

EL PASO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

March 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 March 22, 2023. Eight Board of Health members were present.

Doris Ralston, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Board of Health Member Roll Call:

Present:

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

Absent:

Ted Collas, President (excused)

Directors and Officers Present:

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

El Paso County Public Health staff present at Regular Session:

Alicia Humlicek	Becca Barnhart	Cara Rodriguez (Teams)	Emily Marshall
Eric Gordon	Erin Thompson	Kelsey Tillema	Kristi Durbin
Marigny Klaber (Teams)	Nora Todd (Teams)	Pamela Preston	Samantha Montmeny
Taylor Hartshorn (Teams)	Vicki Bennett		

Members of the public present at Regular Session:

City Councilmember Tom Strand
Two American Sign Language Interpreters from Sign Language Network

Approval of Agenda

Vice President Doris Ralston entertained a motion to approve the agenda for the March 22, 2023 Board of Health Meeting

MOVED: by Commissioner Bremer, seconded by General Briggs to approve the agenda for the March 22, 2023 Board of Health meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Board of Health Comments

1. Vice President Ralston shared a comment on behalf of Board President Ted Collas thanking Public Health staff and Board members who attended Care and Share's recent fundraising luncheon.
2. General Briggs shared a positive email he received from Springs Rescue Mission staff regarding a pregnant woman who is experiencing homelessness and now able to get the services she needs through the Rescue Mission and other community organizations.
3. Commissioner Gonzalez expressed concern for recently presented House Bills that could impact pro-life services.
4. Commissioner Bremer served on a panel with the U.S. Surgeon General discussing youth mental health and substance use. She noted the work being done across the nation mirrors that of El Paso County and was able to share local successes with the panel.

Approval of Minutes

Doris Ralston entertained a motion to approve the February 22, 2023 Board of Health meeting minutes.

MOVED: by Councilmember Donelson, seconded by Commissioner Bremer to ratify the minutes from the February 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 February 2023 financial summary:

- a) 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.

Eric Gordon, Lead Disease Prevention Nurse, presented on the Tuberculosis Uniting for Ukraine contract.

- a) The Tuberculosis (TB) Program provides evaluation, testing, and treatment for active (infectious) TB cases and select latent (non-infectious) TB cases.
- b) El Paso County Public Health received a contract for \$31,160 to provide supplemental funds to support in-coming Ukrainians to obtain the necessary TB related services, including testing, radiologic studies and TB treatment as needed.

MOVED: by Commissioner Bremer, seconded by General Briggs to approve the TB Uniting for Ukraine contract.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Proclamation

Lori Seago, County Attorney, read the Proclamation Recognizing National Public Health Week 2023 into record.

MOVED: by Dr. Terbush, seconded by Commissioner Bremer to approve the Proclamation Recognizing National Public Health Week 2023.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director's Report

Becca Barnhart, Youth Substance Use Prevention Planner, presented a Region 16 Opioid Council update:

- a) The Region 16 Opioid Abatement Council consists of representatives from El Paso County and Teller County. \$6.4 million dollars has been allocated to Region 16 to establish an Opioid Abatement Plan.
- b) Five spending categories are allowed under the contract: Prevention, Treatment, Recovery, Criminal Justice, and Harm Reduction.
- c) Five programs/strategies were identified to receive funds: Youth Prevention, Community Partnership Education and Awareness, Medication Assisted Treatment, Recovery Supports and Transitions. and Victim Advocates.

Dr. Bernadette Albanese, Co-Medical Director and Emily Marshall, Communicable Disease Epidemiologist presented on drug-resistant Shigella:

- a) Shigella is a bacterial infection of the intestines. It can be easily spread through exposure to feces and frequently can be treated with antibiotics.
- b) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that Colorado has the second-largest number of drug-resistant Shigella cases in the United States.
- c) In 2022, 32 extensively drug resistant Shigella cases involving three outbreaks were identified in Colorado and three cases were identified in El Paso County.

Vice President Ralston entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adjournment at 10:10 am.

Next Board of Health meeting

The next Board of Health meeting will be:

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

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

at The Citizens Service Center

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

23 March 2023- BOH/C Rodriguez