

**EL PASO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**April 26, 2023**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES**

The El Paso County Board of Health met virtually on Microsoft Teams due to anticipated inclement weather on April 26, 2023. Nine Board of Health members were present.

Ted Collas, President, called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

**Board of Health Member Roll Call:**

*Present:*

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

*Absent:*

none

**Directors and Officers Present:**

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

**El Paso County staff present at Regular Session:**

|                |                |                   |                |              |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Andrew Magpoc  | Cara Rodriguez | Erin Thompson     | Kelsey Tillema | Kenny Hodges |
| Lynnes Estrada | Paula Linhares | Samantha Montmeny |                |              |

\*All online attendees may not have been captured due to technical difficulties.

**Approval of Agenda**

President Ted Collas entertained a motion to approve the agenda for the April 26, 2023 Board of Health Meeting

**MOVED:** by Vice President Doris Ralston, seconded by Dr. Terbush to approve the agenda for the April 26, 2023 Board of Health meeting.

## **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Board of Health Comments**

1. Dr. Terbush commented on the potential for some medical students to not receive adequate exposure to the public health realm. Incorporating population-based health into medical school curriculum/training continues to be a challenge.
2. General Briggs commented on Colorado House Bill 23-1003 School Mental Health Assessment. There are concerns regarding portions of the bill which would allow children 12 years of age and older to consent to the screening even if their parent(s) opt out.
3. Ted Collas announced that Director Wheelan is attending the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Annual Emergency Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, GA this week, where El Paso County Public Health will be presented with NACCHO's "Project Public Health Ready" (PPHR) award in recognition of the agency's longstanding commitment to emergency preparedness.

### **Approval of Minutes**

President Ted Collas entertained a motion to approve the March 22, 2023 Board of Health meeting minutes.

**MOVED:** by Dr. Terbush, seconded by General Briggs to ratify the minutes from the March 22, 2023 Board of Health meeting.

## **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Public Comment on Items not Scheduled on the Agenda**

No comments presented.

### **Finance and Budget**

Samantha Montmeny, El Paso County Health and Human Services Budget Supervisor, presented the March 2023 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. There are no concerns regarding the budget at this time.

### **Proclamation**

Kenny Hodges, El Paso County Attorney, read the Proclamation Recognizing National Nurses Week 2023

**MOVED:** by Councilmember Donelson, seconded by Vice President Doris Ralston to approve the Proclamation Recognizing National Nurses Week 2023.

## **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Director's Report**

Susan Wheelan, Public Health Director, announced recognitions for excellence in financial reporting received by El Paso County Public Health.

1. Public Health received an award for the 2021 Popular Annual Financial Report.
2. Public Health received an award for the 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Dr. Carolyn Gery, Development Officer, presented on the Community Health Assessment (CHA)

1. Public Health is currently in phase six of eight, which is to develop a plan.
  - a) Teen suicide is an area of focus in the CHA.
  - b) The Board has requested a presentation on suicide in El Paso County.
2. The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) will be developed from the CHA. The CHIP will help inform prioritization of resources for health improvements. The CHIP will be in effect for the next five years.

Jordan Linder, Grants Coordinator, presented on Partner Engagement Grants

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems provides funding for two strategies.
  - Strategy 1 - Workforce Funding (\$7,378,657) through Nov. 30, 2027
  - Strategy 2 - Foundational Capabilities Funding (\$452,199) through Nov. 30, 2023

The Board has requested an itemized breakdown of how the Foundational Capabilities Funding will be spent.

Dr. Paul Mayer, Co-Medical Director, presented on opioid use.

1. Fentanyl mixed with a veterinary tranquilizer medication called xylazine has been reported.
  - a) Narcan will not reverse the effects of this combined substance.
  - b) The street term for the fentanyl/xylazine mixture is “tranq”.

The Board has requested that the first edition of the agency’s Quarterly Opioid Report, published in early April, be re-sent to them for review.

President Ted Collas entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOVED:** by Vice President Doris Ralston, seconded by Dr. Terbush to adjourn the meeting.

### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Adjournment at 9:45 am.

**The next Board of Health meeting will be:**

**Wednesday, May 24, 2023**

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

**at Citizens Service Center**

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

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