

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 public may make any public comments by email to Executive Assistant Ramona Chisman-Ewing, at mona.ewing@pueblocounty.us.

The Board of Health meeting will be held **Wednesday, May 26, 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 - 12:05 p.m. – Approval of Board of Health Meeting Minutes held **April 28, May 12, May 17, 2021** (**Action Required**)
- C. 12:05 – 12:10 p.m. – **Public Forum**
- D. 12:05 - 12:20 p.m. – **Action Items**
 - Monthly Financial Report – Georgia Alfonso
 - Contracts – Georgia Alfonso
 - Medical Officer Contract – Randy Evetts
- E. 12:20-12:35 p.m. **Special Presentation:** Clinical Service Update: **Immunizations** – Zak Van Ooyen
- F. 12:35 - 12:50 p.m. – **BOH Updates**
 - COVID-19 Public Health Order Update
 - Legislative Updates- Katie Davis
 - Public Health Director Report – Randy Evetts
- H. 12:50 – 12:55 p.m. – **Unfinished Business**
- I. 12:55 - 1:00 p.m. – **New Business**
 - BOH Work Session June 2, 2021, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
 - HIPAA Hybrid Designation- Pros and Cons
 - Model Aquatic Health Code Resolution

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The Board of Health meeting was held by Zoom April 28, 2021, 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
Katie Davis, Deputy Director
Georgia Alfonso, Budget and Finance Director
Jody Carrillo, Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness Division Director
Denise DeNardo, Human Resources
Maria Telfer, Community Health Services Division Director
Ramona Chisman-Ewing, Executive Assistant

Staff Members: Vicki Carlton, Shylo Dennison, Sarah Joseph, Cathy Sanchez, Kelli Sindeband, Kim Sugar, Zak Van Ooyen, Chad Wolgram

Guest: Gene Wilcoxson, *Public Health Champion*

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**

MOVED by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Eileen Dennis, to approve the March 24, April 13, and April 19, 2021, BOH meeting minutes as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. **Special Recognitions/Celebrations**

Public Health Director Randy Evetts announced Gene Wilcoxson has been selected as the recipient of the 2021 public Health Champion Award. Gene has been a Medical Reserve Corp volunteer for many years, assisted during emergency response to wildfires, and most recently Gene has volunteered numerous hours over the past year to assist with the COVID-19 pandemic response. People who nominated Gene stated he showed up no matter the elements, lifted up the whole team spirit at the mass vaccination site, and filled numerous roles, from the Joint Information Center, to the COVID-19 testing clinics, to the mass vaccination site. He demonstrated extraordinary leadership, passion, and heart for serving Pueblo's community. People stated Gene is positive, friendly, and respectful of the safety of people he works with and demonstrates good communication, a positive attitude and teamwork on a regular basis. He exemplified professionalism and helped alleviate people's fears when they came to get their COVID-19 shot. Congratulations and thank you Gene, for your commitment to public health!

D. **Public Comment**

None

E. **Program Reports**

Financial and Contract Cost Reports

Financial reports for the end of March 2021, were presented to the Board. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$278,292.39. As funding continues to be received for the COVID-19 response, the

Department's budget will be impacted in a positive way. Georgia also reviewed the Department's assets, liabilities, and fund balance with the Board. The Department used a substantial amount of restricted funds because the funding was received last year and is being spent this year. Georgia also informed the Board the Department was reimbursed \$500,000.00 in CARES funding from the County for expenses incurred in 2020 for the COVID-19 response.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Contracts

HB 1451 MOU **7/1/2021 – 6/30/2022** **\$0**

This contract is for the County Department of Human Services/Social Services to enter into memorandums of understanding with specific agencies for the purpose of promoting a collaborative system of local-level interagency oversight groups and individualized services and support teams to coordinate and manage the provision of services to children and families who would benefit from integrated multi-agency services. Legal review approved.

