

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, November 24, 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 **October 27, 2021 (Action Required)**
- C. 12:05 – 12:10 p.m. – **Public Forum**
- D. 12:10 – 12:30 p.m. – **Model Aquatic Health Code Public Hearing-** Vicki Carlton
- E. 12:30 -12:35 p.m. - **Model Aquatic Health Code Adoption Decision (Action Required)**
- F. 12:35 – 1:05 p.m. – **Public Health Order School Mask Discussion**
 - Discussion Regarding Meeting with New D70 Board of Education Members
 - Medical Officer Updates and Recommendations
 - Legal Update
- G. 1:05- 1:20 p.m. – **Other Action Items**
 - Adopt Community Health Assessment - Katie Davis
 - Approval of 2022 Department Holiday Schedule - Randy Evetts
 - Approval to Close Department for Holiday Luncheon – Randy Evetts
 - Monthly Financial Report – Georgia Alfonso
 - Allocation of Reserves – Georgia Alfonso
 - Contracts – Georgia Alfonso
- H. 1:20 -1:30 pm. – **BOH Updates/ Reports**
 - Public Health Director Report – Randy Evetts
 - Medical Officer Update- Chris Urbina

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The Board of Health meeting was held by Zoom October 27, 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 and Operations
 Georgia Alfonso, Budget and Finance Director
 Jody Carrillo, Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness Director
 Denise DeNardo, Human Resources
 Ramona Chisman-Ewing, Executive Assistant

Medical Officer: Christopher Urbina, MD

Staff Members: Vicki Carlton, Chelsea Hollowell, Sarah Joseph, Aaron Martinez, Kim Sugar, Zak Van Ooyen, Chad Wolgram

Guests: Rhonda Berry, *ARC of Pueblo*, Julia Fraser, Mary KV White, *Division of Oil and Public Safety*, Irene Kornelly, *Chair -Colorado Citizens Advisory Commission for Chemical Weapons Demilitarization*, Jennifer Welte, *St. John Newmann Catholic School*, and John Zondlo

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. Public Health Director Randy Evetts requested to move COVID updates to the Director’s Report.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Ed Brown, to approve the September 22, 2021, BOH meeting minutes as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. **Public Forum**

The following person presented during public forum:

Name	Topic of Discussion
John Zondlo	Mask mandates and capacity Constraints on vulnerable venues
<p>Comments: John thanked the Board for the work they do, as things are not easy at this time. He requested information pertaining to the mask mandates in the schools be more available and accessible on the Department’s website and to display the data used to come to public health order decisions. John also asked about expanding the mask mandate in the schools to mask mandates and capacity constraints for certain venues of extreme vulnerability and exposure, such as big box stores, etc.</p>	

D. **Special Presentation – Chemical Demilitarization Update – Irene Kornelly**

Irene Kornelly, Chair for the Colorado Citizens Advisory Commission for Chemical Weapons Demilitarization, updated the Board regarding activities at the Pueblo Chemical Depot:

- All 155 mm projectiles have been destroyed

- Approximately 57% of the 105 mm projectiles have been destroyed; the remainder will be destroyed by the summer of 2022 or possibly before
- 66% of all weapons have been destroyed
- 79.4% of the agent has been destroyed
- 104 'rejects' were placed back into storage and could not be removed due to leaks, etc.
- Excellent safety record this past year; technology is also working well
- 132 million gallons of water has been recycled back into the project
- Plans are underway for closure of the demilitarization plant including demolishing two buildings – other buildings may be repurposed
- Employees will be transitioned to other jobs when possible

Irene informed the board where data collected will go, when tests take place, to see if mustard agent can be safely destroyed as well. Irene also gave an update on the number of personnel who have tested positive for COVID, and the incentives given to encourage people to get vaccinated. Another major concern is unvaccinated people being fired. A modified work schedule would have to take place due to loss of personnel should that happen. Randy Evetts asked how the Depot has been impacted due to both hospitals being at capacity, as the hospitals respond to any incidents happening at the Depot. Irene replied, so far there has been no impact. Dr. Urbina asked about the rejected weapons that cannot be destroyed and if the site will become a 'superfund site.' Irene replied there are no plans to make the Depot a superfund site and any leakers will be destroyed in the Static Detonation Chamber process. Some equipment can be decontaminated, and some will have to be destroyed or parted out and put into landfills. All precautions are being taken to ensure there is no contamination of the soil in or around the building site. Donald Moore asked if funding is in place to finish the project and when it will be completed. Irene stated funding is adequate and end of 2023 is the official end date of weapons destruction; final closure may take a little longer.

