

Date: Thursday, May 21, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Larimer County Department of Health and Environment, CSU Extension Room 1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80521 Hybrid: In person: Larimer County Department of Health and Environment, CSU Extension Room, 1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, Colorado; [Zoom](#)

Contact: Heather Gilmore, hgilmore@larimer.org, 970-619-4696

Board of Health Minutes

Attendance:

Board of Health Members:	Heather Weir, MPH, RD, President Ethnie Treick, Vice President Christy Bush, MHS Dr. Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Excused Absences:	Brian DelGrosso
Executive Secretary:	Tom Gonzales, MPH, Public Health Director
Liaison:	Commissioner John Kefalas
Staff:	Andrea Clement-Johnson, MS, Deputy Public Health Director Kori Solt, MPH, Communications and Technology Manager Bob McDonald, Environmental Health Services Director John Voss, Accounting and Business Operations Manager Matt Bauer, Communicable Disease & EPR Program Manager Talia Hirsch, Strategic Planning, Health Equity & Partnerships Program Manager Lea Schneider, Environmental Health Planner Noel Udell, Environmental Health Specialist Lead Rosa Lerma, Accountant I (virtual) Kimberly Baker, MLIS, Health in All Policies Coordinator Heather Gilmore, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Call to Order:

The President called the regular BoH meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment was made.

Approval of Minutes:

1. Approval of April 16, 2026 Minutes

Action – Dr. Bernard Birnbaum moved to approve the minutes as written with the correction to the titles for Heather Weir and Christy Bush under the attendance section. Christy Bush seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

New Business:

2. Proclamation Recognizing the Service of Rosa Lerma

Introduction of John Voss, Accounting and Business Operations Manager, to introduce and recognize Rosa Lerma, Accountant I, for her 9 years of dedicated service at the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment, and 20 years total serving Larimer County.

Mr. Voss shared reflections on his time working alongside Ms. Lerma and expressed deep appreciation for her lasting contributions to public health in Larimer County. Ms. Lerma was widely recognized for her exceptional dedication as an accountant, primarily focusing on grant administration while consistently upholding high standards of accuracy and integrity.

Action – Dr. Bernard Birnbaum moved to approve the Proclamation recognizing the service of Rosa Lerma as written. Ethnie Treick seconded the motion. *Motion was unanimously approved.*

3. National Clean Air Month Proclamation

Lea Schneider, Environmental Health Planner, and Noel Udell, Lead Environmental Health Specialist, were introduced to provide a report highlighting National Clean Air Month and ongoing air quality efforts, including pollution source inspections, complaint investigations, burn permit reviews, fuel station inspections, and air monitoring activities. They also provided updates on the 2026 Radon Awareness Campaign, community outreach and education efforts, and the Front Range Ozone Experiment (FROZÉ), a regional initiative supported by Colorado State University, the Regional Air Quality Council, and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Larimer County to monitor ozone precursors and VOCs in the Denver Metro/North Front Range area.

Action – Dr. Bernard Birnbaum moved to approve the Proclamation recognizing May 2026 as National Clean Air Month as written. Christy Bush seconded the motion. *Motion was unanimously approved.*

Brief recess for photo. The meeting was called back to order by the President at 6:49 PM.

4. Communicable Disease Program Report

Matt Bauer, Communicable Disease & EPR Program Manager, was introduced to present an update on the Communicable Disease Program, including investigations into reportable diseases, outbreaks, and foodborne illness complaints. He shared 2025 disease metrics and updates on enteric, vaccine-preventable, zoonotic, and vector-borne diseases, including recent pertussis transmission and ongoing West Nile virus monitoring and mitigation efforts. The presentation also highlighted rabies post-exposure follow-up, influenza hospitalization trends, outbreak response activities, and updates from the Tuberculosis (TB) Case Management Program.

5. Request for Hearing Regarding OWTS Regulations Revisions

Bob McDonald, Environmental Health Services Director, was introduced to request a public hearing for the proposed Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) regulations. He shared that at the June 18 public hearing staff will provide a detailed presentation outlining the proposed regulatory changes, outreach efforts conducted, and feedback received from the community and stakeholders.

Action – Christy Bush moved to approve Resolution 05212026: Request for Hearing OWTS Regulation

Revisions as written. Dr. Bernie Birnbaum seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

Updates:

6. Director's Update

Tom Gonzales, the Public Health Director, guided the BoH through the Director's Report in the meeting packet, emphasizing the following key activities:

- The Communications team recently interviewed former Public Health Director, Dr. Adrienne LeBailly, for the Healthier Together podcast, which was released on May 21. During the episode, Dr. LeBailly reflected on her career in public health and shared insights from her experiences managing major public health events, including the 1990 Measles outbreak, the 2003 West Nile Virus outbreak, and the 2010 H1N1 influenza pandemic, as well as the challenges associated with vaccine clinic operations and emergency response efforts.
- Talia Hirsch, Strategic Planning, Health Equity & Partnerships Program Manager, was introduced to provide an update on the Local Retail Tobacco License work session held with the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) in April. She shared that staff recently briefed the BoCC on a potential licensing framework aimed at reducing youth access to tobacco and nicotine products in Larimer County and are collaborating with the City of Fort Collins and other municipalities to explore a coordinated regional approach.
- Andrea Clement-Johnson, Deputy Public Health Director, was introduced to present an overview of a \$50,000 reproductive health grant awarded to the Department's Sexual & Reproductive Health Program through the Caring for Colorado Foundation's Choose When initiative. The funding will help expand affordable contraceptive access for patients facing barriers to ongoing healthcare access, including uninsured and underinsured individuals, by covering the cost of long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) devices, related office visits, laboratory testing, procedural fees, and confidential care services.
- Kimberly Baker, Health in All Policies Coordinator, was introduced to present highlights from the May 2026 Policy Report, emphasizing significant state budget constraints and their impact on legislation outcomes. She noted proposed reductions in Local Public Health Agency (LPHA) funding, including a multi-million-dollar general fund decrease affecting Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) allocations, and broader fiscal pressures such as Medicaid-related cuts and limited funding for new programs. She also discussed the upcoming Colorado Health Access Survey's focus on rural communities to assess Medicaid and policy impacts, and noted that the Governor has 30 days to sign remaining bills.

7. Board Member Updates

Updates included that the June Board of Health meeting will be Dr. Bernie Birnbaum's final meeting, and Ethnie Treick announced that the Alliance for Suicide Prevention is seeking new board members, with applications available on its website. Heather Weir also provided an update on potential meeting time changes, noting that survey results favored Thursday meetings from either 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM or 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, though a final decision will likely wait until August to allow input from the new board member.

8. Commissioner Liaison Update

Commissioner Kefalas shared updates from recent meetings and events, including the passage of Colorado House Bill 26-1429 related to public benefits, ongoing discussions surrounding AI data centers and land use regulations, and current county initiatives focused on energy planning, affordable housing, homelessness, and wildfire preparedness. He also noted emerging community concerns identified through recent survey work, including rising costs and drought impacts, as well as upcoming county budget discussions. Additional updates included the completion of Board of Health candidate interviews and the upcoming June 13 ribbon-cutting celebration for the completed Poudre River Trail.

9. Adjourn

The President moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.