

## **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 **Tuesday, November 24, 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 **October 28, 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 pm - **Division Reports**

### **Operations & Health Promotion Division**

- Monthly Financial Report – Georgia Alfonso **(Action Required)**
  - Contracts – Georgia Alfonso **(Action Required)**
  - Supplemental COVID-19 Budget Request
- F. 12:30 – 12:50 pm – **Public Health Director’s Report**
    - Public Health Order Resolution
    - COVID-19 Update
    - General Updates
  - G. 12:50 – 12:55 pm – **Unfinished Business**
  - H. 12:55- 1:00 pm – **New Business**

**ADJOURN**

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  
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, Sarah Joseph, Chad Wolgram, Ayanna Marshall, Sarah Martinez, Kim Sugar, Chelsea Hollowell, Zak Van Ooyen, Aaron Martinez

**Guests:** Irene Kornelly, *Chair - Colorado Citizens Advisory Commission for Chemical Weapons Demilitarization*

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 Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Eileen Dennis, to approve the Agenda.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. **Approval of Minutes**

**MOVED** by Eileen Dennis, seconded by Ed Brown, to approve the September 23, 2020, BOH meeting minutes as submitted.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. **Special Recognitions/Celebrations**

- WIC Educator Pam Torres was recognized for her 35 years of service to the Department. Congratulations Pam!
- Katie Davis has been appointed to the Deputy Director position. Congratulations Katie!
- Donald Moore acknowledged what a stressful time it has been for staff members lately and said to let everyone know to 'hang in there.'

D. **Public Comment**

None

E. **Special Presentations**

**Chemical Demilitarization Update**

Irene Kornelly, Chair for the Colorado Citizens Advisory Commission for Chemical Weapons Demilitarization, updated the Board regarding activities at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) facility reached three major milestones in 2020:

1. All of the 4.2 mortars were reconfigured and await destruction.
2. All of the 155mm projectiles have been destroyed.
3. Part B RCRA permit and the Pueblo County Certificate of Designation were approved.

To date, 295,677 weapons stored at the Depot have been destroyed and 67.7 percent of the agent originally stored at the Depot is also gone. Three hundred and forty-four 155mm projectiles have been

overpacked and await destruction; the same is true of 388 105mm projectiles and 87 4.2 mortars. Over 94 million gallons of water has been processed through the facility and returned to the facility for reuse.

The Biotreatment area continues to operate. This process will continue while the facility is experiencing changeover from 155mm projectiles to 105mm projectiles. Changeover of the PCAPP facility began even before the last 155mm projectile was destroyed.

Static Detonation Chambers (SDC)

- Construction of the three SDCs is complete.
- Systemization and start-up activities have begun.
- Training and certification for operators has begun.
- Permitting is on-going with the hopes a draft permit will be issued by CDPHE late in 2020 or early 2021.
- PCAPP hopes to begin trial burns in the summer of 2021 at the SDCs.

To date, 146 personnel were tested for COVID-19 at PCAPP; 19 were positive and quarantined at home, as hospitalization was not required. Eleven individuals have returned to work and eight are still at home. It has been determined those who were positive came into contact with COVID at either family gatherings, bars, etc.

Discussion has begun with PuebloPlex, Pueblo County, the Restoration Advisory Board, and the Citizens' Advisory Commission concerning the closure of PCAPP and what real and personal property can be transferred to the community. Congress is requiring a report be due to them by February 2021 concerning this transfer. No contaminated property will be transferred to the community.

Ed Brown thanked Irene for her work on this project, as he attends the community meetings. Donald Moore asked what the timeline for completion of the weapons destruction is. Irene stated Congress has mandated the operations be concluded by December 31, 2023, followed by 18 to 24 months of closure operations.

Dr. Urbina thanked Irene for her continued efforts and stated he wants to continue the connection through Irene to assist with COVID containment at the Depot. Irene stated the Depot is also working to limit the spread by encouraging social distancing, wearing masks at the Depot, as well as when not working, limiting size of meetings or using zoom, etc.

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

*Financial and Contract Cost Reports*

Financial reports for the end of September 2020, were presented to the Board. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$237,051,29.

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

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**INFORMATION ON OTHER CONTRACTS OR FUNDING:**

<b><i>FDA Tobacco Compliance</i></b>	<b><i>10/15/2020 – 9/29/2021</i></b>	<b><i>\$419,457.20</i></b>
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This contract is between the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and PDPHE. This contract is to enforce the Family Smoking Prevention & Tobacco Control Act by conducting assigned compliance inspections in identified region(s) to check tobacco retailer compliance with Federal regulations restricting the sale, distribution, access to, and the advertising and labeling of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco to children and adolescents. No Board of Health action is required. Legal review pending. (Task Order 2021\*2928)

Garrison Ortiz informed the Board the County is currently working on their budget. There are some items that will impact the County's budget, but overall, the County is in good shape. Additional COVID restrictions could affect the County sales and property taxes; it is a balancing act.

G. **Public Health Director's Report**  
**2021-2023 Strategic Plan**

Randy updated the Board about the Department's Strategic Plan. The action plan will take place in the next few months. The plan is being reviewed one year at a time to cover the course of three years: 2021-2023. This process helps identify needs and objectives of the plan, as well as get feedback on goals and objectives. Randy highlighted, for Board members, the goals and objectives under two focus areas in the Strategic Plan: Population Health and Organizational Excellence. The next steps are for teams to create the action plans for year one and finalize the narrative. The implementation of the new Strategic Plan will begin in January 2021.

