

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 June 15, 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
Dr Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Ms Christy Bush, MHS, Vice President
Ms Janna West Kowalski, MS
Mr Brian DelGrosso (virtual)

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

Staff: Ms Andrea Clement-Johnson, MS, Deputy Public Health Director
Dr Paul Mayer, MD, Medical Officer
Mr Frank Haug, County Attorney
Mr Joshua Fudge, Larimer County Budget Director
Dr Jared Olson, Senior Population Epidemiologist
Ms Erika Cathey, MPH, Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager
Mr Chris Manley, Environmental Health Director
Ms Kelsey Lyon, MPH, Public Health Planning and Partnership Manager
Mr John Voss, Accounting and Business Operations Manager
Ms Kori Wilford, MPH, Communications and Technology Manager
Ms Bron MacGregor, Executive Assistant to the Public Health Director (Recorder)
Ms Olivia Kraus, Senior Department Specialist
Ms Christine Luckasen, County Attorney

Apologies: Commissioner John Kefalas

Call to Order - The President called the regular BoH meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment - Christine Bowman of Fort Collins, member of the COVID Bat Research Moratorium of Colorado, made public comment.

Approval of May 18, 2023, Minutes

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

Motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Budget Considerations

Mr Josh Fudge, Larimer County Budget Director, and John Voss, Accounting and Business Operations Manager, provided an overview of the 2024 budget considerations.

Discussion points:

- The implications if Senate Bill 21-243 funding ends and is not extended.
- Actions being taken to mitigate the impact of Initiative 21 if it is brought to the ballot and successfully passed by the voters.
- Challenges faced by the county due to factors such as inflation, liability costs, staff retention and the state of the labor market.
- The hiring freeze, with exceptions made for positions with a primary responsibility of health, safety, and/or protection of the community, including those funded by grants.
- County may institute a soft cap on property tax growth if Proposition HH passes.
- Proposition HH must pass through the court before going on the ballot.

Proclamation Recognizing the Service of Janna West Kowalski as a Larimer County Board of Health Member

The Board and staff expressed their gratitude to Ms West Kowalski for her ten years of dedicated service and commitment to the Board of Health and presented her with a token of appreciation.



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

Motion was unanimously approved.

The Board took a brief recess to take a photograph.

Director's Update

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

- The official 2022 Annual Report for the department.
- The Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response's successful collaboration with hospitals and health partners.
- LCDHE's position as Health Strategists has resulted in requests for recommendations regarding the federal Clean Air Spaces Bill, promoting the use of filters in areas that are most impacted by wildfires.
- Dr Jared Olson was selected as the Larimer County Employee of the Month for April 2023.
- Our outreach efforts at the upcoming Juneteenth and Pride Month celebrations.

Discussion points:

- Equity efforts and the staff-driven efforts towards cultural humility.
- Appreciation for the leadership of Director Gonzales.
- West Nile virus update.
- Recognition of the Built Environment team whose positions have ended due to the completion of a grant.
- The importance of secure Public Health funding as an effort to reduce staff turnover.
- The significance of our collaboration with the Loveland Connect engagement program.

Action - Dr Van Goor moved the motion to suspend the July 2024 Board of Health meeting. Mr DelGrosso seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Board Member Updates

- Ms Bush recently attended a Leadership training for Board of Health members, hosted by Ms West Kowalski, and recommended it to other members.

- Dr Van Goor attended a National Association for Local Board of Health webinar by the Chief Medical Officer for FDA. Topics included discussions of vaccine formulation, Emergency Preparedness and Response, and drug shortages.

Adjourn Meeting

Ms Kowalski West moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.