

Board of Health AGENDA

A Board of Health meeting will be held **Wednesday, October 26, 2022**, at **12:00 Noon** in the **THIRD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM C**, at the Health Department, **101 W. 9th Street**.

(Lunch for Board Members will be served at 11:30 a.m.)

- 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 28, 2022 (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. 12:10 p.m. – 12:25 p.m. – **Action Items**
 - Child Care Fee Analysis – Georgia Alfonso/Chad Wolgram
 - Closure Request for Department Holiday Luncheon – Randy Evetts
- F. **Budget and Finance** - Georgia Alfonso
 - Monthly Financial Report **(Action Item)**
 - Contracts **(Action Item)**
- G. 12:40 p.m. -12:55 p.m. – **BOH Updates/ Reports**
 - Public Health Director Report – Randy Evetts

ADJOURN

The regular Board of Health meeting was held at the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment on September 28, 2022, in the Third Floor Conference Room C, at 12:00 noon.

Board Members

Present: Donald Moore, Board President
Michael J. Nerenberg, Board Vice President
Ed Brown, Board Member
Eileen Dennis, Board Member
Eppie Griego, 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
Maria Telfer, Community Health Services Director
Chad Wolgram, Environmental Health Director
Denise DeNardo, Human Resources Manager
Ramona Chisman-Ewing, Executive Assistant

Staff Members: Vicki Carlton, Brian Comfort, Sarah Joseph

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. Director Randy Evetts asked to add discussion regarding new technology to help with drug safety to the Agenda before the Director's report.

MOVED by Eileen Dennis, seconded by Ed Brown, 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 August 24, 2022, BOH meeting minutes as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. **Public Forum**

None

D. **FAMLI Act**

Human Resource Manager Denise DeNardo presented the FAMLI Act, which was passed in November 2020, and provides paid leave for participating employees for a variety of reasons similar to FMLA. Participating agencies share the cost of the premium with the employee resulting in a 50/50 split. The FAMLI paid leave is no more than 90 percent of the employee's base pay up to a maximum of \$1,100/week during leave. Government agencies may 'opt out' of participation and PDPHE recommends opting out. Opting out preserves an individual employee's decision to participate in the program if they choose. If the Department 'opts in' every employee must participate at a cost whether they want to or not. Opting in creates a tremendous administrative burden on the agency with respect to oversight and management of the program. Several local government agencies including Pueblo Board of Water Works, Pueblo West Metro, the City of Pueblo, and Pueblo County, as well as the 10 largest counties in the front range have opted out. PDPHE provides a very robust leave accrual for employees (vacation and sick leave) employees earn 96 hours of sick leave per year and can accrue up to 720 hours total, which exceeds the 12 weeks (480 hours) of what is offered by the FAMLI Act. Employees are also offered the opportunity to participate in AFLAC programs including short-term disability if they choose. Once an employee becomes vested in PERA (five years), there is also long-term disability coverage. Opting out as an agency allows individual employees the choice to participate in FAMLI if they want to. Local

governments are required to review the opt out option every eight years.

MOVED by Michael Nerenberg, seconded by Eileen Dennis, to 'opt out' of the FAMLI Act.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. **Budget and Finance**
Financial and Contract Cost Reports

The August 2022 Financial Report was presented to the Board. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$91,952.84. Budget and Finance Director Georgia Alfonso stated the Department will maintain level funding, as there are no major financial changes anticipated for the rest of 2022.

MOVED by Ed Brown, seconded by Michael Nerenberg, to accept the August 2022 financial report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Department Budget

Donald Moore asked if any major changes are anticipated in funding from CDPHE for 2023. Georgia Alfonso stated ELC funding (COVID funds) will cease in July, which will be the greatest change from CDPHE funding. Currently, 2023 funding from the City and County remains unknown.

INFORMATION ON OTHER CONTRACTS OR FUNDING. NO BOH ACTION REQUIRED:

WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program 10/1/22 – 9/30/23 \$322,453

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. This task order is in PDPHE's approved annual budget. No legal review or BOH action is required. (Task Order 2023*2209)

WIC Program 10/1/22 – 9/30/23 \$1,035,446

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 Counties and Bent County. (Task Order 2023*2240)

Since PDPHE does the oversight for three other counties, Board President Donald Moore inquired if the WIC contract covers the cost for this expense. Georgia affirmed the WIC contract covers all expenses associated for this oversight.

Fee Analysis – Mobile Home Parks

The Department is required to inspect the 17 mobile home parks in the City. A cost analysis was completed taking into consideration the time it takes to complete the inspections and any cost associated with them. The inspections include review of the state regulations for mobile home parks such as infrastructure, private plumbing and sewer lines, and inspection of the lot itself: numbers, proper lighting, securing of mobile homes, including sanitation issues. In 2016, the cost for an inspection was \$125. PDPHE proposes to increase the inspection fee for mobile home parks in Pueblo to \$160 (includes inspection and one follow-up visit) including an inspection fee of \$50 an hour for a complaint if a 'Notice of Violation' is issued. If approved, the increased fee will begin effective November 1, 2022.

