

**EL PASO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**January 24, 2018**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES**

The El Paso County Board of Health met at 1675 West Garden of the Gods Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado, January 24, 2018. Dr. James Terbush, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

**Board of Health Members:**

Kari Kilroy, President- excused  
James Terbush, Vice President  
Victoria Broerman - excused  
Robert Bux - excused  
Longinos Gonzalez  
Peg Littleton  
Richard Skorman  
Doris Ralston

**Directors Present:**

Dan Martindale, Director  
Tom Gonzales, Deputy Director  
Susan Wheelan, Deputy Director  
Brenda Heimbach, Health Services Division Director

**Others Present at Regular Session:**

Coreen Toll	Kathi Schwan	Kelley Vivian	Elaine Johnsen	Donna Dunkley
Jakob Rodgers	Lee Griffen	Marla Luckey	Janine Russell	Victoria Bennett
Dacia Hudson	Christine Nevin-Woods			

**Approval of Agenda**

Dr. James Terbush asked for approval of the agenda.

**MOVED:** by Richard Skorman seconded by Peggy Littleton to approve the agenda for the January 24, 2018 meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Board of Health Comments**

Former Board of Health member Coreen Toll was presented with an award recognizing her time on the board. The board members thanked her for her service.

Coreen expressed appreciation for EPCPH and the board's use of science and keeping decisions fact-based and evidence based.

Public Health Director awarded Coreen a service award for serving on the Board of Health for four years.

**Approval of Board of Health Minutes**

**MOVED:** by Peggy Littleton seconded by Longinos Gonzalez to ratify the minutes from the December 20, 2017 Board of Health meeting, pending amendments as requested following discussion.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Finance and Budget**

A. December 2017 Financial Report – the December report is preliminary. The last check run county-wide is next week. Final budgetary numbers will change slightly. The Electronic Health Records system was budgeted for 2017, has not been purchased yet. We continue to accrue expenses for the southeast WIC building.

Dan Martindale indicated that based on the fund balance, EPCPH will be coming to the Board of Health requesting reserve funds to purchase prioritized equipment and capital expenditures in 2018.

**MOVED:** by Peggy Littleton seconded by Richard Skorman to approve the financial report for December 2017, pending audit.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **New Business**

A. Food Safety Advisory Group Retail Food Establishment Excellence in Food Safety Recognition

**Excellence in Food Safety Recognition** – Tom Gonzales with Lee Griffen, Retail Food Safety Program Manager and Janine Russell, Assistant Director of Nutrition Services for School District 11 indicated that food service departments actively` compete to get this award.

A retail food establishment will be eligible for recognition if the establishment receives no critical violations on their report in the course of two regular annual inspections. Critical violations are those that, if not corrected, may lead to foodborne illness. There are three categories of retail food establishments recognized:

- Full service establishments
- Limited menu establishments
- Schools and other nonprofit establishments

470 restaurants out of more than 2,600 licensed establishments are being recognized for excellence in food safety. This is a rewards-based system. They will be recognized by the Board of Health and online. The goal of this program is to improve food safety practices in El Paso County and to create a non-adversarial, positive relationship between EPCPH and restaurants through incentives.

The restaurants being recognized for not having any critical food safety violations during their last two inspections are listed [here](#).

B. Tobacco Education and Prevention Program Presentation

Three court-ordered informational ads on the destructiveness of tobacco use by the tobacco industry were shown to board members. Concern about the lack of appeal in a tobacco industry effort to drive viewers away was expressed. Discussion included concerns about lack of factual disclosures on marijuana products relating to adverse health impact.

### **Resolutions**

Board members reviewed a local public service announcement (PSA) designed to raise awareness of Radon Action Month.

Program Manager, Marla Luckey indicated that in 2016/2017 the Office of Communications launched a media campaign during Radon Action Month (January) via social media and through a PSA, created a bilingual radon fact sheet, and created a web page on our website.

In 2017/2018, we continued a similar media campaign in January. In addition, Tigre FM, the local Spanish speaking radio station ran the PSA to reach Spanish speaking homeowners. This grant cycle, we are also partnering with UCCS nursing faculty/students to provide outreach in low income areas and/or areas with low testing rates; students will also be giving out free test kits at community presentations.

Commissioner Littleton invited Environmental Health staff to come to the BOCC on Thursday to read the resolution and clip during commissioner comments. Richard Skorman invited Marla to show the PSA and speak on Radon Action Month during a city council meeting.

