

## **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](mailto:mona.ewing@pueblocounty.us).

The Board of Health meeting will be held **Wednesday, March 23, 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 **February 25, 2022 (Action Required)**
- C. 12:05 – 12:15 p.m. – **Public Forum**
- D. 12:15 – 12:45 p.m. – **Medical Officer Update and Farewell** – Dr. Christopher Urbina
- E. 12:45 p.m. – 12:55 p.m. – **Board Transition** – Garrison Ortiz/Randy Evetts
- F. 12:55 - 1:05 p.m.- **Budget and Finance- Georgia Alfonso**
  - Monthly Financial Report **(Action Item)**
  - Contracts **(Action Item)**
- G. 1:05 -1:15 p.m. – **BOH Updates/ Reports**
  - Public Health Director Report – Randy Evetts
  - Public Health Week Representative Needed for Public Health Champion Selection – Randy Evetts
- H. 1:15 p.m.-1:30 p.m. - **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.

**ADJOURN**

The Board of Health meeting was held by Zoom February 25, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

**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  
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:** Eleanor Cassio, Denise DeNardo, Shylo Dennison, Chelsea Hollowell, Sarah Joseph, Alicia Solis, Zak Van Ooyen, Hannah Kochen

**Guests:** Rhonda Berry, Katie Brown, Cathy Howland, John Howland, Jeri Jensen, Jess, Sutton, Jennifer Welte, 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 as presented.

**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 January 26, 2022, BOH meeting minutes as submitted.

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

D. **Election of Officers**

**MOVED** by Eileen Dennis, seconded by Michael Nerenberg, to elect Donald Moore as Board of Health President and Michael Nerenberg as Vice President effective today, February 25, 2022.

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

E. **Other Action Items**

**Financial and Contract Cost Reports**

Financial reports for the end of January 2022, were presented to the Board. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$202,203.48, due to Environmental Health yearly program fees collected this month. Budget and Finance Director Georgia Alfonso explained COVID funding the Department has received in the past will also be diminishing over the next year and a half. Michael Nerenberg inquired if the Department will receive any opioid settlement funds in the future. PDPHE does not expect to receive any opioid settlement dollars in 2022, but there is a possibility in 2023 or 2024. Based on an inquiry from

the Board, Georgia also noted she will be bringing fee reviews for four to six PDPHE programs to the Board in 2022. Donald Moore also suggested a Board work session to discuss the best use of reserve funds given the expected gaps in funding that will occur in the next year and a half due to diminishing COVID funding. Mr. Evetts noted this is an important discussion, and he will work on a future date for a work session.

**MOVED** by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Eileen Dennis, to accept the financials as presented.

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**CONTRACTS:**

There were no contracts to present this month.

F. **COVID Response**

Public Health Director Randy Evetts updated the Board regarding the Public Health Order Data Review and Recommendations:

- Data indicates rates are falling across the country and state including Pueblo County
- Case rates are dropping for all age groups
- Positivity rates are also dropping across the state. The state average positivity is currently around 5%
- Hospital occupancy related to COVID is decreasing though hospitals remain full due to pent up demand for other services
- Reviewed the Public Health Order Options selected by Districts 60 and 70, including charter/private/alternative schools
- All county mandates have or will end across the state
- CDC is expected to change guidance regarding masking and general management of COVID-19

Testing and Vaccine Updates:

- Pueblo County is at 66.6% rate for people having at least one dose of COVID vaccine
- The state has started to distribute oral antivirals to local pharmacies
- The state is demobilizing unified command and planning for transition to healthcare systems, while maintaining capacity to ramp up efforts in the fall if needed
- Federal funding supporting testing sites may shift to 75% reimbursement April or June of this year
- Local testing and vaccination sites may be closing due to the new reimbursement model

