

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
Tony J. Van Goor, MD

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 June 26, 2025

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: Ms. Christy Bush, MHS, President
Ms. Heather Weir, MPH, RD, Vice President
Dr. Tony J. Van Goor, MD

Excused: Dr. Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Mr. Brian DelGrosso

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

Staff: Mr. John Voss, Accounting and Business Operations Manager
Ms. Kori Wilford, MPH, Communications and Technology Manager
Dr. Jared Olson, Senior Population Epidemiologist
Ms. Joanna Rojewski, Communications and Technology Specialist
Ms. Heather Gilmore, 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 May 15, 2025 Minutes

- **Action** – Ms. Weir moved to approve the minutes as written. Dr. Van Goor seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***

NEW BUSINESS

- **County Budget Office - FY 2026 Assumptions**

- Introduction of Matthew Behunin from the Larimer County Budget Office to provide an update on the county budget process. Highlights include:
 - Impact of legislative changes and the structural deficit facing the county, aiming for a balanced budget by 2027-2028.
 - Property tax collections, which are higher than in 2024 due to a delay in the impact of new legislation.
 - Sales tax revenues are being closely monitored due to tariff uncertainty, with forecasts being revised downward.
 - Intergovernmental revenue is up 22% due to a partnership with Fort Collins for purchasing open space.
 - Interest earnings are down 14% but expected to increase with high interest rates.
 - Detailed breakdown of revenues and expenses for various county departments.
 - Solid waste revenues are down due to landfill nearing full capacity.
 - Personnel expenses are up 3% due to pay-scale changes, while operating expenses are down 3%.
 - Capital spending is significantly over last year due to the new North landfill and the active big plan acquisition.
 - Update on budget process, including the release of the initial targets and meetings with county staff.
 - Departments are preparing budget requests and service proposals, with some money allocated for cost increases.
 - Reduction proposals are being reviewed, with a focus on efficiency projects and employee ideas.
 - The county manager must release the proposed budget by October 15, and the public can be involved through voting on tax rate increases.

- **West Nile Virus Outreach and Collaboration (Informational Only)**

- Introduction of Kori Wilford, Communications & Technology Manager, and Joanna Rojewski, Communications & Technology Specialist, to discuss the West Nile Virus campaign. Highlights include:
 - The campaign targets Larimer County adults aged 55 and older, who are at higher risk of severe illness.



- Key messages include the importance of using personal protective behaviors, developing a mosquito bite prevention plan, and adding one new protective measure to your routine.
 - The campaign includes digital and print materials, with a focus on reaching the target audience through various platforms.
- Introduction of Matt Parker and Mike Calhoun from the City of Fort Collins to discuss the partnership and collaboration on West Nile Virus efforts. Highlights include:
 - Provided a historical overview of the collaboration, which began in 2003.
 - The partnership involves weekly meetings to discuss data and make targeted decisions based on mosquito trapping and risk index.
 - The collaboration has been successful in reducing the risk of West Nile Virus transmission through targeted spraying and public outreach.
 - Discussion on the impact of West Nile Virus on the community, including the importance of public outreach and personal protective measures.
 - The collaboration with Colorado State University and the CDC has been crucial in developing the Vector Index (VI) and targeted spraying strategies.
 - The partnership has also benefited other communities, such as the Town of Berthoud, by increasing the number of mosquito traps.
 - The importance of maintaining the collaboration and public outreach efforts to continue reducing the risk of West Nile Virus transmission.
- **Proclamation Recognizing the Service of Dr. Tony J. Van Goor as a Larimer County Board of Health Member (2021 - 2025)**
 - Ms. Bush read the proclamation.
 - **Action** – Ms. Weir moved to approve the proclamation. Dr. Van Goor seconded the motion. ***Motion was unanimously approved.***
 - The board members expressed their appreciation for Dr. Van Goor's dedication and contributions to public health.
 - Dr. Van Goor gave thanks to the staff of LCDHE and fellow board members for their support and highlighted the importance of public health.

Brief break for a photo.

UPDATES

- **Director's Update**

The Director guided the Board through the Director's Update in the meeting packet, emphasizing the following key activities:



- Introduction of Jo Buckley, Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Coordinator, to provide an update on the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and its efforts to reach all parts of the county.
 - The CHIP team has been working with the Red Feather Lakes Community to support the community pantry and provide social connections.
 - The team has been partnering with Colorado State University Extension and UC Health to bring resources and information to the community.
 - The efforts have been well-received, and the team is planning to continue providing support and engagement opportunities.
- Mr. Gonzales recognized Nina Wickens-Bhowmik, Population Epidemiologist, for being awarded the Colorado School of Public Health's alumni Hero Award for advocating for, supporting, and mentoring our future public health professionals.
- Introduction of Destini Hall, Tobacco and Youth Senior Health Educator, to discuss the Youth Action for Health Project, which focuses on reproductive health and sex education within the county.
 - The youth interns conducted a survey and focus groups, finding gaps in inclusive and comprehensive sex education.
 - The top three findings were that more than two-thirds of respondents did not identify as heterosexual, nearly one-third had never taken a sex education class, and fewer than half had received education on comprehensive topics.
 - The youth interns recommended more inclusive and comprehensive sex education in the K-12 school system.
 - Discussed the need for more inclusive language and topics in sex education, focusing on LGBTQ+ issues, relationships, health care, and reproductive rights.
 - Emphasis on training educators in cultural sensitivity and trauma-informed approaches to reproductive health and sex education.
 - Highlights the lack of gender-affirming care for trans youth in Colorado, noting the high costs and limited availability of healthcare practitioners.
 - Comments were shared praising the engagement and poise of the youth engagement specialists and how they handled answering challenging questions effectively during the sessions.
 - Comments were also made about the high attendance at one of the sessions and the interest from school districts in incorporating youth-requested information into their health curriculum.

- Continued discussion on the importance of public health strategies that support youth advocacy and engagement initiatives that could play a strong role within school districts when setting policy.
 - Introduction of Keila Flores-Burgos, Water Quality and Solid Waste Supervisor,, to discuss changes in local public pool regulations
 - Explained the need to update public pool regulations to include new equipment, filtrations systems, and disinfectants not covered in current regulations.
 - Discussed the benefits of adopting the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) to bring regulations up to date and improve public health protection.
 - Mentioned the stakeholder meeting that was held on May 14, 2025 to gather feedback from industry stakeholders on the proposed changes.
 - Provided details on the feedback received from stakeholders, including pool owners and operators, and the need for further outreach.
 - Mentioned the support from other local public health agencies in implementing the new regulations.
- **Board Member Updates**
 - No updates.
 - Reminder – No meeting in July. Budget meeting will be in August.
- **Commissioner Liaison Update**
 - No updates.

Adjourn Meeting

The President moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

