

EL PASO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

April 24, 2019

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

The El Paso County Board of Health met at 1675 West Garden of the Gods Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado, April 24, 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
Longinos Gonzalez
Kari Kilroy
Doris Ralston
Richard Skorman

Directors Present:

Susan Wheelan, Director
DeAnn Ryberg, Deputy Director
Dr. Susan Anthony, Development and Strategic Initiatives Officer
Brenda Heimbach, Health Services Division Director

Others Present at Regular Session:

Devi Almklov	Yolanda Avila	Taryn Bailey	Vicki Bennett
Lori Cleaton	Mava Cooper	Loni Donovan	Aaron Doussett
Shannon Ely	Elaine Johnsen	Darrell Kirby	Marigny Klaber
Michelle Hewitt	Helen Moreno	Kimberly Pattison	Lisa Powell
Kathleen Schwan	Lori Seago	Jessi Summers	Larry Whitenack
Linda Whitenack			

Approval of Agenda

Dr. James Terbush asked for approval of the agenda.

MOVED: by Richard Skorman seconded by Robert Bux to approve the agenda for the April 24, 2019 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board of Health Comments

Every two years, following elections, the Colorado Springs City Council reassigns councilmember duties. City Councilmember Yolanda Aliva will be the City Council’s primary representative on the Board of Health and Richard Skorman will serve as alternate.

Councilmember Richard Skorman commented that the City of Colorado Springs is moving forward on a multi-pronged approach to offering 375 permits for supportive housing in this community by the end of the year using the “Community First” model, which originated in Austin, Texas.

Kari Kilroy commented that she attended a Community Health Partnership conference, which focused on emerging strategies to address the opioid crisis on April 17, 2019. Ms. Kilroy advocated for education around harm reduction and expressed concern that the Board was not discussing this issue due to the moratorium on

talking about syringe exchange programs. She would like the board to be able to talk about this, especially framed as a behavioral health issue.

Approval of Board of Health Minutes

MOVED: by Doris Ralston seconded by Kari Kilroy to ratify the minutes from the March 27, 2019 Board of Health meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Retirement Resolution

Larry Whitenack has served in El Paso County Public Health since March 2002. Most recently, Larry has served as an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.

MOVED: by Dr. James Terbush seconded by Commissioner Longinos Gonzalez to approve the Retirement Resolution for Larry Whitenack.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Finance and Budget

A. March 2019 Financial Report

Elaine Johnsen introduced Lori Cleaton, County Budget Manager, who will present the monthly financial report to the Board of Health next month. Revenues are ahead of expenditures largely due to grants coming in. That will balance out as the year progresses. Operating expenses are slightly behind budget, but that will also even out as the budget year progresses. This is due to the hiring process for the Critical Needs staff. Those costs will begin to roll in as staff are hired.

MOVED: by Richard Skorman seconded by Longinos Gonzalez to approve the financial report for March 2019, pending audit.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Director's Report – *Susan Wheelan*

- A. The Public Health Director introduced Dr. Susan Anthony, the new Development and Strategic Initiatives Officer (DSIO). In addition to oversight of the current DSIO office, Dr. Anthony will oversee the new office of Science, Surveillance, Epidemiology and Technology (SSET). She comes to EPCPH from Baltimore, Maryland, where she worked at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid's (CMS), Innovation Center. At CMS, Dr. Anthony worked on innovative payment models related to population health and social determinants of health. Dr. Anthony has worked across the Public Health spectrum.
- B. An update on hepatitis A was provided by Dr. Robin Johnson, Medical Director. Last month was very busy with outbreak response activities. The outbreak started in October. The patient concentration continues to be centered on individuals experiencing homelessness and individuals with substance use disorder. This population intersects with the Criminal Justice Center (CJC) population. EPCPH epidemiologists overlaid our epi curve with that of Salt Lake's, a community that experienced an outbreak in 2017, which closely mirrors our own. Despite our unprecedented outreach, if our epi curve continues to trend according to those of other communities' outbreaks, we can expect additional cases, due to the pathophysiology of this infection. We have administered over 2,500 vaccines since the onset of the outbreak in coordination with our community partners. We continue to see evidence and are hopeful that the efforts will decrease the overall numbers of the surge and the length of this outbreak. Our efforts have been three-pronged:

1. Surveillance – It is important to identify hepatitis A patients early and get them into care.
2. Vaccination – The first of the two-shot hepatitis vaccine series provides 97 percent immunity.
3. Housing – Providing housing to those individuals who may be contagious with Ascending to Healthcare Respite Care can limit disease transmission.

C. Panorama Park renovation project. There is a Panorama Park open house on Friday, April 26, 2019 from 5:30pm to 7:30 p.m. at 2145 South Chelton Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80916. This effort fits into El Paso County Public Health's built environment goals of making safe, healthy, accessible spaces that promote an active lifestyle.

Public Comment:

None.

Next Board of Health meeting

May 22, 2019, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., located in the John Snow/Milton Miller conference room.
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