

EL PASO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
February 22, 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 February 22, 2023. Nine Board of Health members were present.

Ted Collas, President, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Board of Health Member Roll Call:

Present:

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

Absent:

none

Directors and Officers Present:

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

Others Present at Regular Session:

Vicki Bennett	Jessica Calloway	Bertha Castillo	Kristi Durbin	Erin Gilmore
Taylor Hartshorn	Dr. Robin Johnson	Dr. Susan Kuiper	Emily Maney	Jhammel Powell
Cara Rodriguez	Summer South	Tom Strand	Kelsey Tillema	Nora Todd
Mark Wester	Fadi Youkhana	Maggie Youkhana	Haley Zachary	

Three American Sign Language Interpreters from Sign Language Network

Approval of Agenda

Ted Collas entertained a motion to approve the agenda for the February 22, 2023 Board of Health Meeting

MOVED: by General Briggs, seconded by Doris Ralston to approve the agenda for the February 22, 2023 Board of Health meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Board of Health Comments

1. Ted Collas expressed condolences for the loss of City of Fountain Police Officer Julian Becerra and for the victims of the earthquakes in Turkey.
2. Commissioner Gonzalez commented that there will be a Region 16 Opioid Council meeting Monday, February 27 at 1:00 p.m.
3. Gen. Briggs expressed opposition to the Overdose Prevention Center Authorization bill HB23-1202. It would allow municipalities to establish safe injection sites. He would like the Board of Health to consider taking a stance of opposition if this issue comes to Colorado Springs.
4. Dr. Vu would like to see data on risks and benefits for safe injection sites.

Approval of Minutes

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

MOVED: by Councilmember Donelson, seconded by Dr. Terbush to ratify the minutes from the January 25, 2023 Board of Health meeting.

Mayor Havenar abstained – appointed to the Board subsequent to the January 25 Board of Health meeting.

MOTION PASSED WITH MAJORITY VOTE

Public Comment on Items not Scheduled on the Agenda

No comments presented.

Public Health Champion Awards

1. City Hope was presented with a Public Health Champion Award for their distinguished work in providing a safe location in which the homeless population could quarantine and isolate to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Mark Wester, Executive Director of Embrace, Dr. Robin Johnson and Dr. Sue Kuiper were present to accept the award.

Finance and Budget

Samantha Montmeny, El Paso County Health and Human Services Budget Supervisor, presented the preliminary December 2022 financial summary:

1. Public Health is currently under budget in terms of expenditures. This is attributed to vacant staff positions and delays on capital spending. These expenditures would be paid for by reimbursement grants; however, since we have not incurred these expenditures, we are not billing for reimbursement.

Director's Report

Emily Maney, Program Manager, Maternal Child Health (MCH) and Maggie Youkhana, Health Equity Planner, presented on the El Paso County Public Health Care Coordination Team:

1. The Care Coordination Team provides services which include connection to housing, transportation, food access, and COVID 19 support resources, among other needs. Most individuals are connected with the Care Coordination Team through referrals from community partners and other Public Health programs.
2. Care Coordination Team members presented on successful cases they coordinated, including provision of housing assistance to a family experiencing homelessness who needed additional care for their pets, housing assistance and transportation support for appointments for a senior resident on a fixed income, and assistance to a Spanish-only speaking individual who needed assistance in obtaining the restoration of utility services.

Kristi Durbin, Program Manager, Immunizations, presented on the Mobile Vaccination Team:

1. The Mobile Vaccination team reduces barriers to care by taking services out of brick and mortar to meet the community's needs where they are.
 - a) 114 clinics and 5,946 vaccines have been provided since the Mobile Vaccination Team was activated during the summer of 2021.
 - b) The Mobile Vaccination Team has responded to several emerging diseases including COVID, mpox, and pneumococcal disease.

Dr. Bernadette Albanese, Co-Medical Director, presented on pneumococcal disease:

1. Pneumococcal disease is a bacterial infection with a range of symptoms varying in severity.
2. In 2000, a childhood vaccination was introduced which resulted in a 93% decline over 10 years in pediatric cases of children younger than 5 years old. This had a spillover effect when the number of adults contracting the disease was also in decline, due to the decreased exposure from their children.

Susan Wheelan, Public Health Director provided comments:

1. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will be ending Mar. 1. At that time, Public Health anticipates an increase in Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) clients.
2. There have been situations recently where methamphetamine residue was found to be present in public library buildings. Public Health is not the lead agency as we do not have jurisdiction in indoor air quality for facilities. Public Health's support role will be to provide information as it pertains to health risks.
3. Dr. Mayer clarified the risk of toxicity is very low to the general public who may enter restrooms where methamphetamine residue was present to use the facilities, wash their hands and leave.

Ted Collas entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED: by Dr. Terbush, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez to adjourn the meeting

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adjournment at 10:05 am.

Next Board of Health meeting

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The next Board of Health meeting will be:
Wednesday, March 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.

22 February 2023- BOH/C Rodriguez