

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, October 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 - 12:05 p.m. – Approval of Board of Health Meeting Minutes held **September 22, 2021 (Action Required)**
- C. 12:05 – 12:10 p.m. – **Public Forum**
- D. 12:10 – 12:25 p.m.– **Special Presentation: Chemical Demilitarization Update** - Irene Kornelly
- E. 12:25 -12:35 p.m. - **COVID Updates** - Randy Evetts
- F. 12:35-12:50 p.m. – **Action Items**
 - Monthly Financial Report – Georgia Alfonso
 - Contracts – Georgia Alfonso
 - 2021 Revised Budget Proposal – Georgia Alfonso
- G. 12:50-1:05 p.m. – **BOH Updates/ Reports**
 - Diesel Plume Update – Julia Fraser, Division of Oil and Public Safety
 - Public Health Director Report – Randy Evetts
- H. 1:05 -1:10 p.m. – **Unfinished Business**
- I. 1:10 p.m-1:15 p.m. – **New Business**

ADJOURN



The Board of Health meeting was held by Zoom September 22, 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

Excused Absence: Garrison Ortiz, County Commissioner

Legal Counsel: Marci Day, Assistant County Attorney

Administrative Staff

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

Medical Officer: Christopher Urbina, MD

Staff Members: Vicki Carlton, Brian Comfort, Shylo Dennison, Sarah Joseph, Aaron Martinez, Kelli Powell, Briana Rothrock, Alicia Solis, Kim Sugar, Zak Van Ooyen, Chad Wolgram

Guests: Mitch Downs and Dustin Mueller, *Osborne, Parsons & Rosacker, LLP*, Meral Sarper, Janet Smith, Brad Swanson, Rhonda Roberts, Dr. Kelly, Jon Walker, Lisa Papp, Autumn, Walker, Luis, Siu Grant, Steve (Stuckler), Walter, Amber Golshani, Amanda, Tonya McClintock

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 August 25, 2021, BOH meeting minutes as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. **Public Forum**

The following people presented during public forum:

Name	Topic of Discussion
Meral Sarper	Presentation of health order rewrite/recommendations, concerns with overmasking due to physical and psychological impacts
Comments: Meral requested a vote to adopt her revised version of the current mask mandate which pertains to childcare facilities, youth camps, and pre-K to 12 school settings. She proposed to change the current PHO to choice based recommendations for cleaning and health practices, facial coverings, and quarantine for childcare facilities, youth camps, and pre-K to 12 school settings. Meral also referred to the research documents she sent to the Board and invited them to read documents submitted regarding the physiological and physical impact of masking young people.	
Name	Topic of Discussion
Janet Smith	Masks
Comments: Janet stated we are in uncharted territory regarding masking young children,	

especially in their development years. She stated she found substantial evidence that children do not often spread the disease. She referred to the caustic compounds that also makeup face mask material. She also referred to the stress children are going through due to COVID in addition to adding stress by the mask mandate. She doesn't think the long-term benefits will outweigh the problems caused physiologically by wearing a mask. She also stated the rules are changing all of the time and it is time to use common sense to protect less vulnerable children and not force them to wear a mask. She also stated it is possible we are compromising their immune systems.

D. **COVID Updates**

Public Health Director Randy Evetts reviewed with the Board the latest epi information given to local public health directors. He also reviewed the latest cases of COVID in Colorado by week reported to the state. He presented Colorado pediatric case rates for the state, which are currently in a downward trend. Hospitalizations have slightly decreased with a downward trend for people who have been vaccinated; unvaccinated cases continue to rise with the majority of those hospitalized being 18 and older and unvaccinated. Colorado remains in the bottom third of the nation in terms of COVID cases. Pueblo County and Colorado are currently in the fifth wave of the pandemic, but it is unlikely to reach the peak of December 2020. Randy also presented modeling data regarding expected hospitalizations; Randy stated there have been studies done in Georgia, Indiana, and Colorado to compare school districts with mask mandates to those without mandates. Cases increased for all schools when school started, but for schools with a mask mandate in place there was a flattening in cases. Board president Donald Moore asked if there are any rates pertaining to the number of children staying in school since the Pueblo County mask mandate was put into place. Randy met with school superintendents and anecdotally, they said there has been positive outcomes from the mask mandate. Fewer children are being quarantined. PDPHE case data shows there have been 176 confirmed or probable cases since school started, which includes some staff members, as well as students. In addition, there were 2,639 contacts to these cases; 1,128 students/staff have been quarantined at home, while 1,511 students were allowed to stay at school and symptom watch, due to the implementation of the mask mandate. Most of the 1,511 would have been required to quarantine at home if the mandate was not in place.

E. **Special Presentation – 2020 Audit Report**

Mitch Downs and Dustin Mueller from *Osborne, Parsons & Rosacker, LLP* reviewed the finding from the 2020 Audit Report with the Board. The financial statements of the Department activities and each major fund of the Health Department for the year ending December 31, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Health Department's basic financial statements, were audited. No major accounting policies were adopted in 2020. The following is a summary of the written audit results.

1. The auditors' report expresses an unmodified opinion on the financial statements of Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment.
2. No significant deficiencies relating to internal control were disclosed in the audit of the financial statements.
3. No instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements of the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment were disclosed during the audit.
4. No significant deficiencies or material weaknesses were disclosed during the audit of the major federal award program of the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment.
5. Their report on compliance for major federal award programs for the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment expresses an unmodified opinion on all major federal programs.
6. There were no audit findings relative to the major federal award programs for the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment.
7. The program tested as a major program was: Department of the Treasury COVID-19 Coronavirus Relief Funds CFDA 21.019.