F. **Action Items**

Financial and Contract Cost Reports

Financial reports for the end of September 2021, were presented to the Board. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$767,337.08. Donald Moore asked if the two-million-dollar balance in accounts receivable is represented in any of the fund balances. Georgia stated this balance it will get represented in the unassigned, as all funding ties together.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2021 Revised Budget Proposal

Budget and Finance Director Georgia Alfonso presented the 2021 revised budget proposal to the Board. Some contributing factors to the budget include the following:

- Increase due to receiving CARES funding from Pueblo County for COVID-19 response
- Change in funding from CDPHE due to the following:
 - ARPA funding received for COVID-19 response
 - Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) funding received for COVID-19 response
- Decrease in HUD funding due to COVID contact restrictions and shortages of supplies needed for remediation and renovation
- Increase in other funding due to the following:
 - Buell Foundation funding received for the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program
 - Colorado Health Foundation funding received for the Community Organized Neighborhood Improvement program
- Decrease in the use of Restricted Funds due to a reallocation of the ELC funding received in 2020 from Revenue to Deferred Income
- Expense changes due to the following:
 - COVID-19 Response
 - HUD timing of work
 - Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention program work
 - Community Organized Neighborhood Improvement program work

Randy Evetts informed the BOH they will need to approve the 2022 final budget in December. Georgia stated if there are any areas of concern in the 2022 budget, it will be brought to the attention of the Board possibly during a December work session. Donald Moore requested at the November Board of Health Meeting, there be additional budget recommendation discussion regarding another possible pay increase for staff retention in 2022 and any core programs that might be added to the 2022 budget.

MOVED by Ed Brown, seconded by Michael Nerenberg, to adopt the 2021 revised budget as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONTRACTS:

Information only: No Board action required:

WIC Program 10/1/21 – 9/30/22 \$1,004,424

This contract is between CDPHE and PDPHE. This contract is to extend the funding to administer the Special Supplemental Nutritional Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The Pueblo WIC office will continue to do the oversight for Las Animas and Huerfano, and Bent Counties. The funding is an increase of \$11,000 for WIC direct services. (2022*2364 Option Letter #5) This is an Option Letter with only date and dollar amount changes. No legal review or BOH action is required.

Maternal & Child Health (MCH) 10/1/21 – 09/30/22 \$ 190,928

This Contract is between CDPHE and PDPHE. This contract will extend funding to cover costs related to implementing population health strategies and provide services that will measurably impact the health and wellbeing of the MCH population. Also, this program will provide information and resources for community stakeholders and families of Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN). The implementation of telehealth services was completed, so funding was not extended for this activity. There is no change in FTE. (Task Order 2022*0909). No BOH action or legal review required.

G. BOH Updates/Reports

Diesel Plume Update

The EPA transferred this case to the Colorado Division of Oil and Public Safety. Environmental Protection Specialist Julia Fraser updated the Board on the current diesel plume situation. The diesel plume site on Santa Fe Avenue was a former gas station site prior to 1975. Several gas stations were also located in nearby areas. A consultant was hired to do a historical review of the Grove neighborhood. There were former diesel products in the area, but has been determined the former Sonic site is not the source of the diesel contamination; a site to the east of the neighborhood might be the source. Meetings are taking place with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), and they will take over the investigation going forward to locate potential sources, such as a former Union Pacific Railroad area. Donald Moore asked since the initial suspect location has been ruled out will EPA go forward with the investigation and Julia replied yes, that is correct. Donald also asked if the diesel plume has contaminated the Arkansas River or if there are any other safety threats. Julia stated at this time there is no evidence the Arkansas River is being impacted by the plume. Donald asked if the EPA would keep PDPHE staff members informed. Randy Evetts replied yes, the Department's Environmental Health team is being kept informed of what is going on. Garrison Ortiz asked if people and businesses who may be impacted are aware of the situation. Julia replied she is unaware of how much local businesses or developers are being made aware of the situation. Garrison stated redevelopment areas are being planned and wants people to be informed to avoid hampering future planning and zoning projects. Mary White, also with Colorado Division of Oil and Public Safety suggested sharing this information to ensure planning and development partners are aware of this situation. Julie stated she will share the diesel plume map with Garrison Ortiz for distribution. Staff member Aaron Martinez asked to be notified of who will be the main EPA contact, as he will be working with them in the future. Aaron asked if the EPA would put pressure on the railroad to do cleanup if it is determined to be the source of contamination. Julia said to contact EPA to see what their future plans are for cleanup. Dr Urbina suggested bringing the EPA, railroad personnel, and everyone involved in the diesel plume, to a BOH meeting to come together and look at the evidence and make a plan of action for cleanup. This is not the Department's jurisdiction; it is the EPA's, but it was suggested the Department possibly act as a liaison to bring people to the table

to help resolve this issue. Aaron Martinez stated this has been a well-known issue as far as the Sonic Drive-In landowners, and storm water personnel for several years, so he stated it is time to accomplish something regarding this situation. Randy stated he will follow up with the PDPHE team and ensure the public is kept informed, as well as the Board.

