

1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80524, 970-498-6700, [www.larimer.gov/health](http://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

August 17, 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  
Ms Christy Bush, MHS, Vice President  
Mr Brian DelGrosso  
Ms Heather Weir, MPH, RD

**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  
Ms Erika Cathey, MPH, Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager  
Mr Chris Manley, Environmental Health Director  
Ms Kelsey Lyon, MPH, Office of Public Health Planning and Partnership Manager  
Mr John Voss, Accounting and Business Operations Manager  
Ms Kori Wilford, MPH, Communications and Technology Manager  
Ms Talia Hirsch, Strategic Planning and Health Equity Program Supervisor  
Ms Bron MacGregor, Executive Assistant (Recorder)  
Ms Olivia Kraus, Senior Department Specialist



Ms Laura Walker, Human and Economic Health Director  
Mr Frank Haug, County Attorney (virtual)

**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 June 15, 2023 Minutes**

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

***Motion was unanimously approved.***

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Annual Budget Review and Approval**

Discussion points:

- The impact of the Strategic Plan initiatives on the budget and efficiency efforts to reduce costs.
- A financial breakdown of programs and activities specific to LCDHE.
- Income from Environmental Health fees and fees that are not controlled by local Boards of Health, such as Retail Food Establishment license fees.
- The Board acknowledged efforts to reduce costs since 2019.
- Trends in charges for services and state oversights over the last three years.
- Decisions on employee compensation increases.
- Considerations for the Board regarding next steps to cover the increase in expenses, including staff raises, IT costs, and county indirect costs.
- Public health keeps the community healthy and yet remains underfunded.
- The fund balance is large enough to cover the deficit that currently exists in the proposed budget for 2024.
- The Board discussed the merits of the options presented to them.

**Action** - Dr Birnbaum moved to approve the 2024 Annual Budget as submitted. Ms Bush seconded the motion.

***Motion was unanimously approved.***

#### **2023 NACCHO Model Practice Award**



Discussion points:

- Model Practice Awards are very significant as NACCHO awards these to fewer than 20 LPHA's a year out of nearly 3,000 LPHA in the US.
- Positive impacts our agency's efforts have made on employee morale.
- Importance of mentorship and encouraging staff to invest in training that enriches their own skills to contribute to LCDHE as a local public health agency.
- Other organizations have approached LCDHE to understand strategies implemented by the department.
- Emphasis on work life balance.
- The Board recognized that LCDHE has operationalized and executed strategies that have resulted in significant increases in staff retention and job satisfaction.

There was a brief recess called for photographs.

### **National Immunization Awareness Month Proclamation**

Discussion points:

- Prioritizing immunization rate increases for Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccines and other childhood vaccines.
- MMR vaccine rates for our youngest children have decreased by 2% to 89% since 2019. The goal is 95% or higher coverage for optimal protection.
- School vaccine requirements and the medical and non-medical exemptions that are available.
- Opportunities and efforts to reach parents who are vaccine hesitant, understanding that parents who are resistant to vaccines may not be influenced.
- Considerations to reach more families through engagement with medical providers, schools, state campaigns and reminder and recall activities.
- Measles fatality rates among young children.

**Action** - Ms Bush moved to approve the proclamation as written. Mr DelGrosso seconded the motion.

***Motion was unanimously approved.***

There was a brief recess called for photographs.

### **UPDATES**

#### **Director's Update**

Kelsey Lyon will be leaving to join the National Environmental Health Association. Her work at LCDHE has been valued and appreciated.

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

- West Nile Virus Update - 25 human cases have been reported in Larimer County which is the highest in the State. The majority of cases are in Fort Collins and one third of these cases are currently hospitalized. The first death was reported in Weld County in early August and numbers are already high, early in the season. Berthoud is a community of concern and spraying recommendations have been made.
- Shaping the Future of Public Health Update - LCDHE has initiated a tour with local elected and civic boards, and partners, to share information on Public Health 3.0 and being Health Strategists. This has been well received so far and is stimulating good conversations. Academic Health Department partners were consulted and have provided useful input for the presentation.

The Board of Health meeting in November 2023 will be held at the new Longview Behavioral Health campus.

### **Board Member Updates**

Dr Van Goor attended the Fort Collins and Loveland Senior Advisory Boards. There was discussion around loneliness and isolation, the CHIP, and West Nile Virus. He also attended the Veterans' Health Summit.

### **Adjourn Meeting**

The President moved to adjourn the meeting.

**The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.**