

LARIMER COUNTY | HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80524, 970-498-6700, 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
Janna West Kowalski, MS

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

March 16th, 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 Members Present: Dr Tony J. Van Goor, MD, President
Ms Janna West Kowalski, MS, Vice President
Dr Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Ms Christy Bush, MHS

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

County Staff: Ms Andrea Clement-Johnson, MS, Deputy Public Health Director
Ms Erika Cathey, MPH, Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager
Ms Kori Wilford, MPH, Office of Communications and Technology Manager
Ms Bron MacGregor, Executive Assistant to the Public Health Director (Recorder)
Ms Olivia Kraus, Senior Department Specialist

Apologies: Commissioner John Kefalas
Mr Brian DelGrosso
Mr Frank Haug, County Attorney

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 February 16, 2023 Minutes

Action - Ms West Kowalski moved to approve the minutes as written. Dr Birnbaum seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

National Public Health Week Proclamation

The Joint National Public Health Week Proclamation was presented for approval by the Board.

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

Motion was unanimously approved.

The theme of National Public Health Week 2023 is “Centering and Celebrating Cultures of Health” and will be celebrated in partnership with the Colorado School of Public Health (CSPH) and College of Environmental and Radiological Health at Colorado State University (CSU). The activities planned include :

- A speaking event co-hosted by CSPH and LCDHE at the CSU Lory Student Center with speaker Jason Vitello, followed by a trivia evening.
- Community volunteering opportunities for staff members.
- Awards and recognition of staff.
- Social media messaging and a Lunch & Learn.
- The joint proclamation will be presented at the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC), Administrative Matters on April 4, 2023.

The Board took a brief recess to take a photograph.

Election of Board of Health Officers

There was a discussion regarding a possible deferral of the election in Mr DelGrosso's absence, but the decision was taken to continue with the election.

Action - Dr Birnbaum moved to re-elect Dr Van Goor as Board of Health President for a second year and to elect Ms Bush as Vice President by affirmation. Ms West Kowalski seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.



Annual Communicable Disease Program Report

The Board was given a presentation of the Annual Communicable Disease Program Report, introducing team members, detailing reportable diseases and animal exposures timelines and prevention measures.

Discussion points :

- Varieties of local carnivores that carry rabies.
- The requirement and significance of LCDHE's contract with a medical officer.
- Community members and LCDHE's efforts towards providing equitable care.
- Norovirus is not a reportable disease but is tracked and investigated during outbreaks.
- LCDHE provides recommendations on hygiene, cleaning practices and mitigation efforts to reduce the spread of pathogens. Incidents that require home visits and the challenges that arise, given an increased attitude of hostility towards healthcare workers, are also addressed.
- Vaccines are available for prevention of vaccine-preventable diseases and can also be used for post-exposure prophylaxis.
- LCDHE uses a variety of methods to contact patients (phone calls, text, home visits).
- Social issues related to diseases like Tuberculosis (TB) and the role of high quality Public Health in support of primary healthcare providers.
- Quality Improvement (QI) efforts to reduce time and costs while consistently providing high quality care.
- LCDHE works with the county jail and homeless shelters to develop TB screening and testing protocols.
- The role of Public Health and outreach efforts when screening for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).
- Mechanisms to open up communication between Public Health and medical service providers to ensure screening for highly contagious diseases.
- Consolidating the concepts of Public Health 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0.

UPDATES

Director's Update

The Director guided the Board to the Director's Update in the packet. He highlighted his recent communication to the Board regarding Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and LCDHE's planning and preparation in the event that HPAI spread to humans became widespread.

Discussion points :

- Spread and detection of HPAI.
- Updating and testing emergency preparedness plans and crisis communications plans.
- The concept of a potential LCDHE partnership with CSU for testing.
- Continued acquisition and storage of PPE.
- Staff completion of basic Incident Command System (ICS) training and key staff completing more advanced ICS courses.
- Ongoing coordination, preparation, and training of Health and Human Services Branch partners (ESF-8).

Board Member Updates

- Dr Birnbaum will not be able to attend the next Board of Health meeting on 04/20/2023.
- Dr Van Goor will be addressing the Office of Aging and the Fort Collins Senior Advisory Board on 07/12/2023 and requested input from LCDHE staff.
- The upcoming voluntary "Leadership in Action" training for Boards of Health.
- Director Gonzales will be attending a two-day Public Health Director training and networking event in May 2023.

Adjourn Meeting

Dr Birnbaum moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.