

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, January 26, 2022, 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 **December 22, 2021 (Action Required)**
- C. 12:05 – 12:20 p.m. – **Public Forum**
- D. 12:20 – 12:50 p.m. – **COVID RESPONSE**
 - Current COVID Updates and Public Health Order – **Action Item** – Randy Evetts
- E. 12:50 - 1:05 p.m. – **Action Items**
 - Monthly Financial Report – Georgia Alfonso
 - Contracts – Georgia Alfonso
 - Sunshine Law – Randy Evetts
- F. 1:05 -1:15 p.m. – **BOH Updates/ Reports5**
 - Public Health Director Report – Randy Evetts
 - February Work Session – Randy Evetts
- G. 1:15 - 1:50 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 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
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

Medical Officer: Christopher Urbina, MD

Staff Members: Vicki Carlton, Eleanor Cassio, Brian Comfort, Scott Cowan, Denise DeNardo, Justin Gage, Leah Gonzales, Anne Hill, Christina Hopewell, Sarah Joseph, Olivia Leyva, Aaron Martinez, Sophia Montoya, Beth Penrod, Scott Schulle, Alicia Solis, Kim Sugar, Kristy Toupal, Chad Wolgram

Guests: Rhonda Berry – *ARC of Pueblo*, J christenson, Natalie Chuck, Dr. Cindy Compton, Matthew Cranswick, PhD , Cathy Howland, Chris DeLuca, Sean Rice, *KRDO*, Todd Seip, Jon Walker, A.J. Wilson, 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.

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, 2021, BOH meeting minutes as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. **Public Forum**

Name	Topic of Discussion
Matthew Cranswick, PhD	Mask Issue
Comments: Matthew Cranswick stated the K-12 mask mandate is one level of prevention against infection. Even though kids do not appear to be at risk of developing severe COVID-19 symptoms and may be asymptomatic, they have the potential to spread it to family members who may be at risk of developing severe COVID-19 symptoms., He urged the Board to consider all county data, including trends in cases and testing, low vaccination rates among K-12 students, overall waning vaccination rates in Pueblo County, duration of immunization protection, and the case fatality (2x the state), along with CDC and CDPHE guidelines and thresholds, not just the proposals given by Public Health Director Randy Evetts. Matthew stated all of these factors should be utilized to make informed and ethical public health decisions to keep the community safe and healthy.	

D. **Other Action Items**

Financial and Contract Cost Reports

Financial reports for the end of November 2021, were presented to the Board. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$798,518.21, due to additional funding received and the indirect associated with the funding.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONTRACTS:

Buell Foundation 1/1/2022 -12/31/2022 \$30,000

A grant for the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program has been awarded by the Buell Foundation and an Award Letter received. This grant will allow PDPHE to continue to provide Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Education in Pueblo County. This Award Letter does not require legal review and the Grantor requires a BOH signature. (Grant #11138)

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INFORMATION CONTRACTS/FUNDING. NO BOH ACTION REQUIRED:

Family Friendly Pueblo County 2/01/2022 – 1/31/2023 \$118,555

This is a contract between CDPHE and PDPHE. This funding is to continue the work to ultimately strengthen economic supports for women and families in Pueblo County. The project seeks to work with employers to support adoption and implementation of family-friendly business practices. This project also supports increased access to affordable and quality childcare. Since this is an Amendment with only date and funding changes, and is in the 2022 budget, no legal review or BOH action is required. (Amendment #3 2019*3604)

Overdose Data Equity – NACCHO 2/01/2022 – 1/31/2023 \$20,000

This is a contract between the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and PDPHE. This funding is to participate in a mentorship program where peers share experiences and exchange strategies for integrating health equity into drug overdose prevention and response work. This contract is pending legal review. This contract is in the 2022 budget, so no BOH action is required.

Community Health Assessment 10/01/2021 – 9/30/2022 \$22,000

This is a contract between CDPHE and PDPHE. This funding is to support the implementation and promotion of the Community Health Improvement Plan in Pueblo County by developing a media campaign. No legal review is required since a Purchase Order was issued by CDPHE. This contract is in the 2022 budget, so no BOH action is required.