Members asked if there was any testing or recourse for tenants of homes and apartments with high radon levels. *Inspection during sales may occur. New construction may require mitigation ?*

Marla Luckey read a proclamation Recognizing Radon Action Month

**MOVED:** by Peggy Littleton seconded by Longinos Gonzales to approve the Proclamation Recognizing Radon Action Month.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Director's Report** – Dan Martindale

- A. Expressed appreciation for excellent staff
- B. The Director indicated that he will request additional funds from reserve for board's approval – vehicles, hard offices and reconfiguration, elite books, etc.
- C. EPCPH has had a contract with the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region (HSPPR) for many years, We were unable to pay the significantly higher amount requested for 2018. EPCPH was unable to piggy back on the county's other contracts, because our lane is limited to disease control. We have contracted with Alpine Animal Control. HSPPR remains a mandatory reporter. They will be sending all animal bite reports to us. [There is new online reporting available on our website through the Environmental Health database.](#) There are over 2,000 bite reports per year. Having an electronic system is more efficient and locks you into mandatory fields, so we get all the information that is needed. Alpine is also on call 24-7 and has a good handle on this specialized field. We are working to communicate the changes in a clear manner to the public.
- D. Dan Martindale reminded members to save the date for the ribbon cutting for the southeast WIC office, located at 2948 E. Fountain Blvd. This event is scheduled for February 1, 2018, to take place from 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. The building will initially be focused on providing WIC services, but there will be a community meeting room for appropriate groups and organizations connected to RISE coalition. The goal is to increase access for community members. There may be outreach clinics for residents held at the new building, once building capacity is evaluated. Board members are invited to stop in. We've been seeing clients for two weeks. Both commissioners are planning to attend and make public comments.
- E. Susan Wheelan spoke to board members about co-responder model – part of the youth suicide prevention. Mental Health response through law enforcement. KV writes grants and secures funding for

agencies across the community. This grant for the Sheriff's office will have a mental health specialist on responses.

Disparity in infant mortality discussion will be done at a future meeting.

### **Medical Director's Report** – *Christine Nevin-Woods, D.O.*

Dr. Nevin-Woods explained the status of flu season.

#### **Flu**

- Influenza is an acute respiratory disease caused by an infection with influenza viruses.
- Peak virus shedding is usually from one day before onset of symptoms to three days after
- A (H3N2) virus –predominant flu seasons have been associated with more serious illness, hospitalizations, and deaths
- Presentation of flu illness in the oldest age groups may be atypical and more serious
- The very young, seniors, and those who are immunosuppressed or with chronic diseases are at risk for more severe disease and complications

#### **Current Season:**

- According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) there are widespread influenza infections in every state except Hawaii
- This is three to four times higher than what was reported in recent years and the most cases reported to this point since 2014, Colorado's most severe season
- Flu activity continues to increase across Colorado and the United States, with influenza A (H3N2) viruses predominating
- Locally, from October 1, 2017 to week of January 23, 2018 there have been 300 hospitalizations and one pediatric death in addition to outbreaks in long term care facilities
- Vaccine effectiveness has been lower against A(H3N2) viruses than A(H1N1) and other influenza viruses
- CDC expects vaccine effectiveness for H3N2 to be about 32 percent and similar to last season

#### **Prevention and Treatment:**

- Flu vaccine is still available and recommended
- Vaccine may not prevent the flu but can be effective against cases of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, especially with those at high risk
- In addition to vaccine for prevention of the flu, the use of antiviral medication to treat and for prevention is important
- Evidence from previous seasons suggests the antivirals are underutilized in outpatients and hospitalized patients
- Social distancing, staying home when ill, covering your cough, and hand washing are effective prevention tools against spread

#### **Public Health Role:**

- Epidemiology tracking of the current season
- Keeping hospitalization data
- Education of the community
- Collaborating with the medical and hospital community
- Providing flu vaccine to the public

Doris Ralston asked if there are any mandates for child care workers to get vaccinated. Education, vaccinations and hand washing are key. It is important to raise awareness.

Longinos Gonzalez asked about rise in STDs –Are there any trends we can focus on? Why there was more than 90 percent increase in gonorrhea?

Dr. Nevin-Woods indicated that we are also seeing syphilis, HIV and chlamydia rates rising. A lack of adequate funding in STD clinics is likely the key factor to address. Our clinics generally see sexually active young adults, but lately we are seeing a much more varied demographic.

Commissioner Gonzalez would like to know what the underlying reason might be for the upsurge and how we can address that before it gets out of control.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**MOVED:** by Doris Ralston seconded by Richard Skorman to adjourn.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Next Board of Health meeting**

**February 28, 2017, 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**, located in the John Snow/Milton Miller conference room.  
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