8. The threshold for distinguishing Types A and B programs was \$750,000.
9. The Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment was determined to be a low-risk auditee.

Donald Moore and Randy Evetts thanked the team for following the state and federal guidelines and the hard work accomplished by the Budget and Finance Office staff members.

MOVED by Ed Brown, seconded by Eileen Dennis, to accept the 2020 Audit Report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. **Action Items**

Pay Scale Adjustments

Public Health Director Randy Evetts presented background information regarding the Department's current compensation plan that was implemented in 2016. Every two years, a market analysis is completed, and the compensation plan is adjusted to help PDPHE remain competitive in the job market to recruit and retain highly qualified and competent staff members. Traditionally, PDPHE has adjusted its compensation to 95 percent of the market to reflect the lower cost of living in Pueblo. The last market analysis and adjustment was completed in 2020. The pandemic and the resulting workforce shortages, supply chain shortages, and increased costs of living have created several challenges. Although a market analysis was done in 2020, PDPHE has fallen significantly behind in its pay scale in 2021. For example, the Department is approximately 20 percent below the market for nursing and environmental health specialist, so the Department continues to lose current employees to similar jobs that pay a higher wage. Recognizing PDPHE was 5 percent below the market at the beginning of the 2021 budget year, due to the adjustment to 95 percent of market, and also the market wage has increased significantly in the past nine months, Randy proposed a 3 percent out-of-cycle upward adjustment to the compensation plan effective October 1, 2021. A 3 percent increase begins to close the gap that has developed would allow the Department to be more competitive in the market wage, and allow PDPHE to recruit and retain highly qualified, competent staff members. Over the next three months PDPHE plans to review the market and come back to the Board during the regular budget process to make additional adjustments if needed. Randy stated the state has increased the Department's per capita funding, so these additional dollars would cover this pay scale adjustment.

MOVED by Eileen Dennis, seconded by Michael Nerenberg, to approve a 3 percent out-of-cycle upward adjustment to the compensation plan effective October 1, 2021, as proposed by Public Health Director Randy Evetts

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Financial and Contract Cost Reports

Financial reports for the end of July 2021, were presented to the Board. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$759,446.59. Financial reports for the end of August 2021, were presented to the Board. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$786,069.79. The increase in revenue is related to COVID funding and the lag in hiring personnel.

MOVED by Ed Brown, seconded by Michael Nerenberg, to accept the financials as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONTRACTS:

Dr. Robin E. Johnson, MD, MPH **10/16/21-10/25/21** **\$110 hourly**

This contract is between PDPHE and Dr. Johnson for her to act as the Medical Officer in the absence of PDPHE's current Medical Officer, Dr. Urbina. The contract will be in effect from October 16, 2021 through October 25, 2021. The rate of pay will be \$110 an hour with the minimum of one hour per day and a maximum of ten hours per day during the term of this contract. This contract requires Board of Health action. Marci Day has reviewed and approved the contract.

Donald Moore asked if the Department takes steps to verify credentials for the backup Medical Officer? Georgia Alfonso responded yes to the question. Dr. Robin is also the Medical Officer for El Paso County Department of Public Health Environmental.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Information only; no BOH action required:

WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program ***10/1/21 – 9/30/22*** ***\$288,594***

This contract is between CDPHE 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 \$37,643 to cover the cost of additional hours due to increased case load. The Option Letter #3 requires no action by the Board of Health or legal review. (Contract Option Letter #3 2022*2093)

G. BOH Updates/Reports

Public Health Director Report

- Diesel Plume Update – The EPA transferred this case to the Colorado Division of Oil and Public Safety. PDPHE has requested a presentation to the Board of Health in October.
- Pueblo West Metro Wastewater Update – the treatment plant was able to reseed their treatment plant and the plant was brought back on-line, re-tested and in compliance on May 18, 2021.
- CEHA (Colorado Environmental Health Association) Conference – The Department helped to coordinate the annual conference in Pueblo. PDPHE was given a Presidential Citation for its support of the event. Environmental Health Specialist Kelli Powell was also acknowledged and congratulated for her work on the CEHA conference.

November and December BOH Meeting Dates

Reviewed the scheduled November 24 and December 22, 2021, meeting dates with the Board to ensure Board members would be present, due to the holidays. Board members present stated the dates are fine as scheduled.

H. Old Business

None

I. New Business

Ed Brown asked how the inspections during the Colorado State Fair went. Environmental Health Program Manager Vicki Carlton stated everything went well. The first two days are always the hardest to ensure vendors are in compliance. The Chili and Frijoles festival is this weekend and inspectors will be out for that event as well.

Donald Moore asked about how the additional security for the PDPHE building is going. Randy explained additional security has been hired and things are going well. The security officer has adverted several problems and overall, it has been a good improvement.

Donald Moore inquired if the Department has experienced any staffing issues related to COVID absenteeism? Randy stated there have been a few situations where staff were positive or where there was exposure outside of work. Those situations have not resulted in large-scale quarantines or absenteeism of staff. Randy noted that the PDPHE team is 96% fully vaccinated and the mask requirement has been reinstated in the building as well. Donald complemented the Department for leading by example.

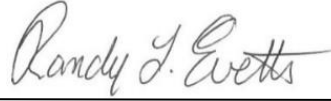
The next regular BOH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 27, 2021, at 12:00 noon by Zoom.

MOVED by Ed Brown, seconded by Michael Nerenberg, to adjourn the Board of Health meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Donald Moore, Board of Health President



Randy Evetts, MPA, Public Health Director