

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, January 27, 2021, 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 **December 23, 2020 (Action Required)**
- C. 12:06 – 12:10 p.m. – **Special Recognitions/Celebrations**
- D. 12:10 - 12:15 p.m. - **Public Comment**
- E. 12:15 – 12:30 p.m. – **Special Presentation:** Community Health Assessment and Accreditation Updates –
Presenter: Shylo Dennison
- F. 12:30 – 12:45 p.m. – **Action Items**
 - Monthly Financial Report – Georgia Alfonso
 - Contracts – Georgia Alfonso
 - Sunshine Law – Randy Evetts
 - PDPHE Personnel Policies Approval – Denise DeNardo
 - PDPHE 2021 Proposed Holiday Schedule Approval – Denise DeNardo
- G. 12:45 - 1:00 p.m. - **Public Health Director's Report**
 - COVID-19 Update
 - General Updates
- H. 1:00 – 1:05 p.m. – **Unfinished Business**
- I. 1:05 - 1:10 p.m. – **New Business**
- J. 1:10 – 1:45 pm – **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.

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The Board of Health meeting was held by Zoom December 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
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

Medical Officer: Christopher Urbina, MD

Staff Members: Shylo Dennison, Sarah Joseph, Akemi Moore, Alicia Solis, Kim Sugar, Chad Wolgram

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 Ed Brown, to approve the Agenda.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Ed Brown, to approve the November 24 and December 17, 2020, BOH meeting minutes as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. **Special Recognitions/Celebrations**

- Randy thanked the Board for the support given to the Department during the COVID-19 response.

D. **Public Comment**

None

E. **Division Reports**

Operations and Health Promotion Division

Financial and Contract Cost Reports

Financial reports for the end of November 2020, were presented to the Board. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$660,679.38.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Contracts

No contracts to present this month.

2021 Budget

Budget and Finance Director Georgia Alfonso presented the 2021 Budget. The Department does not have CARES funding included in the 2021 budget; only known funding is included. Georgia reviewed

the 2021 budget changes in revenue and expenses with the Board.

- The change in County funding due to the following:
 - Receiving \$1,500,000 CARES funding in 2020, which was not extended into 2021
 - Decreased funding for the Trash Task Force program
- The change in City funding due to the following:
 - Decreased funding for the Trash Task Force program
- CDPHE funding did not change significantly, but did have the following changes in programs:
 - Community That Cares program pending notification of competitive grant status
 - Cancer Cardio, Pulmonary Disease Program is pending the competitive application process in the spring of 2021
 - Health Disparities program ends June 30, 2021
 - Received \$472,900 COVID-19 response funding in 2020.
 - Receiving \$845,759 COVID-19 response funding in 2021
- Change to Federal funding is due to the following:
 - Increase in HUD funding for 2021
 - Increase in FDA Tobacco Compliance for 2021 because it was suspended most of 2020 due to COVID-19
 - Funding received for a full year from the Health Resources and Services Administration for Regional Partnership grant
- Change in other grant funding is due to the following:
 - Decrease in funding received for the Pueblo Data Collection grant because start-up fees were in the first year of the grant
 - Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program – Temple Hoyne Buell – pending notification of grant status
 - Received funding in 2020 from Colorado Health Foundation for COVID-19 response
- The use of restricted funds is due to receiving the funding for programs in a prior year than the service being performed
- The increase in personnel expense is due to the following:
 - Maintaining the Compensation Plan - staff members below midpoint moving to midpoint accordingly and staff above midpoint receiving a 2.5% increase for 2021
 - Additional staff to support the COVID-19 response through Top Notch, a temporary placement agency
- Travel expenses have decreased
- Public education, supplies, and other expense will be less in 2021 because of the increase of purchases in these categories in 2020 to support COVID-19 response using CARES funding
- Capital expenditures decreased due to the following:
 - Purchasing cameras and a vehicle for the Trash Task Force in 2020
 - Purchasing a mobile clinic trailer in 2020
 - No capital expenditures are budgeted in 2021

Michael Nerenberg asked how many additional personnel have been hired for the COVID-19 response and asked if these additional personnel deployed to case investigation and contact tracing has been effective or if the personnel could be used differently to support prevention efforts. Georgia replied approximately 30 people have been hired through Top Notch agency. She also explained the duties assigned such as contact tracing, case investigation and compliance. Randy noted case investigation and contact tracing are one of the best tools for prevention. During the surge in November, however, the Department breached its capacity to do case investigation and contact tracing effectively. As the numbers decline, case investigators and contact tracers are able to do more extensive interviews and follow up, which will help to prevent the spread of the virus in the community. Maria and Randy informed Dr. Nerenberg of the efforts being made for contact tracing and investigation. Dr. Nerenberg asked about wastewater testing as a signal for COVID-19. Randy replied as a state, how to predict an outbreak through wastewater is just starting. The goal is to reach out to neighborhoods, where wastewater indicates a possible COVID-19 outbreak. Ed Brown and Eileen Dennis acknowledged the work the Department has been able to accomplish during the COVID-19 response.

