. The Department is working with the Pueblo D.A. and issuing injunctions and tickets for businesses who fail to comply. Randy stated overall the Pueblo community is doing a good job of following the issued public health orders. Board members also commended Pueblo's community for doing a good job of compliance and stated it is paying off according to the current statistics.

General Updates

BOH Meeting Dates for November and December

The Board was asked if they wanted to move either the November or December Board meeting dates, due to the holidays. The following meeting date will be moved due to the Thanksgiving holiday:

- Currently scheduled: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 – move to Tuesday November 24, 2020.

**MOVED** by Eileen Dennis, seconded by Michael Nerenberg, to move the November BOH to Tuesday, November 24, 2020.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- Currently scheduled: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 - the December Board meeting will remain as normally scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of the month.

G. Division Reports

Operations and Health Promotion Division

Financial and Contract Cost Reports

Financial reports for the end of June 2020, were presented to the Board. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$50,442.58. Garrison Ortiz asked if the County budget request will increase. Georgia stated the budget request from the City and County will remain the same except for COVID expense funding.

**MOVED** by Garrison Ortiz, seconded by Michael Nerenberg, to accept the monthly financial report as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**CONTRACTS:**

<b><u>Opioid Education Data to Action*</u></b>	<b><u>9/1/2020 – 8/31/2021</u></b>	<b><u>\$91,933</u></b>
--	------------------------------------	------------------------

This a contract between CDPHE and PDPHE. This program is to continue to provide support to reduce opioid misuse and overdose by using existing data to inform evidence-based health approaches. No addition FTE will be hired. No legal review is required since it is an amendment to the contract with only date and amount changes (Task Order 2020\*3583 Amendment #1).

**MOVED** by Eileen Dennis, seconded by Ed Brown, to approve the above contract as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Extension request for Audit Submission to the State Auditors**

Mitch Downs, the Audit Partner for PDPHE, discovered an error with NOTE 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan, regarding the calculations illustrating the effect of PDPHE's pension share if the discount rate changed by 1% either direction.

A copy of PDPHE's annual audit is required to be submitted to the Colorado Office of the State Auditor by July 31, 2020. The correction required an extension to be requested. The extension was approved. It required an extension request form to be signed by a member of the governing body and submitted with PDPHE's audit to the Office of the State Auditors.

**MOVED** by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Ed Brown, to approve Board action to sign and send the extension request as explained above.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**INFORMATION ON OTHER CONTRACTS OR FUNDING:**

**WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program                      10/1/20 – 9/30/21                      \$250,951**

This contract is between the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and PDPHE. This contract is to extend the funding to improve initiation and duration of breastfeeding amongst low income women within Colorado. No additional staff will be hired. There is an increase in funding of \$32,733 to cover the replacement of computers and to cover the cost of additional hours due to increased case load. The Contract Amendment #1 requires no action by the Board or legal review (Contract Amendment #1 2021\*2070).

**Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness (EHEP) Division**

**HUD Grant Update**

Program Manger Aaron Martinez gave a HUD grant update to the Board. The Department was awarded the HUD grant in March 2019 and partnered with NeighborWorks to carry out lead abatement in homes not only in the EPA superfund area, but throughout Pueblo County. This program has faced several challenges to launch including the attrition of multiple program managers, lack of contractors with appropriate state qualifications to do abatement work, and COVID-19. PDPHE staff member, Desiree Mondragon, has taken over the grant deliverables to ensure the program is a success. Some houses are now qualified for abatement, but finding qualified contractors has been difficult. Pueblo and Denver are the only cities pulling permits from the state for abatement. A 'contract training' was offered in March, but certification is also needed by the state. This certification is currently on hold due to COVID-19. A certified contractor from Denver was contacted, but wanted much more than the \$10,000/per house that is budgeted for abatement. The Department is currently working with a certified contractor from Colorado Springs; just waiting for the permit from the state to come through.

This grant has been extremely challenging, but Aaron continues to push to make this a successful program. Due to the challenges, Aaron offered to return the funding to HUD, but HUD understands the challenges and wants to continue working with PDPHE. Extensions will be offered to the Department in order to ensure this program is a success, due to the response needed for COVID-19. EHEP Division Director Jody Carrillo added the HUD grant was applied for because of the need in the community. Jody acknowledged Aaron's hard work to keep trying to make this a successful program for community members and the health benefits to the families who will receive these services. HUD is having issues with how strict the grant guidelines throughout the country are, but with enough fortitude this will become a successful program. Board member Ed Brown stated he attends the Eilers' neighborhood meetings and commended the Department for continuing to participate in the community meetings.

H. **Unfinished Business**

None

I. **New Business**

None

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

**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