Randy asked for feedback on the strategic plan goals and objectives. Donald Moore stated he likes the workforce section of the Strategic Plan, under Organizational Excellence, as recruiting health care workers is very important, yet hard to do. Garrison Ortiz stated he is impressed with the work staff members have put into the plan while carrying on with the COVID-19 response. Michael Nerenberg pointed out objective #3, which pertains to implementing strategies to address health inequities among marginal populations and noted this issue will require 'out of the box' strategies. Deputy Director Katie Davis stated the Department is looking at the vulnerable population and agreed with Dr. Nerenberg's comment. Katie asked for ideas for creating the action plan, which can then be discussed by the group responsible for this part. Looking at areas where there can be some impact is important. Dr. Nerenberg stated small things such as vaccinations, etc. have a big impact on the vulnerable population as it continues to grow.

Eileen Dennis stated she likes calling out 'equity,' as it is important to have quality, as well as equity and to look at all of the different work going on as things move forward. Dr. Urbina state he has looked at many strategic plans from other counties and he is impressed with the balance of both population health, as well as internal reflection. He is excited to work with health equity issues and environmental justice; these are core issues to assist communities to be healthier. Ed Brown asked why vaccination rates are not at 100 percent. Dr. Urbina stated having a state vaccination rate of 93 percent is a good rate, as there are a lot of other factors such as a small percent of exemptions, timing, etc. Accessibility can also be a small factor. Program Manager Zak Van Ooyen stated getting providers on board for the Colorado Immunization Information System will help fill the gaps on immunizations records to increase the immunization rates in Pueblo County, which is currently at a 90.5 percent.

Donald Moore inquired if Randy has heard anything about changes to the timeline for reaccreditation. Randy stated at this time, the Department is currently on schedule for reaccreditation as planned for the end of 2021 or the beginning of 2022; this could be subject to change in the future.

**COVID-19 Update**

- COVID rates in Pueblo have increased to 357 per 100,000, which is in the 'stay at home' metrics of the COVID dial
- Positivity rates are over five percent
- Hospitalization rates are also increasing; to date there are 32 people hospitalized with COVID symptoms
- The Department met with CDPHE to work on a mitigation plan; if mitigation efforts are not successful, Pueblo County could be moved to level 3 or more; Pueblo is currently is at level 2
- Transmission rate is currently at 65 percent
- It is predicted by November 15, hospitalization rates will go up to where they were in April 2020
- The state estimates currently, approximately 45,000 people in Colorado are infected with COVID-19
- Mortality rates have improved; previously people admitted into hospitals were at 15.3 percent and statewide the rate has dropped to 4.1 percent
- More hospitalizations of younger patients are being seen, but locally Parkview's average COVID patient is 66 years old
- Locally, St. Mary-Corwin is the facility that will be used as the alternative site. This will be a state-run step-down facility to help decompress hospitals in Pueblo and across the region.
- Other counties are also 'moving on the dial' to different levels as cases increase
- Staffing needs are also being reviewed and will be reviewed with the Board in November

General Updates

If public health orders need to be implemented, Randy can, as the Public Health Director, in a declared emergency, issue public health orders without Board approval. Randy would still like to have a written resolution, approved by the Board, in place even in a 'nonemergency' situation. Donald Moore asked about the process for writing a public health order. Marci Day stated there is currently no policy in place. Randy is drafting public health orders, which will then be reviewed by Marci, Dr. Urbina, and various elected officials.

Michael Nerenberg asked if there have been any flu cases in the community yet. Randy stated he understands there have been some reports of flu to date. Michael also asked how long it takes before St. Mary-Corwin, as the overflow site for patients, is ready to accept patients if needed. If St. Mary-Corwin's alternative site, which is separate from the hospital, needs to be activated, the order will be given by the state and takes about two to four weeks to prepare for patients. The state alternative care sites will be staffed by the state or a contractor of the state. Randy also informed the Board local officials are trying to minimize the impact on local small businesses. Closing businesses is a last resort. Some citations and tickets have been issued to businesses, but overall mandates are being adhered to. Garrison Ortiz stated the goal is to have a mitigation plan to enhance enforcement if necessary, to include civil or criminal action if mandates are not followed. At this point the County is working to get cooperation from all local businesses to avoid stricter enforcement steps.

Michael Nerenberg said he has also heard the federal government has plans to get vaccine distributed once it has been approved and asked about planning strategies the Department is taking. Department staff members have been participating in calls to discuss how to receive and store the vaccine when it becomes available. Storing the vaccine is a large concern. There are different tier phases planned for vaccine distribution in the future. It is not anticipated the Department will actually be giving the shots, but have local pharmacies, Urgent Care Centers, etc. give the vaccine depending on the tier phase. Dr. Urbina stated the Department might be more in the role of facilitation instead of actual vaccination, but plans depend on federal level, as well as state level guidance/instruction.

H. Unfinished Business

None

I. New Business

None

J. The next regular BOH meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2020, at 12:00 noon by Zoom.

**MOVED** by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Garrison Ortiz, to adjourn the Board of Health meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



Donald Moore, Board of Health President



Randy Evetts, MPA, Public Health Director