

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

January 16, 2026

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: Christy Bush, MHS, President
Heather Weir, MPH, RD, Vice President
Ethnie Treick
Dr. Bernard Birnbaum, MD

Excused: Brian DelGrosso

Executive Secretary: Tom Gonzales, MPH, Public Health Director

Liaison: Commissioner John Kefalas

Staff: Andrea Clement-Johnson, MS, Deputy Public Health Director
John Voss, Accounting and Business Operations Manager
Kori Solt, MPH, Communications and Technology Manager
Bob McDonald, Environmental Health Services Director
Talia Hirsch, Strategic Planning, Health Equity & Partnerships Program Manager
Matt Bauer, Communicable Disease & EPR Program Manager
Dr. Paul Mayer, MD, Medical Officer
Lea Schneider, Environmental Health Planner & Supervisor
Keila Flores-Burgos, Water Quality and Solid Waste Supervisor
Frank Haug, Assistant County Attorney III
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 December 18, 2025 Minutes

Action – Dr. Bernard Birnbaum moved to approve the minutes as written. Heather Weir seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

NEW BUSINESS

National Radon Action Month Proclamation

Introduction of Bob McDonald, Environmental Health Services Director, Lea Schneider, Environmental Health Planner, and Kori Solt, Communications and Technology Manager, to provide a presentation on National Radon Action Month.

- Lea Schneider explained the basics of radon, its health risks, and the importance of testing. She discussed the prevalence of radon in Colorado and its health impacts. She also mentioned the partnership with the Larimer County CSU Extension to promote radon awareness. There are over 600 free test kits available with an online ordering option.
- Kori Solt spoke about the new radon web page and healthcare provider resources. She also mentioned the new podcast and the upcoming launch of the “Public Health Connection” quarterly newsletter.

Action – Dr. Bernard Birnbaum moved to approve the Proclamation recognizing January 2026 as National Radon Action Month as written. Ethnie Treick seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

Brief recess for photo.

Adoption of 2026-2028 Strategic Plan

Introduction of Talia Hirsch, Strategic Planning, Health Equity & Partnerships Program Manager, to provide a presentation of the updates to the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan.

- Talia Hirsch summarized the feedback received and resulting updates to the strategic plan, including integrating Emergency Response Plans into the narrative, prioritizing outcome-based measures over process measures, updating the title page to reflect alignment with the Board of County Commissioners, and strengthening Board of Health reports to clearly show how work is carried out using team performance metrics that demonstrate community impact. The annual work plan process will also include a review of the County Strategic Plan and collaboration in areas of shared alignment.



- Next steps include adopting the Strategic Plan 2026 Resolution, meeting with managers and leadership to develop the annual work plan in January, and presenting the annual work plan to the Board of Health and staff in February, 2026.
- The BoH members provided positive comments on the strategic plan and the most recent updates.

Action – Dr. Bernard Birnbaum moved to approve Resolution 01152026B the Adoption of the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan as written. Ethnie Treick seconded the motion. **Motion was unanimously approved.**

Fund Balance Policy

Introduction of John Voss, Accounting and Business Operations Manager, to provide a presentation on the draft Fund Balance Policy.

- John Voss presented the draft Fund Balance Policy, explaining its purpose and its alignment with Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommendations, emphasizing a target fund balance of at least 20% of operating expenditures to support financial stability. He also highlighted the policy's flexibility for exceptions and the need for the BoH's input and approval for fund balance use. The policy is informed by a review of local public health agencies and includes procedures for annual reporting, fund balance calculations, and handling of interest earnings.
- Discussion included concerns about legal review of interest earnings which is currently held by the County, consideration of a fund balance range, and a curiosity in reviewing comparisons with other county fund balance accounts.
- A decision was made to table any action and continue the discussion at the next meeting. Two BoH members requested information on the amount of interest earned in 2025 to better understand the issue.

UPDATES

Director's Report

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

- The Public Health Director announced the 2nd Annual Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) event on February 24 from 8AM-10:30AM at the Drake Center. This event is an opportunity to hear directly from community members about our collective efforts to move forward on the priorities identified within the CHIP. He encouraged the BoH to attend the event.



- Introduction of Bob McDonald, Environmental Health Services Director, and Keila Flores-Burgos, Water Quality and Solid Waste Supervisor, to discuss on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS) dye testing.
 - Bob McDonald stressed the importance of proper septic system maintenance and the BoH's role in regulation.
 - Keila Flores-Burgos described how dye testing is used to detect on-site wastewater treatment system (or septic) failures, highlighting a neighbor dispute case where the method successfully identified the issue.
 - OWTS dye testing is a simple and effective method for identifying system problems, particularly leaks caused by broken pipes or failing soil treatment areas. The test involves introducing a bright, non-toxic dye (typically green or red) into toilets, drains, or the septic tank to trace effluent leaks.
- Introduction of Matt Bauer, Communicable Disease & EPR Program Manager, to provide an update on an influenza update and our Site C Emergency Supply Cache.
 - Matt Bauer provided an update on influenza activity in Larimer County and statewide, noting high to very high levels of influenza-like illness (ILI) and discussing the effectiveness of the influenza vaccine. He reported 174 influenza-associated hospitalizations (126 in December and 26 in January).
 - LCDHE is responding by working closely with high-risk settings, such as nursing homes and childcare centers, to provide resources and guidance, and by coordinating with hospital partners to monitor impacts.
 - Matt Bauer also provided a virtual tour of the new warehouse facility, highlighting its features and capabilities. The facility includes loading docks, forklifts, and staging areas for large-scale responses. The warehouse is equipped with pre-packaged emergency response kits for quick deployment. He emphasized the importance of having a well-prepared facility for public health emergencies.

Board Member Updates

- Dr. Bernard Birnbaum suggested that everyone get their Influenza and Covid-19 vaccinations.

Commissioner Liaison to the Board of Health Update

- Commissioner Kefalas provided an update on a public safety power shutoff affecting 9,000 households in Larimer County. He mentioned the high wind advisory and the potential for power restoration by Saturday morning.

Adjourn Meeting

The President moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