MOVED by Eileen Dennis, seconded by Michael Nerenberg, to accept the above contract as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. COVID-19 Public Health Order (PHO) Update

Public Health Director Randy Evetts gave the Board an update regarding Covid-19

- The state of Colorado is seeing an increase in COVID-19 rates across the state.
- Transmission control has dropped to 51 percent across the state; part of the increase could be due to the COVID-19 variants.
- As a result of increased rates, there has been increased hospitalizations in Colorado.
- Approximately 45 to 49 percent of Pueblo citizens have received their first does and only about 32 percent have received their second dose.
- In the last seven days there have been approximately 524 cases; in the last 14 days, about 914 cases.
- Positivity rates are still below the five percent mark.
- An increase in hospitalizations is a concern for Parkview Medical Center; a backup plan is in place to transfer patients to other facilities if necessary.
- St. Mary Corwin Medical Center is transferring COVID-19 patients through their system they have in place.
- The 'dial' was approved April 19 and expires May 15, 2021. Depending on the rates, the dial may be modified if necessary. The challenge is to keep rates down and encourage people to get vaccinated.

Board President Donald Moore stated when the dial expires, thought will have to be given as to what direction public health go locally. He asked attorney Marci Day if the BOH has to take action or if the PHO automatically expires. Marci stated she thinks it just expires, and no affirmative action is required of the Board, but she will check to ensure this is correct. Garrison also asked when the local PHO expires, if the state's PHO remains in place and Marci stated that is correct. Eileen Dennis stated the CDC has started to concentrate on people who are vaccinated such as what people need to abide by if they are vaccinated; this is like a small 'reward' for people who have been vaccinated. Michael Nerenberg also stated since CDC is approving people, who have been vaccinated, going without masks in certain instances, so possibly encouraging businesses to require patrons to be vaccinated in order to receive services; if you are vaccinated, you are allowed to do more. He also stated vaccination rates are decreasing, so now we should go into neighborhoods to vaccinate people; going door-to-door might be an idea to increase vaccinate rates. He asked if there is value to showing, by age on a day-to-day basis, who is getting sick and who is getting hospitalized to have an impact locally. Public Health Director Randy Evetts replied, all of the strategies Michel Nerenberg mentioned are being done (going door-to-door, schools, churches, etc.) to increase rates; trying to make the process convenient is important. Across

the state the largest increase in cases is in the zero to 19-year-old population. Hospitalization rates is in the 20 to 50-year-old range. However, in Pueblo, it is people older than 65, who chose not to be vaccinated, that are being hospitalized. Garrison Ortiz stated the number one concern is to avoid overwhelming the local healthcare system and across the state. He stated it is important to know the number of beds available, and at what number is considered a public health crisis. Randy stated local hospitals met with outlying hospitals and at this stage local patients can be transferred to UC health and other facilities if capacity increases. Due to the outlying hospitals capacity, this is a hard number to solidify; it is on a case-by-case basis each day. Garrison stated he thinks using the word 'dial and colors,' seems to be losing its effectiveness. Using the simplified dial that was adopted April 19, 2021, seems to be the most effective message to the general public. Garrison stated it is hard to set specific regulations/guidelines, as this seems to be a 'wait and see' issue with the state. After some discussion, some Board members stated it is important to encourage people to get their COVID-19 shot and make the message simple and easy to understand in order to enforce regulations/guidelines. Eileen Dennis stated it is important to put a positive message out there such as if you are vaccinated, you get to do more than people who are not vaccinated. Eileen stated it is more about messaging than enforcement and keep the message simple. Ed Brown stated it is important people realize hospital beds are in short supply if they do get sick. Donald Moore summarized it is important to keep an eye on the data and stay engaged with community members to convey correct, concise, and important information to the general public.

