

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

Board of Health

Tony J. Van Goor, MD, President
Christy Bush, MHS, Vice President
Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Brian Delgrosso
Heather Weir, MPH, RD

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

December 21, 2023

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

Board of Health Members: Dr Tony J. Van Goor, MD, President
Dr Bernard Birnbaum, MD (virtual)
Ms Christy Bush, MHS, Vice President
Mr Brian DelGrosso
Ms Heather Weir, MPH, RD

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

Staff: Commissioner John Kefalas (virtual)
Ms Andrea Clement-Johnson, MS, Deputy Public Health Director
Dr Paul Mayer, MD, Medical Officer
Ms Erika Cathey, MPH, Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager
Mr Chris Manley, Environmental Health Director
Ms Kori Wilford, MPH, Communications and Technology Manager
Ms Bron MacGregor, Executive Assistant (Recorder)
Ms Keila Flores-Burgos, Water Quality and Solid Waste Supervisor
Ms Talia Hirsch, Strategic Planning and Health Equity Initiatives Program Supervisor
Ms Olivia Kraus, Senior Administrative Specialist
Ms Lauren Emory, Senior Administrative Specialist
Ms Lisa Wempen, Sr. Human Resources Generalist
Mr Frank Haug, Assistant County Attorney

Call to Order - The President called the regular BoH meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Public Comment - No Public Comment was made.

Approval of November 16, 2023 Minutes

Action - Dr Birnbaum moved to approve the minutes as written. Mr DelGrosso seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing and Resolution for the Revisions to Larimer County OWTS Regulations

Discussion points:

- Revisions to the regulations incorporate public feedback and requests from community members over the first couple years of the Transfer of Title program.
- LCDHE receives many requests for reviews of properties that are being converted to short-term rentals; this requires staff time, thus fees are being introduced to formalize these reviews and to cover those costs.
- Holding tanks or sealed vaults will need an alarm installed which can be powered by battery or electricity.
- Definitions added to differentiate between a dry gulch which is storm-related, and an intermittent stream that runs during different seasons.
- The new section covering short term rentals aligns with regulations introduced by the Planning Department for short term rentals on June 1st, 2023 with no contradictions.
- A realtor shared concerns that not all agencies are aware of, or compliant with, the regulations. LCDHE conducts outreach activities to address this.
- It was noted that there were no comments made by anyone present or online.

Action - Dr Birnbaum moved to approve the resolution for the revisions to Larimer County OWTS Regulations.

Ms Bush seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Public Hearing and Resolution for 2024 Environmental Health Fee Schedule

Discussion points:

- Fees are assessed yearly.
- Most proposed changes are to the onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) and swimming pool inspection fees.



- Proposed changes are fairly minor and cover staff time, fuel, fleet, equipment and running costs.
- Most OWTS fees are increasing 3-5%. Commercial OWTS permits have the largest increase at 20%.
- Return trip fee has increased to accommodate the time required when an inspection is requested and the OWTS is not ready for inspection.
- Migration to the new environmental health database system has allowed for accurate calculation of the costs involved in swimming pool inspections.
- Retail Food Establishment License fees are set by statute so they have not been affected by the changes.
- Retail sale of food vs cottage industry food preparation.
- The Board appreciates that each fee is clearly justified by the statute and agrees that programs should pay for themselves instead of by the taxpayer.
- It was noted that there were no comments made by anyone present or online.

Action - Dr Birnbaum moved to approve the resolution for the 2024 Environmental Health Fee Schedule as presented. Mr DelGrosso seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of 2024 Board of Health Meeting Schedule

Action - Ms Weir moved to approve the 2024 Board of Health Annual Meeting Schedule as written. Ms Bush seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

UPDATES

Director's Update

2023 Quality Improvement Projects

Discussion points:

- Plan, Do, Study, Act was used to frame the three projects worked on in 2023. The QI Team collaborated with staff to work on these projects. Hazardous Waste, Communicable Disease and Clinical Services were program areas that LCDHE determined could benefit from improved processes.
- Tuberculosis (TB) Program Quality Improvement Project
 - TB is one of the leading causes of death for infectious disease worldwide.
 - Importance of social support systems for patients going through treatment due to many patients experiencing comorbidities including language barriers, housing instability, and food insecurity.

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of the team-based approach to TB care using Process Mapping and Time Studies.
- Identifying redundancies and duplication in the previous TB process.
- Working with partners in the nonprofit sector to connect patients to Human Services, Cultural Navigators, etc.
- 2024 Quality Improvement Goals
 - Lessons learned from Time Study project: encouraging staff buy-in and communicating the end result, collecting data ahead of time.
 - Creating a department culture of QI.
 - The Board thanked the QI team for their efforts.

The Director guided the Board to the Director's Update in the packet.
He highlighted the following:

- The Community Outreach project, "Shaping the Future of Public Health in Larimer County" presentation has been very successful and well received.
- The Community Update on Respiratory Viruses hosted by LCDHE was well attended and covered by both our major newspapers.

Board Member Updates

- The Board President inquired the Board if they support conducting the Board self-evaluation immediately prior to the Board Retreat in April 2024.

Action - Dr Birnbaum moved to conduct the Board Self-Evaluation process prior to the Board Retreat in April 2024. Mr DelGrosso seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

- The Board President attended the presentation, "Shaping the Future of Public Health" made to the City of Loveland on December 19, 2024.
- At a special session held on December 14, 2024, the Commissioners approved the 2024 budget for \$620 million.
- Medical Center of the Rockies hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on Monday, followed by a presentation regarding health in the community.
- Commissioner Kefalas will remain as Liaison to the Board of Health for 2024.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Action - Mr DelGrosso made a motion to enter into an Executive Session Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(f), executive session regarding personnel matters, specifically for the purpose of conducting a performance evaluation of the Public Health Director. Ms Bush seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

The Board returned from the Executive Session at 8:16 pm

- Dr Van Goor reported that strengths and opportunities for growth of the Public Health Director were discussed and the consensus of the Board is they approve of the direction and are pleased with Director Gonzales' leadership production.

Action - Dr Van Goor made a motion to increase the Director's salary by 5%, effective December 3, 2023. Ms Bush seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourn Meeting

The President moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.