

EL PASO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
January 23, 2019
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

The El Paso County Board of Health met at 1675 West Garden of the Gods Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado, January 23, 2019. 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 - excused
Dr. Robert Bux
Kari Kilroy - excused
Longinos Gonzalez
Cami Bremer
Richard Skorman - excused
Doris Ralston
Sam Gieck

Directors Present:

Susan Wheelan, Director
Brenda Heimbach, Health Services Division Director
Dr. Robin Johnson, Medical Director

Others Present at Regular Session:

Lori Seago	Kathi Schwan	Elaine Johnsen	Jakob Rodgers	DeAnn Ryberg
Aaron Doussett	Dr. Grace Houser	Jennifer Lange	Dacia Hudson	Pastor Ben Anderson
Aubrey Day	Mina Liebert			

Approval of Agenda

Dr. James Terbush asked for approval of the agenda.

MOVED: by Dr. Robert Bux seconded by Sam Gieck to approve the agenda for the January 23, 2019 meeting.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board of Health Comments

Dr. James Terbush welcomed Commissioner Cami Bremer to the Board of Health.

Approval of Board of Health Minutes

MOVED: by Dr. Robert Bux seconded by Longinos Gonzalez to ratify the minutes from the December 19, 2018 Board of Health meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Finance and Budget

- A. December 2018 Financial Report – Some 2018 expenses do not get booked until February 2019. The December summary will be updated, as final items are booked. Although preliminary, the numbers are very close to projections.

MOVED: by Longinos Gonzalez seconded by Dr. Robert Bux to approve the financial report for December 2018, pending audit.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Contracts:

- A. Immunizations Core Services Project (Supplemental Funding)

MOVED: by Dr. Robert Bux seconded by Sam Gieck to approve contract.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B. Healthy Places, Colorado Health Foundation Grant

MOVED: by Longinos Gonzalez seconded by Sam Gieck to approve contract.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

New Business

Aubrey Day presented on the role of built environment on the health of our population. The goal of the Healthy Environment Planner is to seek systemic solutions to address barriers to optimal health that can be attributed to the built environment. Community cohesion and spaces for physical activity are examples of factors that help us address the two focus areas of our Community Health Improvement Plan -- Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL), as well as Mental Health and Substance Use/Abuse.

The approach of the Healthy Places Grant is upstream and innovative. Implementation funding was awarded in November of 2018 from The Colorado Health Foundation after nearly a yearlong process to identify community priorities for opportunities to support community leadership and activate spaces in the community to promote physical activity and address the social determinants of health. Healthy Places is a project of RISE – Resilient, Inspired, Strong and Engaged coalition, and is designed to promoted change from within the local community.

A Community Hub will be the cornerstone of this process. It will be a gathering place for members to exchange ideas and plan activities and events to advocate for sustainable healthy living resources for their community.

Pastor Ben Anderson, Executive Director of Solid Rock Community Development Corporation, addressed the board. He highlighted the focus on developing the Community Hub and leveraging the support they have gotten to strengthen the economy in the area. He also identified some obstacles the community faces. Transportation is a significant challenge in the area. The Solid Rock Community Development Corporation is meeting with city officials to explore improvements in transportation options in the area.

County Commissioner Gonzalez and City Councilwoman Yolanda Avila have been promoting Mission Trace for Urban Renewal Zone designation.

This initiative is a testament to EPCPH's commitment to advancing community health, per Public Health 3.0. Susan Wheelan thanked Pastor Ben, Aubrey Day and Mina Liebert for their efforts.

A Southeast neighborhood newspaper launch will take place on January 30.

The Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership presented on the dangers of youth use of electronic cigarettes.

Dacia Hudson, program manager for the Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) (comprehensive, grant-funded tobacco prevention program) addressed the board members and provided some statistics on the increase in youth electronic cigarette use in our community.

- Twenty-three percent of El Paso County (EPC) youth are currently using e-cigarettes.
- Forty-four percent have tried an e-cigarette, also commonly referred to as vape or Juul.
- Colorado has twice the national average for e-cigarette use among youth.
- Eighty-five percent of youth think smoking is risky, but less than half think e-cigarettes are risky.

This is a Public Health crisis because of the alarming uptake in youth use of electronic cigarette products.

The Governor of Colorado declared November 2018 “Vape-free November.” He called for:

- Extending the existing excise tax on tobacco products to vaping products
- Requiring all retailers of tobacco products, vaping products, and e-cigarettes to be licensed
- Requiring internet retailers who sell vaping products to implement age verification procedures
- Updating the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act to include vaping
- Raising minimum sales age for tobacco and e-cigarette products to 21
- Prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco and vaping products

The Surgeon General has recently declared youth use of electronic cigarettes as an epidemic in the United States because of the unprecedented rapid increase in the use of electronic cigarettes.

Dr. Grace Houser, Pediatric Pulmonologist at Children’s Hospital and representative of the Tobacco Free Alliance addressed the board urging them to support the resolution declaring youth use of electronic cigarettes a Public Health crisis in El Paso County and using their roles to help limit youth normalization of these products.

Commissioner Bremer acknowledged the importance of the education component of tobacco cessation efforts.

Dr. James Terbush read the resolution.

Resolution Declaring Youth Vaping a Public Health Crisis in El Paso County

MOVED: by Cami Bremer seconded by Dr. Robert Bux to approve the Resolution Declaring Youth Vaping a Public Health Crisis in El Paso County.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Director’s Report – Susan Wheelan

Susan provided timely updates on topics in the media to the board.

- The federal shutdown has not had an impact on EPCPH at this time. The Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) receives federal funding, but that will not be affected through the end of February.
- For more than a decade, the state funding formula for per capita funding has remained unchanged. An EPCPH planner, Taryn Bailey, has applied and was selected to represent our interests on the Public Health Transformation Steering Committee.
- Point in Time survey - Pikes Peak Continuum of Care is recruiting 150+ volunteers to conduct a census, starting Monday, January 28, 2019, of people experiencing homelessness in our community. Several EPCPH staff will assist with this broader community effort.

Hepatitis A Update

We have changed our business model in addressing the hepatitis A situation in our community. We are increasingly holding Public Health Mobile Vaccination Outreach Clinics. Vaccination is the number one prevention method of hepatitis A transmission.

In the past year, we have seen 13 cases, 11 of which are associated with substance use disorder and people experiencing homelessness. There are two additional cases in Pueblo that are associated with the 11 aforementioned cases in El Paso County.

Dr. Robin Johnson, EPCPH Medical Director, highlighted prevention efforts, as well as our collaboration with community partners, to include the Homeless Outreach Teams (HOT teams) of the Colorado Springs Police Department and the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, as well as collaborations with hospitals.

Influenza

We have had significantly fewer hospitalized cases than last year. The highest rate of hospitalized cases is among infants, toddlers and people over 65 years of age. Vaccinations have done their job in preventing the intensity of the disease.

Public Comment:

None.

Next Board of Health meeting

February 27, 2019, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., located in the John Snow/Milton Miller conference room.
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