

EL PASO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

September 28, 2022

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 September 28, 2022. Nine Board of Health members were present.

Dr. James Terbush, President, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Board of Health Member Roll Call:

Present:

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

Directors and Officers Present:

Susan Wheelan, Public Health Director (present via Microsoft 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
Heather Graves, Community Health Promotion Division Director
Michelle Beyrle, Public Health Information Officer

Others Present at Regular Session:

Sara Adams	Becca Barnhardt	James Baumgartner	Kristi Durbin
Stephanie Flora	Aaron Heuser	Alicia Humlicek	Darrell Kirby
Paula Linhares	Emily Maney (Teams)	Janel McNair	Samantha Montmeny
Cara Rodriguez	Summer South	Tom Strand	Kelsey Tillema
Amber Travis	Steven Walsh	Fadi Youkhana	Haley Zachary

Four American Sign Language Interpreters from Sign Language Network

Approval of Agenda

MOVED: by Doris Ralston, seconded by Commissioner Bremer to approve the agenda for the September 28, 2022 Board of Health meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Board of Health Comments

- Commissioner Gonzalez announced El Paso County provided grants to address water contamination. Recent report on PFAS water testing reported numbers were within acceptable limits.
- Ron Stephens mentioned receiving an email from a constituent expressing concern about correspondence with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) regarding environmental justice. He is requesting that Public Health use transparent and specific language should this program come to the County level.
- Doris Ralston, Commissioner Bremer, and General Briggs expressed positive feedback on the COSILoveYou faith-based community event on September 27 which included discussion on Social Determinants of Health, prevention, public safety, school programs, and mental health.
- Councilmember Donelson attended an event at Evergreen Cemetery for a program called *Saluting Branches*. The program is supporting arbor maintenance focused mainly on military cemeteries.
- Dr. Terbush announced that September is National Preparedness month. A concern in that realm is lack of electricity in light of recent hurricane events across the country which have caused power outages. Councilmember Donelson shared that if a citizen has medical equipment requiring electricity (CPAP machine as an example), they can notify Colorado Springs Utilities so they are placed higher on the priority list to restore service should an outage occur.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Terbush entertained a motion to approve the August 24, 2022 Board of Health Meeting minutes.

MOVED: by Doris Ralston, seconded by Ted Collas to ratify the minutes from the August 24, 2022 Board of Health meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comment on Items not Scheduled on the Agenda

No comments presented.

Finance and Budget

Samantha Montmeny, Health and Human Services Budget Supervisor, presented the August 2022 financial summary. Everything is coming in as anticipated. License fees and permits show ahead of budget currently. Some grants are coming in under budget; however, because they are reimbursements grants and those expenditures are not occurring, we can't bill for them. Budget has no concerns currently. In October, the preliminary balanced budget for 2023 will be presented. In December, the Board will vote on the budget and, if approved, it becomes the original adopted budget.

Heather Graves presented four contracts for renewal:

1. Drug Free Communities

- This is a new grant and we have just finished the first year of a five-year cycle. This is a renewal.
- The program amplifies work Public Health is doing in Fountain Valley to address opioid misuse and cannabis use among youth.
- Four staff members work in this program. Among the successes was a Drug Take Back Day in Fountain Valley earlier this year during which 87.2 pounds of expired prescription drugs were turned in. Drug lock boxes were also provided.
- Indirect percentage (overhead cost) is included in this and other grants that will be presented later on in the meeting.

- Note, discussion was held about the process of considering a special meeting and possible resolution for taking positions on ballot issues.

MOVED: by Commissioner Gonzalez to approve Drug Free Communities contract.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Maternal Child Health

- Annual renewal
- Program has been at EPCPH since 1989. The program emphasizes providing support on how to navigate the healthcare system for children with special health care needs.
- Training has been provided to 700 external and internal staff/community partners on how to provide assistance to families so they can obtain the resources they need.
- Emily Maney confirmed we have enrolled 113 this year into the program. This does not include others we are assisting but may not necessarily be enrolled into the program.
- There are three care coordinators currently in the program.
- Successes include helping families find housing, groceries, and transportation.

MOVED: by Commissioner Bremer seconded by General Briggs to approve Maternal Child Health contract.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. WIC (Women, Infants and Children)

- Annual renewal
- 42-45 employees work with this program and WIC educators carry a case load of 550-650 a month.
- 12,000 clients are enrolled monthly.
- Federally funded program with qualification requirements. Nationally the program has existed since 1974.
- Note, baby formula shortage has improved somewhat; however, there are still some challenges.

MOVED: by Commissioner Bremer seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez to approve Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) contract.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor

- Provides education and support via phone/text in real time.
- Currently four staff are in the program.

MOVED: by Councilmember Donelson seconded by Ted Collas to approve WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor contract.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

New Business

- Director Wheelan announced the promotion of Janel McNair to Public Health's Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Program Manager. The program supports a five-county region (South Central): El Paso, Park, Chaffee, Teller, Lake
- The following team members were introduced: Aaron Heuser (EPR Coordinator), Darrell Kirby (Regional EPR Coordinator), Sara Adams (Project Management Specialist), James Baumgartner

(Logistics Coordinator), Marigny Klaber (Regional Epidemiologist - not present), Jocelyn Rosado (EPR Coordinator - not present)

- Director Wheelan acknowledged that every Public Health staff member has completed National Incident Command training.
- Dr. Terbush read the Proclamation recognizing September 2022 as National Preparedness month.

MOVED: by Commissioner Gonzalez, seconded by Commissioner Bremer to approve the Proclamation recognizing National Preparedness Month.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director's Report

Dr. Albanese reported on Monkeypox:

- 302 cases in CO, nine have been hospitalized, 21 cases in El Paso County.
- No deaths in Colorado, two deaths nationally.
- Men who have sex with men continue to be the most at-risk population.
- Public Health has administered 250+ doses of Jynneos vaccine to date.
- Public Health has administered 18 tests with five positive results.

Dr. Mayer provided an update on influenza:

- Currently influenza is not very active in Colorado.
- Flu shots have four strains -- two against influenza A and two against influenza B.
- Three new vaccines are available for those who are 65 years of age and older.
- Flu shot and bivalent COVID booster this fall are recommended.

Director Wheelan provided announcements:

- Public Health will be conducting a flu clinic for D49 as a "Boo to the Flu" event on Oct 25th.
- Public Health will be conducting a flu clinic for the National Alliance for Mental Health walk on Oct 8th.
- Michelle Beyrle, Public Health Information Officer, is a finalist for the Mayor's Young Leader Award.
- Kristi Durbin, Public Health Immunization Program Manager, was a finalist for the Mayor's Young Leader Award last year.

Dr. Terbush adjourned the meeting at 10:17am.

Next Board of Health meeting

The next Board of Health meeting will be:

Wednesday, October 26, 2022 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., at The Citizens Service Center, 1675 W. Garden of the Gods Rd. in Colorado Springs.

30 September 2022- BOH/CRodriguez