The El Paso County Board of Health met at 1675 West Garden of the Gods Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado, January 22, 2020. Dr. James Terbush, President, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**Board of Health Members:**
Dr. James Terbush, President  
Victoria Broerman, Vice President  
Yolanda Avila  
Cami Bremer  
Dr. Robert Bux  
Sam Gieck  
Longinos Gonzalez, Jr.  
Doris Ralston  
Not present: Kari Kilroy

**Directors Present:**
Susan Wheelan, Director  
DeAnn Ryberg, Deputy Director  
Brenda Heimbach, Health Services Division Director  
Dr. Susan Anthony, Development and Strategic Initiatives Officer  
Dr. Robin Johnson, Medical Director

**Others Present at Regular Session:**
Vicki Bennett  
Tom Butts  
Lori Cleaton  
Alexis Harper  
Stephen Goodwin  
Michelle Hewitt  
Janet Hufför  
Elaine Johnsen  
Betsy Lehman  
Marla Luckey  
Emily Maney  
Kimberly Pattison  
Jamie Pfähl  
Lisa Powell  
Victoria Ramirez  
Lori Seago  
Nikki Simmons  
Adrian Stanley  
Jessi Summers  
Nora Todd

**Approval of Agenda**
Dr. James Terbush asked for approval of the agenda.

MOVED: by Yolanda Avila seconded by Robert Bux to approve the agenda for the January 22, 2020 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Board of Health Comments**
Dr. James Terbush thanked El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) and the Office of Communication for keeping the Board up to date on important issues.

Commissioner Longinos Gonzalez mentioned two upcoming bills: one that will not allow organizations to keep employees from using marijuana and associated concerns around liability and health issues; and HB20-1065 that will allow local hospitals to implement needle exchange programs without the requirement that entities first receive local Board of Health approval. He disagrees with the aspect of HB20-1065 that removes Board of Board of Health Meeting Minutes (January 22, 2020) - Page 1 of 3
Health approval and feels the Board should oppose removal of this authority, regardless of individuals’ stance on needle exchange. Dr. Terbush stated the Board should vote unanimously for opposing HB20-1065 as local Boards of Health should be able to have this authority. Lori Seago stated that majority vote rules and does not have to be unanimous. Adrian Stanley, Health Communication Specialist for EPCPH, stated the bill may still change as it is only the beginning of the legislative session.

Adrian Stanley provided information on the Tobacco 21 bill. It would raise Colorado’s minimum legal age for tobacco and nicotine sales to 21 and create state licensing that requires compliance checks. It also decriminalizes minors and extends tobacco tax to vape devices. There has also been a federal flavor ban proposed.

Susan Wheelan invited all Board members to attend Public Health Day at the Capitol on February 12.

Approval of Board of Health Minutes
MOVED: by Yolanda Avila seconded by Longinos Gonzalez to ratify the minutes from the December 18, 2019 Board of Health meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Finance and Budget
A. December 2019 Preliminary Financial Status: Elaine Johnsen, Budget Optimization Manager for El Paso County, discussed the monthly financial status for December 2019 to the Board. Due to end of year processes and invoicing, numbers will not be final for a few months and will be presented at the February or March Board meeting.

Elaine Johnsen is retiring on February 20, 2020 after 16 years with El Paso County. She stated it has been a privilege and honor to work so closely with Public Health officials and thanked all staff. Ms. Johnsen was presented with a Public Health Champion award and thanked by Susan Wheelan for being an EPCPH team member.

Director’s Report – Susan Wheelan
A. Dr. Susan Anthony, Development and Strategic Initiatives Officer for EPCPH, presented on current El Paso County projects and collaborations around opioids and other substances, and substance abuse. Funding was received by EPCPH in late 2019 through SB 19-228 (approximately $200,000) to address opioid and other substance use in the County. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), El Paso County Sheriff’s Office (EPSO) and EPCPH are currently coordinating projects and studies around these issues. Dr. Anthony explained use of the funding will include a gap analysis; expanding the Bloom House/Special Connections Program for pregnant women and women with children who are recovering from substance abuse; supporting the EPCPH Medical Director in offering provider education around opioid prescribing guidelines; assisting the County Coroner’s Office with data collection needs for deaths related to substance overdose or misuse; providing funds to the CJCC for its study; developing a Behavioral Health Strategic Plan and evaluation for the County: working with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) on a qualitative study supporting opioid and other substance use recovery; and conducting focus groups through the Communities That Care program in the Fountain Valley region.

Dr. Robin Johnson explained the need to consider all substances, and not exclusively opioids. Dr. Bux mentioned that each county and city has different issues with different substances. In El Paso County, methamphetamine (meth) is the most used substance, followed by cocaine and heroin. Dr Anthony
stated EPCPH is aware and is designing programs with all substances in mind, and focusing on problems specific to El Paso County.

Janet Huffor, Chief of Staff and Legislative Liaison for EPSO, stated they are partnering with EPCPH with the objective of creating a continuum of care system in the criminal justice system, providing inmates with the behavioral health care they need in jail, and then a bridge to the care they need with outside providers, with the central goal of reducing recidivism. Mental health and substance abuse problems often are co-occurring and mental health rates in the Criminal Justice Center (CJC) are very high. EPSO is also looking into diversionary programs and preventative measures to reoffending.

EPCPH has been working with EPSO to develop a Community Navigation Team for transition of care to and from jail. The EPSO mental health co-responder team (BHCON) has recently increased to two units -- more are still needed.

CJCC received a grant from Colorado Springs Health Foundation, and matching funds from local stakeholders, to develop a criminal justice and behavioral health gaps and needs analysis for the Pikes Peak region. They are working on reducing community duplication of effort by identifying overlaps and plan to support efforts to develop a continuum of care and identify evidence-based practices to meet the needs of the community.

B. Medical Director Update – Novel coronavirus: In December there was an outbreak in Wuhan City, China. Coronavirus causes fever, runny nose, cough and respiratory issues. Travel history or contact with someone who has a known infection are indicators. Hospitals and the medical community have been informed to ask screening questions to identify travelers who have recently traveled to China. Updates will be provided as received.

Influenza: There has been an early spike in influenza B, affecting young people (20-30 years old). Dr. Johnson encourages getting the flu vaccine, practicing good hygiene and staying home if feeling ill.

Hepatitis A: El Paso County is potentially nearing the end of its outbreak, based on an epi-curve and date of last reported case. Early April is the anticipated end date if no new cases occur. Continuing outreach to partners and vaccinations are ongoing, as well as education around early detection and awareness.

Public Comments
None.

Next Board of Health meeting
February 26, 2020, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., located in the John Snow conference room.
22, January 2020-BOH/VBennett