Public Health Director's Report

Public Health Director Randy Evetts gave the following updates to the Board:

COVID Update:

- Numbers continue to rise in the state. Pueblo County had 2,328 confirmed cases October 1-25, with 24 confirmed death – eight more death are still pending confirmation. The youngest death was age 2; oldest was 102; average age is 67. Eight deaths were people fully vaccinated. Recruiting for additional personnel for case investigation/contract tracing continues. Trends show people are going extra circular activities and large gathering. People are also going to work and school ill; not staying home when sick.
- Currently there are more outbreaks in school District #70 than District #60
- There are cases in childcare facilities as well
- Both hospitals are currently on divert due to capacity; this means no patients from other communities can be accepted at local hospitals
- COVID 3rd booster doses have been approved from the three leading manufactures for people 18 yrs. and older
- FDA approved vaccinations for children 5-11 yrs. of age yesterday
- The state health department estimates 30% of children will be vaccinated, but 80-85% across all age groups is needed for herd immunity
- According to the state there is an upward trend of the Delta variant along the front range
- It is anticipated the hospitals will peak around December for cases
- Currently 1 in 56 people in Colorado are infected with COVID
- There was another mask mandate protest at the Department on Monday, October 25; more protests are anticipated

Additional Updates:

- 89% of accreditation documents have been completed
- Reaccreditation application will be submitted in December
- A virtual site visit will take place in June 2022
- Reviewing Cost of Living increases of other agencies around the state; 2½ to 3% is common
- Social Security may be adjusting for cost of living by increasing 5 to 6%
- The budget for next year may include up to a 3% Cost of Living increase for staff members if it is feasible
- Looking to fill several regular vacant positions, as well as temporary positions
- A mobile home park on Highway 78 near Beulah has inadequate septic support and detention ponds for the number of residents in the park. They are land-locked and have limited options to expand. The state is working with the owner of the park very closely. However, the owner is reluctant to comply with their requirements. The state has notified PDPHE that they may be closing the mobile home park if the owner does not comply. Approximately 50 people could be displaced if it is closed down by the state; additional resources are being sought for people who may be displaced due to this issue.

Donald Moore stated he participates in meetings, with the hospitals present, and the situation is grave; some staff members may be lost to the vaccination mandate and things could be getting worse in the near future. A meeting is taking place with the state on Monday, due to current hospital capacity concerns.

Michael Nerenberg stated the issue with Mesa Veterinary Clinic personnel being ill, as well as other situations reinforces Pueblo is in dire straits – we are currently in purple, which is above red on the COVID dial for COVID, which is severe transmission. He suggested development of a community report card where residents could identify restaurants and businesses that are offering mitigation strategies to prevent the spread of the virus. He also referred to the wastewater report indicator and if the public is aware of the high numbers that indicate specific areas of infection. Randy stated vaccination efforts are being encouraged throughout the entire community, not is just certain areas, but this discussion can

happen with the state to see if certain areas should be targeted based on the wastewater testing results.

Dr. Urbina stated the majority of people want to be safe and protect themselves, however there are still a number of people who are not concerned about COVID. He thinks something should be done, such as an indoor mask mandate for the community. He noted the mask mandate in the schools is working, but more needs to be done in the community.

Eileen Dennis stated the community should be informed about the data being used to make decisions by the Health Department such as the wastewater testing, etc. in order to encourage vaccinations in those areas.

Director Evetts expressed reservations and concerns about additional mandates or restrictions. The community partners are not asking for this level of restriction. He stated public health cannot control or mitigate this virus on its own. Community success to move beyond this pandemic will depend on community leaders and organizations also coming together; there must be community buy-in. Restrictions only work if they are supported broadly by community leaders, businesses, schools, and others. Furthermore, enforcement of a mask order is very difficult. Eileen Dennis agreed more 'buy in' from the community is needed. Donald Moore noted he and Director Evetts attend a weekly meeting hosted by Mayor Gradisar, which many community partners attend. Representatives from both school districts have stated things are bad, but without the mask mandate, things could be even worse. The school districts have expressed concern they may at some point be forced to move to remote learning due not only to student illness, but due to lack of employees. Donald committed to following up with the community partners at the next meeting to better understand if there is support for more stringent restrictions in the community to control the spread of COVID. Dr. Urbina stated despite the challenges of the mask mandate, the schools are supportive of the public health order, but there is no control of what happens outside of the schools. He thinks this is a good time to be active and not passive and ask community leaders their thoughts and ideas to contribute to a solution.

H. **Unfinished Business**
None

I. **New Business**
None

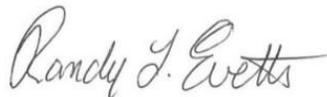
The next regular BOH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 24, 2021, at 12:00 noon by Zoom.

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