

**EL PASO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**March 27, 2018**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES**

The El Paso County Board of Health met at 1675 West Garden of the Gods Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado, March 27, 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  
Cami Bremer  
Dr. Robert Bux  
Sam Gieck - excused  
Longinos Gonzalez  
Kari Kilroy  
Doris Ralston  
Richard Skorman

**Directors Present:**

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

**Others Present at Regular Session:**

Anne Beer	Dr. Christine Bong	Mava Cooper	Aaron Doussett
Kristi Durbin	Susan Garrett	Michelle Hewitt	Tom Hutton
Elaine Johnsen	Mike Lux	Greg Morris	Clif Northam
Dr. Alex Novin	Kimberly Pattison	Jakob Rodgers	JD Ross
Kathi Schwan			

**Approval of Agenda**

Dr. James Terbush asked for approval of the agenda.

**MOVED:** by Richard Skorman seconded by Dr. Robert Bux to approve the agenda for the March 27, 2019 meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Board of Health Comments**

The Community Health Partnership is hosting a discussion on Emerging Strategies to Address the Opioid Crisis on Wednesday, April 17, 2019.

**Approval of Board of Health Minutes**

**MOVED:** by Victoria Broerman seconded by Richard Skorman to ratify the minutes from the February 27, 2019 Board of Health meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## Proclamation

Proclamation Recognizing Public Health Week: The theme for National Public Health Week 2019 is “Creating the Healthiest Nation: For Science. For Action. For Health.” The members of the Board of Health and the Board of County Commissioners are united in their desire to encourage individuals in El Paso County to lead the healthiest lives possible; and together recognize April 1<sup>st</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, as National Public Health Week.

**MOVED:** by Longinos Gonzalez seconded by Cami Bremer to approve the Proclamation Recognizing Public Health Week 2019

## Public Health Champions Ceremony

The following individuals were recognized by the Board of Health for championing the ideals of Public Health in the El Paso County community. Each individual was presented an award.

- 1. Clif Northam, El Paso County Sherriff’s Office Bureau Chief**
- 2. Lt. JD Ross (Ret.) – El Paso County Sheriff’s Office**

Both Chief Northam and Lt. Ross were instrumental in helping El Paso County Public Health develop the components of a grant proposal for funding from the Colorado Department of Human Services to establish a Co-Responder Services Program, also known as the Behavioral Health Connect Program which pairs an El Paso County Sheriff’s Deputy with a Licensed Behavioral Health Clinician from UCHHealth’s Memorial Hospital. The unit responds to emergency calls for service determined to have a behavioral health issue as a primary factor. The main goals of the program are to prevent unnecessary incarceration or hospitalization of people experiencing mental illness and to promote alternate care in the least restrictive environment through a coordinated system-wide approach.

In 2018, Chief Northam and Lt. Ross were integrally involved in the launch of the *Man Therapy* campaign in El Paso County. *Man Therapy* is a tool that encourages men to seek help for behavioral health issues. They made it a priority to be available for numerous events and media interviews to promote this campaign, showing true leadership and strength, modeling the way for other men to reach out for help when needed.

- 3. Lt. Mike Lux - Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD)**
- 4. Cmdr. Sean Mandel – Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD)**

Under the leadership of Cmdr. Sean Mandel, Lt. Lux and the CSPD Homeless Outreach Team (HOT Team), which he oversees, have provided vital assistance with El Paso County Public Health’s hepatitis A mobile outreach clinics, offering technical guidance and facilitating the provision of vaccines and pertinent information about hepatitis A among the homeless. Mandel and Lux have demonstrated strong leadership, strengthening public safety and public health partnerships, making it a priority to protect the public’s health and safety. The HOT team has been a critical element, providing consistent, timely support in El Paso County Public Health’s ability to reach this high-risk population. Commander Mandel has also served on the *Communities that Care* Key Leader board, working to prevent youth substance use since 2016 and has been involved in youth suicide prevention efforts.

- 5. Dr. Leon Kelly – El Paso County Coroner**

Dr. Kelly is the co-coordinator of the El Paso County Child Fatality Review Team and holds a position on the Colorado State Child Fatality Review Committee. Since 2016, Dr. Kelly has been a key contributor who helps lead youth suicide prevention efforts. He serves as the Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition’s content expert, providing critical data on youth suicide to inform the Committee’s initiatives. He has been instrumental in forging relationships with key community partners and was a driving force in organizing the Community Conversations Project with the Colorado Office of the Attorney General in 2018, which involved multi-county focus groups on the topic of youth suicide.

**6. Dr. Christine Bong, Pediatrician - Private Practice**

Dr. Christine Bong has been a strong partner to El Paso County Public Health for five years. She served on the Maternal Child Health Program’s Early Childhood Developmental Screening Task Force from 2014 to 2016. In this role, she worked with community partners to develop toolkits and resources to support developmental screening and referrals for children in our community. Since entering private practice in 2017, she has worked closely with HCP to support children and youth with special health care needs. As a private provider she refers families to HCP, coordinates closely with our care coordination team and advocates for shared families. In addition, she is keenly aware of the many programs provided by El Paso County Public Health, and encourages her clients to take advantage of the available services. Dr. Bong’s partnership and advocacy over multiple years has made a significant difference in the lives of our shared clients.

