The El Paso County Board of Health met at 1675 West Garden of the Gods Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado, February 26, 2020. Victoria Broerman, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

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

**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  
Kieu Bugg  
Lori Cleaton  
Michelle Hewitt  
Dacia Hudson  
Jennifer Lange  
Betsy Lehman  
Marla Luckey  
Kimberly Pattison  
Jodi Pinnell  
Victoria Ramirez  
Lori Seago  
Nikki Simmons  
Adrian Stanley  
Jessi Summers  
Nora Todd

**Approval of Agenda**  
Victoria Broerman asked for approval of the agenda.

MOVED: by Yolanda Avila seconded by Sam Gieck to approve the agenda for the February 26, 2020 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Board of Health Comments**  
Commissioner Longinos Gonzalez stated he testified at the Capitol on behalf of El Paso County against House Bill (HB) 20-1065, as written. The Bill passed along party lines. The Bill’s sponsor added a new amendment, expanding entities who can run needle exchange programs from licensed hospitals to include any non-profit who has history of running such program, still without local board of health approval.

Sam Gieck thanked Jennifer Lange, El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) Prevention and Policy Specialist, for attending the City of Fountain Council meeting to testify for a new ordinance concerning retail tobacco use.

Cami Bremer stated most Commissioners will be attending the National Association of City and County Officials meeting next week and she will serve on a panel on the topic of homelessness. She stated the way our
local County agencies, such as the Department of Human Services (DHS) and EPCPH, collaborate is much appreciated, and she is very proud of our County.

Approval of Board of Health Minutes
Victoria Broerman asked for approval of the January 22, 2020 meeting minutes.

MOVED: by Cami Bremer seconded by Yolanda Avila to ratify the minutes from the January 22, 2020 Board of Health meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Finance and Budget
A. December 2019 Preliminary Financial Status: Nikki Simmons, Controller for El Paso County, discussed the preliminary monthly financial status for December 2019 to the Board. It is still preliminary because it is being finalized with end of year numbers and has not yet been audited. Auditors will be on site in March and a report will be presented to the Board of Health tentatively in June. Revenue for licenses and fees shows as lower because tuberculosis skin testing was stopped in 2019 (due to allocating resources to the hepatitis A outbreak response). The estimated change in fund balance is $68,073 for 2019.

B. The Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to El Paso County Public Health by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for fiscal year 2018. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Ms. Simmons recognized Debbie Perry, Jodi Pinell and Kieu Bugg in El Paso County Finance for their work on the CAFR.

Resolutions
A. Resolution to Amend Board of Health Regular 2020 Meeting Schedule as presented was read into record by Victoria Broerman. The resolution will amend the official start time of the meetings to be 8:30am for the remainder of 2020.

MOVED: by Longinos Gonzalez seconded by Sam Gieck to approve the resolution.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Longinos Gonzalez asked the Board if they want to move forward with a resolution opposing HB 20-1065 specific to removing local board of health control.

Adrian Stanley, Public Health Communication Specialist, stated there is no current timeline for this bill. If there is not a lot of opposition, it could move quickly through the House. The Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO) supports the bill but are not lobbying for it. CDPHE has not taken a formal stance.

Board members provided comments and questions on the issue.
   o Lori Seago, County Attorney, stated after adoption of the Legislative Policy by the Board, any Board member or EPCPH staff member can take a position of affirmance, and suggested the Public Health Board of Health Meeting Minutes (February 26, 2020) - Page 2 of 4
Director draft a letter to submit to state legislators. Susan Wheelan stated a letter from the Board of Health may be effective.

- Victoria Broeran would like to send a letter or resolution to CALPHO as they are charged with supporting local control.
- Yolanda Avila requested more information on past situations, if any, that removed local Board of Health control, or if there are current ones now. EPCPH will research.

The Board agreed that Lori Seago will work with EPCPH staff to draft a resolution opposing the bill related specifically to removing local Board of Health authority, and a special meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, to review and vote. Meeting details will be sent to Board members.

**Director’s Report – Susan Wheelan**

Susan Wheelan stated the Governor’s office contacted EPCPH and would like to meet. She and DeAnn will meet with the Lieutenant Governor on March 2nd. Board members were invited to attend. Agenda topics may include funding and local control. She also stated EPCPH worked with the State Behavioral Health Task Force to coordinate public testimony on experiences accessing behavioral health services. The public testimony takes place later in the day (February 26) and a number of County leaders will be in attendance.

### A. Legislative Update

- **HB 20-1319** was introduced. It will prohibit the sale of flavored nicotine products, including menthol. It will also result in increased fines to retailers who sell flavored nicotine products.
- **SB 20-163 School Entry Immunization** – a 16-hour hearing at the Senate committee took place on February 19th. The bill passed on party line vote and went to appropriations. May see amendments.
- **HB 20-1085**, prevention of substance use disorders, was referred to appropriation. It is aimed at preventing opioid addiction and will result in a continuation of funding provided last year. CALPHO is actively supporting this bill.
- **HB 20-1094 ”Repeal Fee Cap On-site Wastewater Treatment System”** is moving along quickly. This bill would remove the cap on fees and allow EPCPH to cover its costs.

### B. Medical Director Update

Dr. Robin Johnson, EPCPH Medical Director, provided the following updates:

- **Coronavirus/COVID-19**: EPCPH is continually planning and preparing to protect the public, alongside hospitals, the medical community, law enforcement, and the Crisis Communication Network. Coronaviruses are a large family of common viruses (the common cold is a coronavirus). They are usually zoonotic, spreading from animals to humans. MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV were coronaviruses. The immediate health risk to the general American public is still considered low at this time. Symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath, and can be hard to differentiate from other ailments. Known transmission is though coughing and sneezing. Most cases (82% according to the World Health Organization) are mild and there is a less than two percent mortality rate. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released various travel advisories and initiated health screenings at select airports. EPCPH has been creating community plans and processes and is working with experts to estimate key epidemiological trajectory.

  Prevention includes washing hands thoroughly, covering mouth and nose when sneezing, avoiding close contact with symptomatic individuals, avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands, and staying home if sick. Personal protective equipment, such as masks, can be utilized for healthcare workers and the recommendation is fit-tested N95 masks and eye protection, gloves and a gown. Regular, non fit-tested masks will not prevent healthy individuals from getting sick and are not
necessary. EPCPH’s website contains more information. A press release will go out today regarding EPCPH and community efforts, and local preparedness. Encourage your partners to access credible information from EPCPH’s website or the CDC.

- Influenza (flu). Flu season is still ongoing in El Paso County. Initially strain B was seen, continuing with A. Influenza tends to impact older adults age 65+. There are just under 4.29 million flu illnesses in the United States and 16,000 deaths. 105 influenza-associated deaths occurred in children. It is still timely to get your flu vaccine. This year, the flu is very susceptible to antiviral medication.

- EVALI: There are over 2800 cases nationwide and we are seeing decreasing incidences in emergency departments due to an understanding of the role of vitamin E acetate in vaping devices.

- Hepatitis A: There have been no new cases in El Paso County since December 2019. EPCPH is currently maintaining surveillance and vaccination efforts. If no new cases occur, the outbreak can be declared over on April 6th.

**Public Comments**
None.

**Next Board of Health meeting**
March 3, 2020, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., located in the John Snow conference room.
26, February 2020-BOH/VBennett