

EL PASO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

January 25, 2023

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

The El Paso County Board of Health met at the Citizens Service Center at 1675 W. Garden of the Gods Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado, on January 25, 2023. Eight Board of Health members were present, none were absent.

Ted Collas, President, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Board of Health Member Roll Call:

Present:

Ted Collas, President
Doris Ralston, Vice President
Commissioner Longinos Gonzalez, Jr.
Dr. Richard Vu
General Jack Briggs (Teams)
Dr. James Terbush
Commissioner Cami Bremer (Teams)
Councilmember Dave Donelson

Absent: none

Directors and Officers Present:

Susan Wheelan, Public Health Director (Teams)
DeAnn Ryberg, Public Health Deputy Director
Dr. Bernadette Albanese, Co-Medical Director
Dr. Paul Mayer, Co-Medical Director
Roy Kroeger, Environmental Health Division Director
Dawn Wesenberg, Strategic Initiatives Officer
Carolyn Gery, Development Officer
Michelle Beyrle, Public Health Information Officer

Others Present at Regular Session:

Becca Barnhart	Vicki Bennett	Colter Dewitt	Kimberly Disnute	Karisa Dreyer
Lori Seago	Lynnes Estrada	Dacia Hudson	Alicia Humlicek	Jordan Linder
Janel McNair	Samantha Montmeny	Cara Rodriguez	Tom Strand	Erin Thompson
Kelsey Tillema	Nora Todd	Christian Wright	Haley Zachary	

Two American Sign Language Interpreters from Sign Language Network were also present.

Approval of Agenda

Ted Collas entertained a motion to approve the agenda for the January 25, 2023 Board of Health Meeting

MOVED: by Doris Ralston, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez to approve the agenda for the January 25, 2023 Board of Health meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Board of Health Comments

1. Board members recognized Dr. Terbush for his years of service as Board of Health President.
2. Dr. Terbush thanked Board members, Director Wheelan, and Deputy Director Ryberg for making his time as President enjoyable.
3. Director Wheelan thanked Dr. Terbush for his service, kindness, and compassion.
4. Doris Ralston congratulated Commissioner Bremer on her recent appointment to Chair of the Board of County Commissioners.

Approval of Minutes

Ted Collas entertained a motion to approve the December 14, 2022 Board of Health Meeting minutes.

MOVED: by Doris Ralston, seconded by Dr. Terbush to ratify the minutes from the December 14, 2022 Board of Health meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Comment on Items not Scheduled on the Agenda

No comments presented.

Finance and Budget

Becca Barnhart, Youth Substance Use Prevention Planner, presented on the Colorado Trust Culmination Grant:

1. Colorado Trust Culmination Grant (Connect Fountain).
 - a) Fountain Valley Communities That Care (FV-CTC) was invited to apply for the Colorado Trust Culmination Grant due to FV-CTC's efforts in the community to prevent youth substance use.
 - b) The purpose of the grant is to create the Connect Fountain project, which emerged from youth and family input requesting more opportunities and programs to increase community connectedness in Fountain.
 - c) The Connect Fountain project aligns with existing, evidence based FV-CTC and Drug Free Communities initiatives focusing on primary prevention to reduce youth substance use.

MOVED: by Commissioner Gonzalez, seconded by Doris Ralston to Approve the Colorado Trust Culmination Grant.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Lori Seago read the Resolution to Recognize and Appropriate Expenditures for Contract Funding.

MOVED: by Dr. Terbush, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez to Approve the Resolution to Recognize Revenue and Appropriate Expenditures for Contract Funding

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

New Business

Lori Seago read the Resolution to Adjust Compensation of Public Health Director:

1. Resolution to Adjust Compensation of Public Health Director
 - a) Director Wheelan received her annual performance review on December 14, 2022. The Board of Health has found her leadership to be exceptional, with no concerns.
 - b) The Board of Health approved a 2% pay for performance increase and an additional 5% cost of living increase in conformance with the across-the-board increase for all El Paso County employees. Effective date of increase will be January 8, 2023, and results in an annual salary of \$206,858. The Board of Health has also approved a one-time performance award of \$5,000 for her exemplary performance.

MOVED: by Doris Ralston, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez to approve the Resolution to Adjust Compensation of Public Health Director

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director's Report

Dr. Albanese, Co-Medical Director, presented on respiratory illness season updates:

1. COVID-19
 - a) Modest winter season thus far and hospitalization cases are decreasing.
 - b) XBB.1.5 is now the dominant variant and is less responsive to the vaccines.
2. Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
 - a) As of January 20, 2023 (in Colorado) there have been:
 - 2,385 hospitalizations with over 80% comprised of pediatric patients.
 - 463 outbreaks in school or childcare settings.
 - 19 outbreaks in long-term care settings.
3. Influenza
 - a) Influenza hospitalizations in El Paso County has shown a consistent decline.
 - b) Influenza A has constituted most of the cases so far this winter.
 - c) Influenza B may have a slight increase forthcoming and passing its peak by March or April.

Janel McNair, Emergency Preparedness and Response Program Manager, presented on Emergency Support Function 8:

1. Emergency Support Function 8 (Public and Medical Services)
 - a) El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) can serve as the lead agency based on the nature of the incident as it relates to EPCPH authority, resources, capabilities, and expertise to handle a particular hazard. Some examples of El Paso County Public Health serving as lead agency include:
 - Hepatitis A response
 - Mpox Response

- COVID-19 Pandemic Response
- b) El Paso County Public Health can serve as a support agency when activated by the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management (PPROEM). Some examples of El Paso County Public Health serving as a support agency include:
 - Waldo Canyon Fire
 - Club Q incident
 - Manitou Springs Flood

Alicia Humlicek, COVID-19 Response Program Manager presented on COVID-19 Community Based Testing Site updates:

1. The first community-based testing site in El Paso County opened on August 11, 2020.
2. The last community-based testing site in El Paso County closed on January 15, 2023.
3. All three El Paso County Public Health locations continue to offer free at-home test-kits.
4. 29,839 test kits were distributed in 2022 by El Paso County Public Health.
5. In 2021 and 2022, El Paso County Public Health Lab ran 9,616 tests during outbreak investigations.

Ted Collas entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED: by Commissioner Gonzalez, seconded by Councilmember Donelson to Adjourn the meeting

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adjournment at 9:57 am.

Next Board of Health meeting

The next Board of Health meeting will be:

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

at The Citizens Service Center

1675 W. Garden of the Gods Rd. in Colorado Springs.

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