2022 Proposed Budget

Business and Finance Director Georgia Alfonso presented the 2.5% Cost of Living Adjustment and up to 3.0% Compensation Adjustment based on the PDPHE compensation plan equaling up to a 5 percent compensation increase for staff members in 2022. Changes to the 2022 budget, since it was discussed at the December 10, 2021, work session, are three new contracts presented above, which have been included in the 2022 budget. Under capital expenditures, a piece of equipment, being purchased for the lead paint program, was removed from the 2022 budget because it was received this week.

MOVED by Ed Brown, seconded by Eileen Dennis, to accept the 2022 budget as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Family Planning Sliding Fee Schedule

Every three years a fee analysis is required by CDPHE's Title X program. The analysis was done and submitted to the state for approval and now it has to be presented to the Board of Health for approval. Fees have not changed drastically since 2018 – 2021. These sliding fees are for individuals who are uninsured, and t qualify for reduction in cost, due their income. Eileen Dennis asked about the net loss in 2020 and asked if the difference in the number of clients served was due to COVID. Georgia Alfonso stated the reduction in clients was due to COVID. Eileen noted the drop in the rate of uninsured clients from 2019 – 2020. City funding supplements costs not covered by the program. One third of funding respectively is from CDPHE, private insurance and Medicaid, and local funding. Family Planning is a program that will never be fully funded; grant funding also fluctuates each year. Board President Donald Moore asked how the percent was determined that the client is responsible for. Georgia stated a cost analysis was done for each service provided. Community Health Services Director Maria Telfer informed the Board, no person is ever denied services due to inability to pay, even if they have an outstanding bill. To close the financial gap, the Department will also now be a certified application site for Medicaid to sign up clients who are eligible. Donald requested Public Health Director Randy Evetts monitor the utilization and access of this program to ensure services are accessible to those in need.

MOVED by Michael Nerenberg seconded by Ed Brown, to approve the Family Planning Sliding Fee Schedule as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Correction to Personnel Policy 4.3 PAYDAY

Human Resource Manager Denise DeNardo requested the Board approve corrections to the wording to the PAYDAY personnel policy as follows:

Currently, the Department pay dates are the 10 and 25 of every month. When these dates fall on a weekend or a holiday, the pay date will be the day prior. ~~payday is on the last working day of the month.~~ On each payday, employees receive a statement showing gross pay, deductions, and net pay. Automatic deductions such as additional tax withholding, contributions to voluntary benefit plans, and individual savings plans may be arranged through the PDPHE Budget and Finance Office.

MOVED by Michael Nerenberg seconded by Eileen Dennis, to approve the correction to Personnel Policy 4.3 PAYDAY as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Vaccination Bonus

Public Health Director Randy Evetts proposed the Board approve a \$500 COVID vaccination bonus to all employees who show proof of being fully vaccinated by December 31, 2021. This a reward for employees who took action to be part of the COVID solution. The cost to the Department will be approximately \$65,000. Board member Eileen Dennis asked if the definition of fully vaccinated was two shots or if the booster is included. Randy replied, the CDC currently defines "fully vaccinated" as those who have received two doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Board member Michael Nerenberg asked what percentage of Department personnel are fully vaccinated. Randy stated the Department is above 90 percent at this time. Donald Moore asked if the Department has a specific source of funding for the bonuses. Georgia Alfonso replied funding will come from money saved from personnel turnover and inability to fill positions.

MOVED by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Ed Brown, to approve the vaccination bonus for all eligible Department employees as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Revised Public Health Order (PHO)

Public Health Director Randy Evetts gave a PHO update to the Board. A PHO was entered into in August 2021. The goal was to keep kids in school, reduce transmission, and protect capacity of both hospitals. This has been a collaborative process relying on community support to make it effective. The data collected has shown the PHO has been effective keeping kids in school; students were allowed to symptom watch in school rather than quarantine at home. Randy reviewed the timeline since July to December 2021. At the December 10, 2021, BOH work session, Randy presented three options to the

Board: keep the PHO as is, revise the order, or rescind the order. The Board asked Randy to bring a revised PHO to the December 22, 2021, BOH meeting. Before the December 22 BOH meeting, Board President Donald Moore and Public Health Director Randy Evetts, and Deputy Director Katie Davis, met with D70 Board president, vice president, superintendent, and their attorney on December 15, 2021. They discussed the options of symptom checking and opting out of the PHO and letting the schools assuming full responsibility. District 70 Board members expressed their concerns about quarantines out of school, masking during athletic events, and that natural immunity was not included in the discussion. The school board continued to desire no mask mandates and favors parent choice. Randy then gave the Board the current case rates, which are on the decline; however, hospital capacity is still limited due to medical procedures that have been put on hold due to the Delta surge. Omicron cases continue to increase within the state. In the last few days, Omicron has been identified in the wastewater samples, so cases are expected to increase over the next month.

