

1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80524, 970-498-6700, www.larimer.gov/health
Director Tom Gonzales, MPH

Board of Health

Christy Bush, MHS, President
Heather Weir, MPH, RD, Vice President
Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Brian Delgrosso
Ethnie Treick, MJ

Mission:

Working to provide everyone in Larimer County the opportunity for a healthy life.

Vision:

Larimer County is a thriving, health-aware community where everyone has access to healthy choices and a healthy environment

MINUTES

LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

September 18, 2025

The Larimer County Board of Health (BoH) convened their regular meeting at 6:00 PM, in-person, at 1525 Blue Spruce Rd, Fort Collins, CO, 80524 and virtually through the Zoom platform.

Board of Health Members: Ms. Heather Weir, MPH, RD, Vice President
Dr. Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Mr. Brian DelGrosso
Ms. Ethnie Treick, MJ

Excused: Ms. Christy Bush, MHS, President

Executive Secretary: Mr. Tom Gonzales, MPH, Public Health Director

Staff: Ms. Andrea Clement-Johnson, MS, Deputy Public Health Director
Mr. John Voss, Accounting and Business Operations Manager
Ms. Kori Wilford, MPH, Communications and Technology Manager
Ms. Talia Hirsch, Strategic Planning, Health Equity & Partnerships Program Supervisor
Mr. Matt Bauer, Communicable Disease & EPR Program Manager
Ms. Kristin Schaeffer, Clinical Services Program Manager
Dr. Jared Olson, PhD, Senior Population Epidemiologist
Mr. Nick Batty, Senior Public Health Nurse
Ms. Destini Hall, Tobacco & Youth Senior Health Educator
Ms. Cecilia Smith, Intern
Ms. Alexandra Kelly, Intern
Ms. Heather Gilmore, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Call to Order - The Vice President called the regular BoH meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Public Comment - No Public Comment was made.

Approval of August 21, 2025 Minutes

- **Action** – Ms. Weir proposed a change to the Call to Order from saying “President” to “Vice President”. Dr. Birnbaum moved to approve the change and the rest of the minutes as written. Ms. Treick seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

Approval of September 8, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

- **Action** – Dr. Birnbaum moved to approve the minutes as written. Mrs. Treick seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

NEW BUSINESS

- **Academic Health Department Internship Presentations**
 - Introduction of Ms. Kori Wilford, Communications and Technology Manager, Dr. Tracy Nelson, Director of the Colorado School of Public Health at Colorado State University, Dr. Molly Gutilla, Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the Colorado School of Public Health, Ms. Cecilia Smith, Intern, and Ms. Alexandra Kelly, Intern, to discuss the summer student internship projects, while also highlighting the partnership between the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment and Colorado State University.
 - This summer there were four interns with four different projects. Two interns, Ms. Cecilia Smith and Ms. Alexandra Kelly, introduced themselves and shared their backgrounds and their focus during their internships. Both highlighted the skills they gained and the impact of their projects on public health. A video highlighting all four of the interns and their projects was played.
- **Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Proclamation**
 - Introduction of Dr. Jared Olson, Senior Population Epidemiologist, Mr. Stephen Hanks, Larimer County Coroner, Silen Wellington, Executive Director at the Yarrow Collective, and Ms. Kim Moeller, Executive Director (joined online), to discuss Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and the suicide prevention programs that they have been working on.
 - Dr. Jared Olson provided an overview of suicide deaths in Larimer County, emphasizing the challenges and progress in suicide prevention efforts, specifically the impact of the Alliance for Suicide Prevention. Community collaboration efforts have been important in reducing Larimer County’s youth suicide rates.
 - Silen Wellington spoke about the role of peer support groups in suicide prevention and the importance of connection.
 - Mr. Stephen Hanks discussed the Larimer County Coroner’s Office’s efforts to support families after suicide losses and the importance of community connections.



- The high risk of suicide among older adults was mentioned and the need for opportunities for human connection and funding for postvention services. There are also challenges around supporting chronically suicidal individuals and the need for more research and education.
- **Action** – Ms. Weir read the Joint Proclamation for Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month out loud. Dr. Birnbaum moved to approve the proclamation as written. Ms. Treick seconded the motion. **Motion was unanimously approved.**
 - Ms. Weir called for a brief recess to take a photo.
 - Ms. Weir called the meeting back to order.
- **Planning for Commissioners' Participation in October Meeting**
 - Once a year the BoH hosts a conversation with the County Commissioners, which includes reviewing priorities and discussing progress. It was suggested that the meeting focuses on community feedback and the importance of working together on public health initiatives. The Board of Health would like to emphasize the importance of continuous engagement and collaboration with the Commissioners, as well as taking a balanced approach that focuses on both what is going well and areas for improvement.

UPDATES

- **Director's Update**

The Public Health Director guided the Board through the Director's Update in the meeting packet, emphasizing the following key activities:

- Mr. Gonzales, Public Health Director, highlighted the Public Health in the Rockies Conference that several staff members attended. He emphasized the importance of investing in ourselves through continuous education and community engagement.
- Introduction of Ms. Kristin Schaeffer, Clinical Services Program Manager, and Mr. Nick Batty, Senior Public Health Nurse, to discuss an update on their clinic services programming, specifically involving the Sexual and Reproductive Health Clinic, the Immunization Clinic, and the International Travel Clinic.
 - They discussed the team's efforts to provide accessible and comprehensive services, including off-site clinics and partnership with community organizations. They shared about the success of the back-to-school immunizations campaign and the importance of reaching marginalized communities. Performance measures and the importance of patient satisfaction for the clinical services program were also highlighted.
- Mr. Gonzales, Public Health Director, shared a card of appreciation from a community member praising the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment's staff and programs.
- **Board Member Updates**
 - None



- **Commissioner Liaison Update**

- Commissioner John Kefalas provided the following updates:
 - He praised the Public Health Team for showing up for many different community events, specifically highlighting their presence at the opening of the Adolescent Crisis Unit at the Longview Campus.
 - He discussed the budget retreat and the need for savings in the upcoming budget years.
 - He mentioned the interview with the New York Times reporters on the implications of the HR1 law and how it will affect people who receive food assistance and Medicaid.
 - He then highlighted the Colorado Systems of Care and the necessity of addressing the intensive behavior health services needs of our youth in a home and community setting.
 - He referenced two measures that will be on the ballots in November. One is regarding transportation infrastructure and the other around early childhood education.

Adjourn Meeting

The Vice President moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