Georgia also noted there has been a significant decrease of travel because of COVID-19. Capital expenditures have decreased. No capital expenditures are budgeted in 2021. Donald Moore asked as more knowledge is gained about the spread of the virus, does the Department have a strategy to redirect funds to use it as efficiently as possible. Georgia stated funding is only available to maintain the same response capacity through March 2021, unless additional funding is received. She also stated funding can be used as needs arise to ensure the response is as efficient as possible.

MOVED by Eileen Dennis, seconded by Ed Brown, to accept the 2021 budget as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. **2021-2023 Strategic Plan with 2021 Workplan**

Public Health Director Randy Evetts presented the 2021-2023 Strategic Plan with the 2021 Workplan to the Board. Randy reviewed the priority area Population Health and the two goals. He also discussed priority area Organizational Excellence and the two goals associated with that priority. Though it is a three-year Strategic Plan, the Department has developed only a one-year work plan to start recognizing the many uncertainties that lie ahead with the pandemic response. Donald Moore asked if the two priority areas and goals align with accreditation; Randy stated the priority areas/goals align very well. Shylo Dennison stated a lot of the areas highlighted are included in the strategic plan and align with reaccreditation. Randy's goal was to bring the goals and objectives down to a manageable size to accomplish during the COVID-19 response. Eileen concurred the plan looks doable. Randy acknowledged Public Health Planner Derek Coe and Program Manager Shylo Dennison for their leadership of the strategic planning process.

MOVED by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Ed Brown, to accept the Strategic Plan and one-year work plan as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

COVID-19 Update

Randy Evetts updated the Board regarding Colorado's COVID-19 pandemic response. The presentation included COVID-19 data trends in number of cases in Colorado reported to the CDC and how Colorado compares to neighboring states. Randy also reported on the death, outbreak, and positivity data from April-October, and November-December. There are now two community testing sites with expanded hours of operation in Pueblo County. Randy also reported on the walk-up testing site numbers in Beulah, Avondale, Rye, and the City of Pueblo. Randy informed the Board limited vaccine shipments arrived December 14-18, 2020, with information regarding vaccine allocation and distribution. The COVID-19 three vaccine distribution phases were also presented. Phase 3 – this summer is when people without high-risk conditions will probably receive the vaccine.

Michael Nerenberg asked about the efficacy of the vaccine in the elderly. Dr. Urbina stated it is too early to state if Pfizer or Moderna has more efficacy for the elderly. Donald Moore asked if it is known how long the vaccine can protect someone. Dr. Urbina stated it is too early to answer this question, only time can tell, but it is still important to get vaccinated. As of Monday, December 21, 848 vaccines have been given in Pueblo County. Randy also reported on the vaccine safety that was tested by scientists and approved by the FDA. Vaccine is free, so cost will not be an obstacle to getting vaccinated. Randy shared the state's philosophy which is 'saving the most lives as quickly as possible.' Eileen Dennis asked where schools fall in the order of the phases; Randy stated the state is considering moving the schools up from phase two to a higher tier in phase one. Garrison Ortiz stated people are commenting on the target of vaccine distribution and if people can go back to larger gathering this summer. Dr. Urbina stated until at least 70/85 percent of people are vaccinated, larger gatherings would not be advisable.

General Updates

- Marci Day shared with the Board, BUMPERZ in Pueblo West received a few tickets for failure to comply with the public health orders; a temporary restraining order was also filed. The attorney for BUMPERZ stated the business was closing down due to COVID-19. The court date has been moved to a continuance until January.

- The state announced syphilis has been flaring up in Pueblo County, as well as in other front range counties. Donald Moore asked if Dr. Urbina knew the cause for the rise in this disease. Dr. Urbina stated right before COVID-19 hit, a syphilis campaign was scheduled to launch due to the rise in cases of this disease. In the spring/summer of 2021 PDPHE will resume regarding syphilis.
- COVID-19 numbers are going down, but Pueblo must reach a lower rate of positivity before the county can go back to orange on the COVID-19 dial. Pueblo is currently red on the dial. There is concern as the Christmas holiday is this weekend and family gatherings are still predicted, there will be another spike in cases.
- Dr. Urbina did a Facebook fireside chat about prioritizing treatment for COVID-19 patients when the hospitals become overwhelmed; these are very tough decisions that might have to be made if cases increase.

Donald Moore commented on a compelling newspaper article featuring pulmonary fellowships and the challenges they face each day with COVID-19 patients. Eileen Dennis concurred that such decisions are a real possibility should hospitals become overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients and life/death decisions become necessary due to limited resources.

H. **Unfinished Business**
None

I. **New Business**
None

The next regular BOH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 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