G. **Special Presentations**

WIC; Breastfeeding Peer Counselor; Baby and Me Tobacco Free (BMTF) Program Updates

WIC Program Manager Chelsea Hollowell gave a snapshot of the staffing, partnerships with rural counties, COVID-19 changes/challenges the WIC program has experienced and what the priorities are moving forward. Priority #1: Increase COWIC enrollment using outreach, community partner referral projects, and managing referral platform, and participate in Unite Colorado. Priority #2: Reduce early exits from WIC: Refer a friend, increasing breastfeeding rates by promoting WIC support, telehealth appointments, consistent training via updated WIC guide, collaborate with community partners, explore co-locations to address client's access to WIC, increase and focus social media presence. Priority #3: Track lowest three redeemed foods for WIC and target recipes for educational purposes, promote food list changes to clients, and pilot for Farmer's Market Program. Moving forward WIC will continue to be a Mother's Milk Bank Donation site, Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act, and use data and staff member input to determine future projects. Chelsea also inform the Board the BMTF program is a single site in Pueblo for this program and as of April 15, 2021, will be transitioning to a centralized telehealth model; staff members will continue with current clients through March of 2022, when the grant will end. Eileen Dennis complimented WIC for using gathered data in an effective way to plan for the future. She also asked how many farms have agreed to partner with the Farmer's Market Pilot Program. Chelsea stated at this point only one farm has agreed to participate. Donald Moore asked if the Department's WIC program assists with outlying WIC agencies. Chelsea stated yes, the Department does assist other outlying county WIC sites such as Las Animas-Huerfano and Baca County. Donald Moore also stated amidst the COVID-19 crisis, core programs, such as WIC, continue to move forward with services for clients. Randy Evetts stated the WIC program aligns with the Department's strategic plan and uses data to map for the future.

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

General Updates

Public Health Director Randy Evetts informed the Board of the following Department updates:

- Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) is moving under Deputy Director Katie Davis' scope of work and out of Environmental Health. COVID-19 clarified EPR not just one area's function, but is an overall Department function.
- Training for Department Managers regarding Human Resources is taking place May 4, 2021. The goal is to offer more in-house training, so Managers have more tools to use day-to-day at their disposal when needed.
- Accreditation progress is being made. At the end of March, 70 percent of all documents have been completed; the benchmark was 61 percent. Also, three domains out of 12 domains have completed 100 percent of their accreditation documentation.

I. **Deputy Director's Report**

Deputy Director Katie Davis updated the Board regarding the latest public health legislative bills CALPHO (Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials) is monitoring. Katie highlighted some of the bills of interest on the list for the Board:

- HB21-1107 makes it unlawful for a person to make available on the internet personal information of a public health worker, or the worker's family, if the dissemination of the information poses an imminent and serious threat to the official's or worker's safety or their family. It also allows people to remove their personal information for public venues. This bill seems likely to pass in the near future.
- SB 21-137: CALPHO is actively supporting this bill regarding behavioral health.
- HB 21-1115 pertains to regulation of members of Boards of Health – this bill requires CDPHE develop guidance on recruiting people to serve on county and district boards of health and provide guidance to any board of county commissioners, county board of health, or district board of health that request it. CALPHO has not taken a position on this bill.
- HB21-1276 requires health benefit plan issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2023, to provide coverage for nonpharmacological treatment as an alternative to opioids.
- HB21-1191 prohibits an employer, including a licensed health facility, from taking adverse action against an employee or applicant for employment based on the employee's or applicant's COVID-19 immunization status.

Michael Nerenberg expressed concern about HB21-1276 and cutting supply of opioids before demand just drives people to more dangerous use. He stated this is a dangerous approach, because opioids become unavailable, and people turn to street drugs for their addiction. This bill is looking at alternatives to opioid prescriptions.

Donald More asked about SB21-243: (CDPHE Appropriation Public Health Infrastructure) is this bill being considered for sustainability for the next three years. Katie stated the funding for this bill has already been allocated, but it still needs to pass. This could double the Department's percapita funding for the next three years, but strict restrictions are also attached to the funding if received.

J. **Unfinished Business**

None

K. **New Business**

None

The next regular BOH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26, 2021, at 12:00 noon by Zoom.

The next BOH Work Session is scheduled for Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. by Zoom.

MOVED by Eileen Dennis, 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