MOVED by Ed Brown, seconded by Eileen Dennis, to approve the increase in mobile home inspection fees to \$160 effective November 1, 2022, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Drug Safety and New Technology Discussion/Information Presentation

Pueblo and other communities are experiencing a substance use disorder crisis and many overdose deaths are occurring. Board member Dr. Michael Nerenberg presented information about a new device

that can detect with accuracy the chemical make-up of street drugs. Current technology, such as fentanyl test strips, are limited to only fentanyl and do not identify other dangerous impurities that might be added to the drugs; for many of these substances, Narcan is ineffective. This new technology is costly, around \$35,000, but is important because it can save lives. The device is portable, and results are available in about 20 seconds. Little training is needed to use the device and the drug sample does not have to be destroyed to administer a test. Dr. Nerenberg envisions that a device could be available to the public for testing their drugs to help prevent deaths. He noted data also shows when people are informed about what is in their drugs they change their behaviors, reducing the amount they take or assuring someone else is present when they take the drugs. Dr. Nerenberg has shared this information with the Police Chief, District Attorney, and Undersheriff, but they were not in favor of implementing such technology in the community. Dr. Nerenberg believes this is a public health issue and is presenting the information to the BOH for their information and is not asking them to take action today. In the future, laws may change that allow for this sort of device to be used legally. At that time, it might be important for the BOH to take a position on the use of this type of device in the community. Board member Eileen Dennis stated the technology is a good idea, but many other challenges and risks would need to be addressed such as liability, staffing to conduct the testing, and funding to support the effort. Donald Moore noted this seems to be less of a legal question and more a question about creating culture that supports testing illegal drugs people are using. Dr. Nerenberg noted the Attorney General may give new guidance on the interpretation of the "Good Samaritan" law after the election that would make this type of testing in a community more acceptable. He also noted several communities and agencies are looking into this across the state including Boulder, Denver, and Summit County. Dr. Nerenberg informed the Board Ashley Loveless, a public health analyst with the CDC is willing to present more information about the use of this technology to the Board in the future. Attorney Marci Day cautioned PDPHE might be limited in its ability to implement this technology by law and by funding restrictions. She noted Pueblo County only has authority to do what the state allows, but the City may have more leeway because of its home-rule authority. Donald Moore suggested it would be important to have a unified community voice of support, which is beyond the Board of Health or PDPHE's authority. He acknowledged Dr. Nerenberg's well directed intentions to save lives and thanked him for the presentation.

F. **BOH Updates/Reports**

Public Health Director's Report Updates

COVID:

- Currently cases are decreasing across the state and country
- There has been a small uptick in positive cases at the state level in the last week
- Overall hospitalization rates are decreasing in the state
- Wastewater testing is fluctuating up and down
- CDPHE had reopened the vaccine site at the Pueblo Mall; boosters and primary COVID series are available
- The state vaccine bus continues to tour the state, but should decline in November and December, due reduced funding

Monkey Pox:

- 291 cases in the state with three confirmed cases in Pueblo County
- A drive-thru Monkey Pox vaccine clinic was held at PDPHE last week
- PDPHE will continue to monitor this disease

Environmental Health Updates:

- Last week at the Colorado Environmental Health Association(CEHA) conference, two PDPHE staff members presented Pueblo's journey to adopt the Model Aquatic Health Code and two other staff members presented on the Trash Task Force work

LPHA Director's meeting

- Office of Policy and Strategic Implementation staff members will be presenting at the Public Health in the Rockies conference in Keystone this week
- Prior to the Public Health in the Rockies conference, a Public Health Director's meeting was held earlier this week. Discussion centered around rebuilding Public Health and community trust following the pandemic. National trends and literature indicate there are important challenges around workforce retention and development; financing; data and information; and governance and law. Director Evetts noted the concern about the damage to public health trust across the country and concerns about the public health workforce given it is predicted nearly one half of the public health workforce is considering leaving the field in the next year

- There was also a lot of discussion about the lack of funding to support the 2008 Public Health Requirements of providing key services in every county and discussion about how some of this work might be better served through regional support
- Advocating for funding and how to prioritize issues is an ongoing discussion across the country
- Currently, per capita funding in Colorado is \$1.50/per person per year, but mandatory core functions must still be performed
- Relationship building and education about public health is essential as new people are elected at the legislative level
- Donald Moore noted PDPHE has a strong mission driven culture, which will help with retention of personnel

October Work Session:

- Director Evetts proposed canceling the October work session and rescheduling for Friday, November 18, 2022, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. to discuss the 2023 budget
- Work session will include discussion about critical function , use of reserves, and long-term budget planning

Future Board of Health Meetings:

- The Board discussed and decided to meet in person for all future Board meetings unless a special circumstance arises, at which time a Zoom meeting may be necessary

BOH Meeting Dates for November and December

Director Evetts asked the Board to consider and confirm their ability to meet for the November and December BOH meeting dates, due to the holidays. The November meeting date is Wednesday, November 23, 2022, and the December meeting date is Wednesday, December 28, 2022. By consensus, the Board agreed to keep the meeting dates as originally scheduled.

The next regular BOH meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 2022, at 12:00 noon.

MOVED by Eileen Dennis, 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