

**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.

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Tony J. Van Goor, MD, President  
Janna West Kowalski, MS, Vice President  
Bernard Birnbaum, MD  
Brian DelGrosso  
Christy Bush, MPH

**LARIMER COUNTY Board OF HEALTH – August 18, 2022**

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.

**Members Present:** Dr. Tony J. Van Goor  
Janna West Kowalski  
Brian DelGrosso  
Christy Bush

**Executive Secretary:** Tom Gonzales

**Absent:** Dr. Bernard Birnbaum

**County Staff:** Commissioner John Kefalas (virtual), Kori Wilford, John Voss, Kelsey Lyon, Andrea Clement-Johnson, Chris Manley, Erika Cathey, Liv Kraus, Dr. Jared Olson, Dr. Paul Mayer, Frank Haug

**Call to Order** - Dr. Tony J. Van Goor, Board President, called the regular BoH meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Public Comment** - No Public Comment was made.

**Approval of July 21, 2022 Minutes**

**Action** - Janna West Kowalski moved to approve the minutes. Christy Bush seconded the motion.

**Motion was unanimously approved.**



## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2023 Draft Budget Presentation/Q&A**

John Voss, Office of Accounting and Business Operations Manager, explained the budget process, which includes the Strategic Plan and input from the entire department. The Board expressed how they are impressed with how much more effective the budget process has become. Mr. Voss introduced the breakdown of the programs and activities specific to the LCDHE budget for 2018-2023. The Board expressed support for maintaining efforts to be more strategic and efficient, with no decrease in quality of service. Personnel costs account for the majority of the budget and the Board of County Commissioners have approved salary increases for 2023. There was discussion about future increase in funding for chronic disease prevention.

Tom Gonzales, Public Health Director, introduced the 5-Year Strategic Plan Initiatives. This included important investments throughout 2022 and the planned investments for 2023. Andrea Clement-Johnson, Deputy Public Health Director, shared the Invest in our People priorities, including guiding principal bonuses, all staff events, training, and staff-recognition activities. The Board recommended that employee recognition and retention should continue to be a priority, which is supported by data reflecting increased national stress levels among public health professionals. The Board inquired about Health Equity initiatives and Ms. Clement-Johnson outlined community engagement, language access, as well as upstream prevention and equity-specific training activities for the department.

Mr. Gonzales discussed the potential for additional funding from the CDC, which would allow for Public Health agencies to support workforce, foundational capabilities, and data infrastructure over a five year period. Kelsey Lyon, Office of Public Health Planning and Partnership Manager, indicated that the department would be applying for a Built Environment grant through competitive Cancer Cardiovascular, Pulmonary Disease Amendment-35 grant program funds within Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

### **Approval of 2023 Draft Budget**

**Action** - Ms. West Kowalski moved to approve the 2023 budget. Mr. DelGrosso seconded the motion.

***Motion was unanimously approved.***

### **COVID-19 After Action Report: Status & Preliminary Findings**

Mr. Gonzales introduced Todd Manns from The Blue Cell, Inc., which was contracted to provide a COVID-19 After Action Report (AAR) with the intent of exploring Larimer County's response to the pandemic. Mr. Manns presented an overview of the findings with the goal of assessing successes and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Manns said that in spite of the lesser representation from certain groups, inputs were of good quality.

Mr. Manns introduced some departmental specifics regarding Inclusion, Diversity and Equity. Health Equity staff members were prioritized as Command Staff, reporting directly to the Incident Commander

during the response. From January to May 2021, LCDHE provided more vaccines to Latinx communities than any other large vaccinator. Outreach teams went door-to-door in manufactured home communities and Latinx serving businesses, registering persons for vaccine clinics and providing at-home tests. Additionally, LCDHE implemented Las Charlas, a virtual COVID-19 weekly update for Spanish-speaking persons.

Main areas of concern included frustration with the changes due to the dynamic nature of the crisis. Another theme was an increased need for internal communication and staff support. Mr. Manns mentioned that some of these challenges could have changed or improved throughout the course of the pandemic. The Blue Cell, Inc. will deliver a report on August 31, 2022, and communication will be managed by the Office of Communications and Technology. The Board discussed the comparison of Larimer County's response to other counties throughout Colorado, as well as lessons that can be learned from this report. Mr. Gonzales noted that the department is already making strides and improvements in other Public Health emergencies as we move forward.

## **UPDATES**

### **COVID-19 Update**

Dr. Van Goor asked if we should be concerned about subvariant BA.2.75. Senior Population Epidemiologist, Dr. Jared Olson, responded that at this time we have only detected BA.2.75 in wastewater from Estes Park Sanitation and the Upper Thompson Sanitation District. Dr. Olson further explained that the COVID-19 positivity rate continues to decrease, but a new challenge includes data quality issues as the pandemic continues and changes. There have been ICU admissions among older adults (almost exclusively) as a result of the increase in transmissibility. Dr. Olson projects COVID-19 will remain within the top 10 causes of death for some time.

### **Director's Update**

Erika Cathey, Office of Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager, presented a Monkeypox (MPX) update. As of August 18, 2022, 168 cases have been reported in Colorado. LCDHE has Jynneos vaccine doses on hand and is working with partners who serve high risk populations to provide PEP++ (vaccination after known or presumed exposure to Monkeypox). There was discussion around the effects of monkeypox, its mortality rate, and vaccine supply strategies.

Kori Wilford, Office of Communications and Technology Manager, discussed the department's MPX outreach efforts. CDPHE is conducting targeted outreach in bars and social apps such as GRINDR and Scruff. LCDHE is utilizing the existing COVID-19 Joint Information Center (JIC) call/text line to answer MPX questions from the public. LCDHE recently provided guidance to schools and childcare partners regarding MPX.

Ms. Cathey presented on bat exposures at a residential camp. On July 20, 2022, LCDHE was notified that a staff member at a residential camp had been bitten by a bat. The bat escaped and was not available for rabies testing. Ms. Cathey highlighted how well the department worked together in this

situation. Environmental Health staff conducted a site visit which was essential in identifying all potentially exposed campers and staff. Communications and Technology staff created electronic consent forms which parents, many out of the state and some from other countries, could quickly access and sign. Communicable Disease coordinated with Estes Park Health to offer rabies vaccine and immune globulin to all campers and staff. Emergency Preparedness and Response staff handled internal situation updates using a virtual Emergency Operations Center.

The Office of Communications and Technology created a video for National Breastfeeding Awareness Month, featuring one of the Department's Certified Lactation Consultants (CLC). Mr. DelGrosso inquired about the formula shortage. Ms. Clement-Johnson responded that there is still a shortage, but production has increased. LCDHE has implemented many strategies to promote successful breastfeeding for impacted families.

### **Board Member Updates**

Ms. West Kowalski announced that RIHEL applications are open and encouraged County staff to apply.

Dr. Van Goor attended the NALBOH Conference in Grand Rapids, MI. He chose to defer further discussion.

### **Adjourn Meeting**

Ms. West Kowalski moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DelGrosso seconded the motion.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.**