Randy recommended to the Board to keep the current PHO in place, which is in line with CD and state guidelines, and review the order monthly with an end date of May 30, 2022, to coincide with the end of the school year. He also encouraged schools to daily symptom check and encourage vaccinations. He would add a benchmark of 80 percent vaccination for both staff members and students and if this is achieved, the school many then request an exemption from the PHO.

As a revision to the current PHO, Director Evetts proposed adding two options within the order:

- Option 1: Masks optional with mandatory symptom checking put into place for each student each day – managed by the school district
- Option 2: School District Board of Education or governing body assumes full responsibility for managing the COVID pandemic within their respective schools

Proposed option would go into effect January 3, 2022, and end no later than May 30, 2022. Boards of Education would be required to officially vote to take the course of these additional options. Randy expounded on the details for each option above that the school districts would be responsible for. Randy met with both School District 60 and 70 superintendents and informed the Board of the feedback he received from each pertaining to Option 1 or 2 above.

Board President Donald Moore requested Medical Officer Chris Urbina add any additional information to the discussion. Dr. Urbina said as far as the PHO, both the schools and Communicable Disease team members have worked hard to reduce the number of infections in the schools. He stated the current PHO is the correct directive for the schools. Indoor masking and vaccination are also important to make the community safer, along with testing. Dr. Urbina suggested if Option 1 is selected to work with the schools to come up with an algorithm to keep kids in school. Option #2 – he has concerns that allowing the schools to take control could increase the likelihood of increased outbreaks, infections, and more school closures. Board member Garrison Ortiz clarified voting today is to amend the PHO and encompass Option 1 or 2; not just vote on the two proposed options. Michael Nerenberg stated BOH is working from the science regarding COVID/Omicron. Wastewater is presenting with high numbers in certain areas of the community. Eileen Dennis likes the options being offered, but does not think now is the time to change the PHO. She would like the Board to take another month before making any changes to evaluate what is happening in the community as far as Omicron and hospitals. Board member Ed Brown agrees with Dr. Urbina's analysis of the situation. Donald Moore supports Randy's amendment options stating he thinks option one presents opportunities to improve transmission control in the schools by symptom checking students as they come to school and be sent home if necessary. Option two closely joins choice with responsibility and accountability. This would make D70 School Board responsible for their own risk analysis of the current situation and come up with a more effective plan than what is offered by public health. The Health Department would continue to offer technical assistance to monitor the situation. The PHO does have a requirement of weekly reporting absenteeism for students and staff members. Garrison Ortiz stated he supports the amendment options and thinks Randy Evetts has done an exceptional job meeting with stakeholders. Randy worked with legal counsel to develop the language and any potential liability concerns. Attorney Marci Day stated multiple conversations have taken place regarding the PHO and the necessity of the order for public health safety. Attorney Day added the ability of PDPHE to close schools, if necessary, is statutory regardless of what PHO is in place.

MOVED by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Eileen Dennis, to table any change/amendment to the current Public Health Order until the January 26, 2022, Board meeting.

Roll call vote:

Donald Moore - No

Ed Brown - Yes

Garrison Ortiz - No

Eileen Dennis - Yes

Michael Nerenberg - Yes

MOTION CARRIED

D. **BOH Updates/Reports**

Public Health Director Randy Evetts highlighted various points from his written report submitted to the Board:

- Accreditation application will be submitted at the end of this month
- The Department will be a Medicaid certified application site for Medicaid

Data is being reviewed when cases, hospitalizations, and deaths start to decline. There are approximately two-week intervals between each event; when cases start to increase, within two weeks hospitalizations begin to increase and within the next two weeks, deaths increase. County has put funding toward a marketing campaign to help increase vaccination rates.

Director Evetts stated wastewater is usually an early indicator of where in a community the Omicron virus will present within a few days. Randy informed the Board, Eagle County went from a manageable positivity rate to a 35 percent rate increase in 48 hours, which also overwhelmed their hospitals.

The next regular BOH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 26, 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