

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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MINUTES

LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING December 19, 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: John Kefalas, Commissioner, Liaison to BoH
Ms Laura Walker, Human and Economic Health Director
Ms Andrea Clement-Johnson, MS, Deputy Public Health Director
Dr Paul Mayer, MD, Medical Officer
Mr John Voss, Accounting and Business Operations Manager
Ms Kori Wilford, MPH, Communications and Technology Manager
Mr Matt Bauer, Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager
Ms Talia Hirsch, Strategic Planning, Health Equity and Partnerships Planning Supervisor
Ms Bron MacGregor, Executive Assistant (Recorder)
Ms Liv Kraus, Senior Department Specialist

Ms Kimberly Baker, Health in All Policies Coordinator
Mr Devontay Tobe, Health Equity Initiatives Coordinator

Call to Order - The President called the regular BoH meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Public Comment - No Public Comment was made.

Approval of November 21, 2024 Minutes

Action - Dr Van Goor moved to approve the minutes as written. Ms Weir seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing and Resolution for 2025 Environmental Health Fee Schedule

The Accounting and Business Operations Manager presented the proposed 2025 Environmental Health Fee Schedule to the BoH.

Discussion points:

- Retail food establishment license fees are set in statute and cannot be approved by a local Board of Health.
- Administrative costs for collecting water samples have been increased from \$1 to \$3 to cover costs.
- The Accounting and Business Operations Manager explained that the percentage of increases were not the same for all fees, as cost of service varies.
- The question was raised about the percentage of total administrative costs covered by fee income. Approximately 80% of the gap is closed by fee income; some program costs are covered at 90%.
- Commercial OWTs permits are the largest fee increase, but only about 2 or 3 permits are issued per year.
- Staff hourly rates are used to assist in determining fees using data from Healthspace database and time estimates.
- The OWTs transfer of title fee helps compensate for the increased time and expense associated with major repairs and remodels.
- Pool fees for public pools were reinstated in 2021.
- Public pools are inspected twice annually if they are open for more than 9 months per year.



- The proposed fee schedule includes a modest 5% increase in temporary event retail food fees.
- The proposed fee schedule was advertised in the Estes Park Trail Gazette and emailed to the industry. The only feedback received was from one OWTS industry who preferred fees were not increased.
- A BoH member supports the slight fee increase, as the fees only cover the inspection costs and do not generate profit.
- A BoH member requested comparative data from other local public health agencies for future conversations on fee setting, which will be provided.
- No public comment was made.

Action - A motion was made by Dr. Birnbaum to approve the Resolution 12192024A for the 2025 Environmental Health Fee Schedule as it was presented. Dr Van Goor seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

2025 Board of Health Meeting Schedule Approval

The 2025 Board of Health Meeting Schedule was put forward for the BoH's approval.

Discussion points:

- The June 2025 Board of Health meeting will be held June 26, 2025, due to the Juneteenth County holiday on the third Thursday.
- The July 2025 Board of Health meeting will not be held due to a scheduling conflict with the annual NACCHO conference.
- Changes to the meeting schedule can be made anytime, as long as the meeting is publicly posted with 24 hour's notice.

Action - Dr Van Goor moved to approve the 2025 Board of Health Annual Meeting Schedule as written. Dr Birnbaum seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

2025 Policy Priorities

The Health in All Policies (HiAP) Coordinator shared the 2025 Public Health Policy Priorities with the BoH.

Discussion points:

- The BoH acts independently and can adopt policy positions that differ from those of the County Commissioners.
- A BoH member noted their appreciation of vaccinations being included in the policy priorities and shared their great concern for declining childhood immunization rates, nationally.
- The BoH will be updated regularly by the Health in All Policies Coordinator throughout the legislative session.

UPDATES

Director's Update

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

- The cleanup of the waste tire dump site near Wellington, which reduces the risk of fires and mosquito breeding.
- Enhancements have been made to the digital accessibility of the department's 25 most visited webpages.
- Spanish translation and American Sign Language (ASL) can be provided at Board meetings for attending community members that need accommodation.
- The number of environmental health inspections in 2024 increased by 500.

Board Member Updates

Mr DelGrosso will not be attending the BoH meeting on January 16, 2025.
There were no other updates from Board members.

Commissioner Liaison Update

- Commissioners were updated on legislative matters at a breakfast hosted today.
- Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) was discussed.
- The Human Services department is experiencing an increased caseload for food assistance and a rise in food insecurity. This is occurring alongside more severe child welfare cases and a growing elderly population - all social determinants of health.

- In November, the County approved a budget of approximately \$705 million, which includes funding for capital projects.
- Oversight of psilocybin use at designated facilities begins in January 2025. Both marijuana and psilocybin are Schedule One drugs and necessitate a management system.
- The Ranch's sales tax revenue stream will expire in 2029. This revenue source will not be renewed, so efforts are currently underway to ensure the Ranch is self-sustaining before the expiration date.
- The legislative session will start on January 8, 2025. Commissioners will be sworn in on January 14, 2025.

Public Health Director Performance Review

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Action - Mr DelGrosso made a motion to enter into an Executive Session Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(f), executive session regarding personnel matters, specifically for the purpose of conducting a performance evaluation of the Public Health Director. Dr Birnbaum seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

The Board returned from the Executive Session at 8:50pm

- The Board members discussed the Director's performance and provided feedback.

Action - Ms Bush made a motion to increase the Director's salary by 5%, (2% market increase and 3% merit increase) effective December 3, 2024, and that he be granted two administrative leave days. Mr Delgrosso seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourn Meeting

The President moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.