

LARIMER COUNTY | HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524, 970.498.6700, Larimer.org/health
Director Tom Gonzales, MPH, REHS

BOARD OF HEALTH

Tony J. Van Goor, MD, President
Janna West Kowalski, MS, Vice President
Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Brian DelGrosso
Jennifer Lee

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.

LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH – March 17, 2022

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

Members Present: Dr. Bernard Birnbaum
Dr. Tony J. Van Goor
Janna West Kowalski
Brian DelGrosso

Executive Secretary: Tom Gonzales

Absent: Jennifer Lee

County Staff: Andrea Clement-Johnson, Erika Cathey, Kelsey Lyon, Chris Manley, Lea Schneider, Kori Wilford, Commissioner John Kefalas, Frank Haug, Matt Bauer, Sergio Torres, Steve Tomajczyk, John Voss

Call to Order - Dr. Bernard Birnbaum, Board President, called the regular Board of Health meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Public Comment - Charles Compton, Fort Collins; Tasha Carr, Livermore; Karen Artell, Fort Collins each made public comment.

Approval of February 17, 2022 Minutes

Action - Dr. Tony J. Van Goor motioned to approve the minutes. Janna West Kowalski seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.



NEW BUSINESS

2022 Public Health Week Proclamation - April 4 - 10, 2022. Theme of the week is "Public Health is Where You Are". Many staff appreciation events are planned throughout the week.

Action - Dr. Birnbaum made a motion to accept the joint Proclamation, seconded by Ms. West Kowalski.

Motion was unanimously approved.

EPA Advanced Air Quality Monitoring - Chris Manley, Environmental Health Director, and Lea Schneider, Environmental Health Planner, presented an update. Chris Manley gave a list of health impacts from poor air quality. Lea Schneider presented a table of ground level Ozone levels for 2021 summer season, showing it increased in 2020 and 2021. Regarding Ozone Action Days, Larimer County experienced 32 days in 2019, 43 in 2020, and 65 in 2021. The BOH had a conversation and were supportive of the department pursuing additional monitoring with CDPHE.

Proposed Public Health Director Performance Evaluation Processes - Dr. Birnbaum and Mr. Gonzales worked with a consulting group to draft an evaluation process for both the Public Health Director and the BOH. The draft was reviewed and discussed, with the BOH being supportive of the process.

Action - Mr. DelGrosso motioned to approve the framework and process for the evaluation process. Ms. West Kowalski seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Election of Board of Health Officers - Mr. Gonzales thanked Dr. Birnbaum for his service during his term as President to the BOH, as did Board members.

Action - Dr. Van Goor volunteered to serve as the next BOH president. Ms. West Kowalski agreed to serve as Vice President of the BOH. Dr. Birnbaum motioned to approve the members' new roles. Mr. DelGrosso seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

UPDATES

COVID-19 Update - Tom Gonzales, Public Health Director, gave an update on COVID-19 and Kori Wilford presented the department's vaccination efforts video. Over 623,000 vaccinations have been administered in the county since December 2020.

Director's Update - Tom Gonzales announced that the NOCO Safehouse Collaborative Certificate of Excellence was awarded to Matt Bauer, Regional Epidemiologist. The NOCO Safehouse Collaborative (including Alternatives to Violence, Crossroads Safehouse and Estes Valley Crisis Advocates in Larimer County) wanted to recognize people or organizations in the community that have been impactful to the

work we do with victims of violence. Matt received their very first honor for his outstanding communication and guidance to these partners during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Andrea Clement-Johnson, Deputy Public Health Director, gave an update on the variety of renovations in the clinic exam rooms. The project has been a great example of investing in our people and our work space.

Steve Tomajczyk, Senior Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator, provided an update on the CDPHE request that every county comprising a health care coalition review their hazard risk assessment to create one regional jurisdictional risk assessment. This was accomplished October 2021 - January 2022.

Tom Gonzales, Public Health Director, provided an update from the NACCHO Virtual Hill Week event held on February 24, 2022. Our top priorities are investing in the public health workforce, our internal processes, and the transition from pandemic to endemic COVID-19 response. Discussion of federal legislation to help fund local public health, workforce development, and paid internships was also a part of the event.

Sergio Torres, Health Equity and Inclusion Coordinator, gave the following update: The department's CHARLAS program is connecting virtually and informally with Spanish speaking residents on a weekly basis. Community leaders who disseminate information to their neighborhoods attend these meetings. More information can be found at larimer.org/charlas. The BOH was appreciative and supportive of these efforts.

Kelsey Lyon, Office of Public Health Planning and Partnership Manager, indicated that the Healthy Larimer Committee (HLC) has been focusing on the CHIP priority of Promoting Mental and Emotional Wellbeing. This focus serves as guidance for LCDHE staff within CHIP work. HLC has created and designed their own specific project- "Cozy Spaces" - community designed safe spaces with the specific goal of "creating a space to belong".

Board Member Updates - Ms. West Kowalski mentioned Regional Institute for Health and Environmental Leadership is hosting an Emotionally Effective Leadership workshop on April 13th and 14th, and also hosting their LIFE program on April 29, with the theme "Reimagining The Future, Equity and Justice Centered Leadership." Also, there has been a request from CDC for input about the impact of misinformation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.