

1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80524, 970-498-6700
Director Tom Gonzales, MPH

Board of Health

Christy Bush, MHS, President
Brian Delgrosso, Vice President
Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Tony J. Van Goor, MD, MMM
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

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DRAFT MINUTES

LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

August 15, 2024

The Larimer County Board of Health (BoH) convened their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m., 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
Mr Brian DelGrosso, Vice President
Dr Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Ms Heather Weir, MPH, RD
Dr Tony J. Van Goor, MD

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
Mr Frank Haug, County Attorney
Mr John Voss, Accounting and Business Operations Manager
Matt Bauer, Regional Epidemiologist
Ms Bron MacGregor, Executive Assistant (Recorder)
Ms Olivia Kraus, Senior Department Specialist
Ms Jennifer Wolfe-Kimbell, Communications Coordinator

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 20, 2024 Minutes

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

Motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Budget Review and Approval

Discussion points:

- The Board was given an overview of the 2023-2024 Strategic Plan Initiatives and the Foundational Public Health Services Model which has framed the budget over the last six years.
- The 2025 proposed budget is for a total of \$12.4 million with a small deficit of \$81,000 that will be covered by the Board fund balance. This deficit could potentially be less due to timing.
- Changes since 2024 include the BoCC honored a service proposal to help cover increases in staff salaries, additional one-time funding from the CDPHE for emergency response activities, received a CDC Workforce Development grant, and the BoCC provided \$220,000 for air quality improvement activities.
- Charges in services are less than prior year due to the elimination of the nurse advisor program, a decrease in revenue for vital records, and personnel costs savings due to the decrease of staff following the public health emergency.
- The budget assumes a vacancy rate of 3%. Annual raises for employees are calculated at 5%, of which 2% is granted in January 2025 and the remaining 3% on the anniversary of hire. The total cost of 2025 raises to LCDHE is approximately \$330,000.
- The best assumptions of revenue and expenses from each program area are determined by Leadership and Management Teams and are then amended where necessary by program managers to account for increased / decreased program costs.
- The Board requested that total expenses and revenue from the previous year are included in the presentation in future, for reference purposes.
- LCDHE contributes to County internal services, such as Facilities, through indirect fees paid by grant programs.
- Wages make up 83% of LCDHE's budget.



- The WIC Program has been given verbal approval of the submitted proposal for temporarily waiving indirect and rental fees.
- County support for 2025 is increasing by 3.5% over 2024.
- Revenue is estimated based on trends and anticipated changes in funding sources.
- Capital projects are not included because LCDHE does not own the building. Equipment categorized as capital are not significant recurring expenses.
- The proposal for 2025 Strategic Plan investments are one-time costs which will be covered by the fund balance. This fund allows for more equity amongst programs.
- In past years, LCDHE has not been able to allocate much funding to the implementation of the CHIP. The proposed 2025 budget includes \$40,000 for the implementation of CHIP 2024-2029 to support initiatives such as community engagement, addressing mental health stigma, grant writing, and promoting social support.
- Funding for performance bonuses and recognition of staff was supported by the Board.
- Two service proposals have been submitted to the BoCC for Youth Engagement and Latine Community Engagement.
- Ballot initiatives are being monitored and there is continued collaboration with CALPHO on strategies to increase local public health funding.
- LCDHE is appreciative of the ongoing support from the BoCC.
- The timeline for the BoCC's decisions on service proposals this fall was discussed.

Action - Dr Van Goor moved to approve the Resolution 08152024A for the adoption of the LCDHE 2025 Budget as presented. Dr Birnbaum seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Alexander Mountain Wildfire Response and Recovery

Discussion points:

- The Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) team and supporting staff were recognized for their efforts during the wildfire.
- The Alexander Mountain Wildfire required a large response that is now in the recovery phase.
- The EOC was assisted by 100 volunteers from 27 different agencies and coalition partners.
- LCDHE coordinated all Behavioral Health, Health & Safety Services, Medical Services, Laboratory and Pharmacy Services, and worked alongside Human Services and mass care.
- The workshop scenario earlier this year was similar to Alexander Mt. Wildfire which helped formulate strategy.
- A new online smoke tool informed decision-making related to Air Quality caused by the wildfire.

- Assisting residents who have lost their homes (26 or 27 properties were lost) e.g. safe debris removal, hazardous waste, damaged water wells and onsite wastewater treatment systems.

UPDATES

Director's Update

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

- Town of Berthoud backflow incident response - gastrointestinal illnesses were reported, potentially caused by an uncontrolled cross-connection. The team conducted a survey, collected stool samples for testing, initiated a case-control study and a data analysis is currently underway. Based on water systems and the volume of non potable water released, the incident was considered unlikely to affect the entire Town of Berthoud. The team will reconvene with State and Federal partners with the findings.
- LCDHE has been awarded three NACCHO Promising Practice Awards for the Foodborne Illness Evaluation and Scoring Tool, the Integrated Outbreak Management Database, and for Increasing Social Engagement through Participatory Design.
- The Director and Board thanked two of LCDHE's Leadership staff who will be leaving LCDHE to pursue other career opportunities.

Board Member Updates

Dr Van Goor voiced concerns regarding Weld County's transmission of HPAI to dairy farm workers. Larimer County is impacted but still considered low risk according to CDPHE. The Communicable Disease (CD) team is meeting with state partners, veterinarians to monitor cats with symptoms and leveraging the partnership with Sunrise Health Clinic for support. There are no positive human cases after exposure to affected cats. Symptoms and potential mutations were discussed.

The Governor has called a Special Session on August 26, 2024, to discuss property taxes.

Ms Bush and Dr Birnbaum will not be present at the September Board of Health meeting.

Ms Bush and Director Gonzales will be meeting to discuss planning and the timeline for the Directors annual performance review and asked for a volunteer from the Board to assist. This plan will be discussed at the October meeting.

Adjourn Meeting

The President moved to adjourn the meeting. **The meeting adjourned at 8.03 p.m.**