

LARIMER COUNTY | HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

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
Janna West Kowalski, MS, Vice President
Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Brian Delgrosso
Christy Bush, MHS

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 (BoH) – February 16, 2023 MINUTES

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. This meeting was translated into Spanish in real time.

Board Members Present: Dr Tony J. Van Goor, MD, President
Ms Janna West Kowalski, MS, Vice President
Dr Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Ms Christy Bush, MHS
Mr Brian DelGrosso

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

County Staff: Commissioner John Kefalas
Ms Andrea Clement-Johnson, MS, Deputy Public Health Director
Dr Paul Mayer, MD, Medical Officer
Mr Frank Haug, County Attorney's Office
Mr Chris Manley, REHS, Environmental Health Director
Ms Erika Cathey, MPH, Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager
Dr Jared Olson, Senior Population Epidemiologist
Ms Kori Wilford, MPH, Office of Communications and Technology Manager
Ms Bron MacGregor, Executive Assistant to the Public Health Director (Recorder)
Ms Kimberly Chambers, Community Health Improvement Plan Program Coordinator
Ms Olivia Kraus, Senior Department Specialist

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

Public Comment - No Public Comment was made.

Approval of January 19, 2023 Minutes

Action - Dr Birnbaum moved to approve the minutes as written. Ms Bush seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Regional Opioid Abatement Council IGA Amendment

Action - Dr Birnbaum moved to: “approve a motion to include the town of Estes Park in the Regional Opioid Abatement Council”. Mr DelGrosso seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

There was a discussion regarding infrastructure and allocation of the Regional Opioid Abatement Council funds over the next year, and the challenges involved in access to therapy.

2022 Community Health Assessment (CHA)

The Board was given a presentation of the Community Health Assessment plan, reflecting an overview of the social determinants of health in Larimer County, which includes both qualitative and quantitative data.

Discussion points:

- Median household incomes in Larimer County.
- The relationship between housing costs and homelessness.
- Variability of housing costs and income, and the comparisons with other local municipalities.
- The competitive housing market.
- Commuting modes of transport and high-cost implications.
- The correlation of housing costs and commute distances.
- Affordability of childcare.
- The increase in mental health problems among teens.
- Comparatively higher suicidal tendencies within the LGBTQIA population, and racial and ethnic minorities.
- Mitigating action taken by the three School Districts in Larimer County.
- Phase Two construction of the new Behavioral Health Facility.
- The community’s wildfire risk and vulnerability concerns.
- The availability of Primary Care practitioners per capita.



- Access to Charitable Care for debt-burdened communities.
- Numbers of underinsured community members.
- Costs of pharmaceuticals, high copays and deductibles.
- Interventions that would have the greatest impact.
- Community priorities and measurable outcomes.
- Partnerships with other local organizations who provide data.
- How to connect community members with the Healthy Larimer Committee and the Data dashboard presentation.
- Demographics and efforts to connect with veteran, geriatric, neurodivergent and disabled communities.
- Summary of Red Feather Lakes assessment.
- Strategic next steps with collaborating partners.
- Compensation structure of the Healthy Larimer Committee.
- The role of Public Health vs healthcare providers.
- Prioritizing the Community Health Improvement Plan.

UPDATES

Director's Update

The Director directed the Board to the Director's Update in the packet. He highlighted the new partnership with Sunrise Health Clinic which will improve access to TB medication for people with latent TB. No comments were made by the Board, regarding the Director's Report.

Board Member Updates

- Resident physician, Dr Christy Cordes, is currently shadowing several programs in the department.
- Approval of collaboration of Dr Mayer, on behalf of LCDHE, and the Larimer County Health District.
- Fundraising luncheon by CASA of Larimer County on March 21, 2023. Volunteers are invited to attend.
- Ms West Kowalski is providing leadership training for local Board members during Public Health Week.
- There will be a Human Library Program event hosted by the City of Fort Collins at the Museum of Discovery in Fort Collins, on February 26, 2023.

Adjourn Meeting

Dr Birnbaum moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.