

A Special Board of Health meeting was held by Zoom April 13, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.

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: Cynthia Mitchell, Assistant County Attorney

Administrative Staff

Members Present: Randy Evetts, Public Health Director
Katie Davis, Deputy Director
Georgia Alfonso, Budget and Finance Director
Maria Telfer, Community Health Services Division
Jody Carrillo, Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness Division Director
Ramona Chisman-Ewing, Executive Assistant

Medical Officer: Christopher Urbina, MD

Staff Members: Vicki Carlton, Dan Gallegos, Sarah Joseph, Ayanna Marshall, Alicia Solis, Chad Wolgram, Aaron Martinez

Guests: Leslie Barnes, *CEO Parkview Medical Center*
Mike Cafasso *CEO St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center*
Troy Davenport, Kenny Rider, *Pueblo Police Department*
Sabina Genesio, *Pueblo County Manager*
Nick Gradisar, *Pueblo County Mayor*
Laura Solano, *City Chief of Staff*
Kirk Taylor, Justin Hall, Mark Mears, Corinne Montoya, Gayle Perez, Ashton Rinker, *Pueblo County Sheriff's Office*
Adam Uhernik, *Pueblo County Public Information Officer*
FOX21 News, Brandon Seffrood
KKTV - KOAA News, Carl Winder
KRDO News, Dan Beedie, Bart, Shelby Filangi
KXRM, Brandon Sheffrood

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 Garrison Ortiz, seconded by Michael Nerenberg, to approve the Agenda.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. **Public Health Order-Local COVID-19 Restrictions**

Board President Donald Moore opened the Board meeting stating the purpose of today's meeting is to discuss a Public Health Order (PHO) recommendation from Public Health Director Randy Evetts. The Order is being presented to ensure there is continuity as the COVID-19 response control shifts from the state to local counties.

Public Health Director Randy Evetts informed the Board on Friday, April 16, 2021, local public health officials will make guidelines and restrictions to standardize different levels of COVID-19 restrictions necessary based on the extent of transmissions in an area. This is necessary due to the Governor's intent to transfer control from the state to the local counties. Randy recommended and presented a draft Public Health Order (PHO) to ensure Pueblo County does not have gap in policy when the Governor transfers control. The PHO adopts the current COVID-19 dial with some modifications. Randy highlighted some of the items listed in the PHO:

- Outdoor activities involving groups of less than 500 people shall not be subject to the restrictions on the Covid-19 Dial.
- Any outdoor events involving more than 500 people will require a plan review and PDPHE approval.
- Businesses that are certified through the 5-Star Certification Program are not required to follow the six feet distancing requirements and may operate at capacity restrictions one level higher than the current level of restrictions within the County, with the exception of Level Purple.
- PDPHE reserves the right to modify as needed any level of the COVID-19 Dial and Pueblo County's placement on the dial based upon the unique circumstances and metrics of Pueblo County.

Randy stated this PHO is a 'short-term bridge' until vaccination rates increase. The intent is to prevent the local hospital capacity from being overwhelmed. The end date in the PHO is May 15, 2021, and it can be modified and/or extended based upon weekly evaluations. Hospitalization rates for COVID-19 will be a key factor into this decision.

Board President Donald Moore asked for comments from those present:

- Mayor Gradisar stated it will be important to keep an eye on the numbers in order to determine the color of the COVID-19 dial at a local level. The Mayor also stated it is important citizens should obtain vaccinations to bring the pandemic under control, so the community and economy can fully re-open.
- Board member Commissioner Garrison Ortiz stated this is a community decision and plan. Any action by one entity affects another. It is important not to overwhelm the local hospitals. Garrison stated this should be a seamless transition from state to local control in a responsible way and is to be taken very seriously. Overall, Garrison is pleased with the collaboration among local entities and the focus of getting people vaccinated.
- Board member Michael Nerenberg asked Randy to describe the procedure the Board of Health will follow to amend the PHO. Public Health Director Randy Evetts stated the PHO is PDPHE's responsibility and authority, but decisions would not be made in isolation. There is a weekly meeting with elected officials, law enforcement, the County Attorney, PDPHE staff members, and the Board of Health President to review the pandemic status, share information, and provide Randy with guidance. Randy utilizes this input to develop recommendations to the Board of Health. County Attorney Cynthia Mitchell stated that is the purpose of the meeting today. Randy also stated the Board would be informed of any changes to the Dial made under the scope of the recommended PHO. Cynthia Mitchell noted Public Health Director Randy Evetts has the authority to make immediate changes to the Order in the event of preventing imminent harm to public health and safety.

Donald Moore asked the Board members for additional comment, questions, or concerns, and all members expressed comfort with the Public Health Order as presented.

MOVED by Eileen Dennis, seconded by, Michael Nerenberg, to adopt the Public Health Order as presented.


The next regular BOH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at 12:00 noon by Zoom.

MOVED by Garrison Ortiz, 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