**7. Susan Garrett, MSN, RN, CNE, Senior Instructor - Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences, University of Colorado Colorado Springs**

- Since 2016, Susan Garrett has collaborated with Public Health to lead bi-annual skills refresher trainings for all nursing staff. Susan tailors these trainings to specifically address the needs of our nurses by incorporating Public Health’s clinical policies and practices into the training. Because of Susan’s efforts, our nurses have access to UCCS faculty and a state of the art simulation laboratory resulting in a public health nurse work force that is better poised to respond to the needs of our community.
- In her role as an instructor for Community Health Nursing, Susan facilitates student nurses participation in our immunization clinics and public health mobile outreach team efforts. This is truly a win-win situation for both UCCS and El Paso County Public Health as students gain valuable real world experience in public health nursing and El Paso County Public Health gains critical nursing support that expands our capacity to immunize at-risk individuals.

**8. Greg Morris, Founder & CEO - Ascending to Health Respite Care**

Greg Morris has demonstrated dedication to our community through care for those experiencing homelessness. In our current hepatitis A outbreak, he has provided for those who are discharged from a hospital visit, are experiencing homelessness, and require continued care in a safe environment. He has given this assistance beyond his usual services to assist Public Health, Centura, and UC Health to assure appropriate care of patients in the community, with the mission of mitigating the spread of this disease.

**9. Dr. Alexander Novin, Pharm.D, BCPS, Infectious Diseases Clinical Pharmacist - UCHealth**

Dr. Alexander Novin is a pharmacist with UC Health. He has worked with El Paso County Public Health for several years on issues ranging from programs for HIV testing, rabies case investigations, and post-exposure prophylaxis. He has also been involved with the innovative collaboration to facilitate vaccinations through UC Health emergency departments and inpatient services for our at-risk populations.

**Finance and Budget**

**A. February 2019 Financial Report**

Revenues are ahead of expenditures largely due to grants coming in in January. That will balance out as the year progresses. Operating expenses are slightly ahead of projections, but that will also even out as the budget year progresses.

**MOVED:** by Doris Ralston seconded by Longinos Gonzalez to approve the financial report for February 2019, pending audit.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **Contracts**

### A. Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Breastfeeding Peer Counselor

EPC WIC Peer Counseling program has been selected to provide breastfeeding support for the women in Boulder County through the services of a texting platform that is presently utilized by EPC WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselors.

**MOVED:** by Richard Skorman seconded by Cami Bremer to approve the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Breastfeeding Peer Counselor contract.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **Director's Report** – *Susan Wheelan*

- A. Measles Tabletop Training Opportunity – The Public Health Director invited Board of Health members to participate in a local epidemiology conference. Dr. Randall Reves will be presenting on tuberculosis and Steven Berman will be presenting on Global Health.
- B. Vaccine Preventable Diseases – Immunization Clinic Program Manager, Kristi Durbin and Communicable Disease Program Manager, Kimberly Pattison presented on Vaccine Preventable Diseases: Childhood Immunizations and Communicable Disease Investigation. [A Colorado Department of Health and Environment website was provided](#) that allows the public to learn about vaccination and exemption rates throughout the state.

Dr. Terbush, Board of Health President summed up the presentation by stating that vaccines are safe and effective, and we need to get that message out.

- C. The Public Health Director and the Medical Director provided an overview of the hepatitis A outbreak response.
  - a. The Public Health Director, Susan Wheelan, thanked Joel Yuhas, Jose Melendez and Tamara Rosen for providing nursing staff to assist in this response and reminded the board that we have been in Incident Command Structure (ICS) since October 2018.
  - b. The Medical Director, Dr. Robin Johnson, indicated that we are reaching out to hospitals by doing grand rounds with UCMemorial and soon with Centura. The population most at risk for hepatitis A are individuals experiencing homelessness and drug users. We have been working closely with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office to identify those at risk, and preventing disease transmission through herd immunity by vaccinating those at risk of exposure. We are honored to have had a Tri-County nurse and CDPHE vaccine to help with our response. Susan Wheelan provided context for our response by reminding the board that we have four nurses in the Immunization Clinic. When we reach out to other public health departments, we are asking for support to our limited nursing staff. This is why we need strong partnerships.
- D. Board Member Comment: Doris Ralston enjoyed the Public Health Emergency Law training session. She expressed her concern that mental health issues are the latest medical crisis in our community. Susan Wheelan mentioned that Commissioner Vanderwerf recently led a CJCC Behavioral Health summit. Additionally, the National Alliance for Mental Illness is hosting a fundraiser breakfast on May 2, 2019. Susan Wheelan invited Board of Health members to participate in that event.

## **Public Comment:**

None.

**Next Board of Health meeting**

**April 24, 2019, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**, located in the John Snow/Milton Miller conference room.  
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