Director Evetts asked for guidance from the Board regarding the Public Health Order (PHO) once CDC changes its recommended guidance. Michael Nerenberg addressed testing and thinks wastewater results are the most accurate, opposed to other forms of testing. He suggested following the numbers and adjust the PHO accordingly and base changes on the CDC guidance. Eileen Dennis concurred testing site data isn't as accurate as monitoring wastewater, but she is pleased with the schools instituting testing and acting on those results. Eileen concurred following CDC guidelines once they are known and make adjustments as needed if rates escalate. Ed Brown thanked Director Evetts and PDPHE staff members for their due diligence during the pandemic. Director Evetts stated there is concern transitioning from testing sites to home-based testing; a transition plan is essential to keep local ER's from being overwhelmed by testing needs. Mayor Gradisar was asked to recommend the state keep testing sites intact until a transition plan is in place. Donald Moore asked if wastewater data will continue to be tracked and reported. The state has said they would like to continue and actually expand this type of wastewater testing and tracking. Funding for this expansion is still unknown, as is the continuation of tracking this data. Locally the wastewater plant does the actual collection and samples are analyzed by a private contractor through the state. Donald asked Randy to find out if this will be continued and let the Board know. The Board did not have a specific recommendation today; more guideline information will be known from CDC later today. The Board did concur Director Evetts can make adjustments pertaining to the PHO as needed in the future. Attorney Marci Day stated termination of the PHO, or any modification, would require action by the Board because the PHO was signed by both Director Evetts and BOH President Donald Moore.

**MOVED** by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Eileen Dennis, to allow Public Health Director Randy Evetts to modify the current PHO based on CDC guidance

by terminating the existing PHO and issuing a new PHO consistent with CDC guidelines or more restrictive if necessary.

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

G. **BOH Updates/Reports**

**BOH Updates**

Director Evetts updated the Board regarding the following items:

- Application for reaccreditation was submitted in December; Accreditation Board is currently reviewing the documents submitted. A site visit will take place June or July 2022.
- Shylo Dennison and her team have done an excellent job on the application.
- Medical Officer Dr. Chris Urbina is retiring April 1, 2022.
- Recruitment for a new Medical Officer is underway; interviews were conducted, and an offer has been made. Human Resources is working through the logistics with the selected candidate. If all goes well, Director Evetts will introduce the new Medical Officer at the March 2022 meeting.
- The Department's payroll system PrimePay was sold to ADP. The new company will take over on April 1, 2022.
- Goal three of the strategic plan is to enhance systems and training of an innovative and competent public health workforce; the focus on this goal includes leadership development; In March a training called "Switch" based on the book of the same title from Chip and Dan Heath will be offered for all supervisors and managers at PDPHE. Senior management attended the training in February.
- In April, PDPHE will provide an All-Access Pass to the Franklin Covey training.

President Donald Moore asked if HealthSpace software is up and running for Environmental Health programs. Environmental Health Director Jody Carrillo stated most programs now utilize HealthSpace, including billing for fees. Other health departments across the state can now utilize the modules developed for PDPHE at their agencies. Online payment and applications are currently being instituted; appropriate data reporting is also being developed.

**Countywide Substance Use Planning Process**

Program Manager Shylo Dennison updated the Board on the Countywide Substance Use Planning Process. About a year ago, conversations for the opioid settlement dollars and how to address substance use in Pueblo County began. A group met with Commissioner Garrison Ortiz who also agreed having a good plan in place would be a proactive movement when the settlement dollars arrive. Once a plan was in place, it could be used for any substance use dollars that come into Pueblo County. Substance Use Response Ecosystem group is meeting with other stakeholders to brainstorm the following topic areas related to substance use: prevention, treatment and recovery, harm reduction, and criminal justice. Brainstorming for the plan should be completed by late this summer. This information will then go to a decision-making board to prioritize from the brainstormed ideas. The decision-making board will consist of representatives from law enforcement, elected officials, Department of Human Services, public health, and the District Attorney's office. The Department's facilitator position ends in June, so sustainability for this position is being sought. Board member Michael Nerenberg asked about validating things to ensure evidence-based responses and cautioned not to invest in nonproven methods. Shylo stated the group is seeking guidance for research and will present this information to the decision-making board. Michael Nerenberg stated the overdose crisis is an immediate need in the community; an urgent rapid approach is needed.

The next regular BOH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 12:00 noon by Zoom.

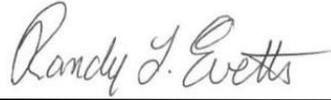
**MOVED** by Eileen Dennis, seconded by Michael Nerenberg, to adjourn the Board of Health meeting.

***MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***



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Donald Moore, Board of Health President



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Randy Evetts, MPA, Public Health Director