

LARIMER COUNTY | HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524, 970.498.6700, Larimer.gov/health
Director Tom Gonzales, MPH

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.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Tony J. Van Goor, MD, President
Janna West Kowalski, MS, Vice President
Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Brian DelGrosso
Christy Bush, MHS

LARIMER COUNTY Board of Health (BoH) – November 17, 2022

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.

Members Present: Dr Tony J. Van Goor (virtually)
Ms Janna West Kowalski (virtually)
Mr Brian DelGrosso
Ms Christy Bush (virtually)
Dr Bernard Birnbaum

Executive Secretary: Tom Gonzales

County Staff: Commissioner John Kefalas (virtually), Kori Wilford (virtually), John Voss (virtually), Kelsey Lyon (virtually), Andrea Clement-Johnson, Chris Manley, Erika Cathey, Olivia Kraus, Dr Paul Mayer, Bron MacGregor (virtually), Leigh Ann Frost, Matt Bauer

Call to Order - Dr Tony J. Van Goor, Board of Health President, called the regular BoH meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Public Comment - No public comment was made.

Approval of October 20, 2022 Minutes

Action - Ms Janna West Kowalski made the following amendment to the October 20, 2022 minutes: *“Ms West Kowalski noted other counties across the country have used Health in All Policies as a strategy to improve health outcomes and decrease inequities”*. Dr Bernard Birnbaum moved to approve the minutes, with the amendment. Mr Brian DelGrosso seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.



NEW BUSINESS

Request for Hearing Regarding Environmental Health Fee Schedule

Dr Van Goor read out the resolution for a public hearing regarding the Environmental Health Fee Schedule. Director Tom Gonzales explained that this will set the hearing for the December 15, 2022 Board of Health meeting and that it has to be advertised twenty days prior to then. It will be posted on LCDHE's website and also in the public media. Director Gonzales does not anticipate any major objections. Commissioner Kefalas would like to understand the methodologies on how the fees are determined, and the Director confirmed that these would be presented at the hearing.

Action - Dr Birnbaum moved to accept the resolution as written and Mr Brian DelGrosso seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Situational Awareness on Respiratory Illness

Director Gonzales introduced Matt Bauer, Regional Epidemiologist, who presented an update on Respiratory Illnesses (RI) which include COVID-19, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and influenza. Larimer County's hospital resources are becoming stretched with respiratory illnesses. There have been several respiratory illness outbreaks in childcare facilities since the beginning of the school year. Hospitalization rates for COVID-19 continue to be comparatively low compared to 2020 and 2021, however, RSV rates are much higher than previous years. Dr Van Goor asked about Synagis monoclonal antibody administration for RSV reduction of disease. The Combined Hospital Transfer Center (CHTC) in Colorado is currently activated at Tier 1, the lowest level of activation, but cases are getting us closer to delays or disruptions in elective surgeries to alleviate the burden on hospitals. Dr Birnbaum stated that pediatric respiratory support is a highly specialized sector and that there are limited staff available. Dr Birnbaum emphasized the importance of the influenza vaccine as a highly effective tool to prevent hospitalization and to drastically decrease the impact on the community. This input was supported by Dr Paul Mayer, Medical Officer for Larimer County. Mr Bauer discussed the differences between types of influenza surveillance reporting in response to a question posed by Commissioner Kefalas. Director Gonzales stressed the importance of communication and stated that LCDHE has been using Facebook Live and hosting community Zoom updates which have received a great deal of media and public attention.

Public Health Director Performance Evaluation Process

Ms West Kowalski thanked the Board members for their responses to the evaluation assessment. Dr Van Goor commended Director Gonzales on being named as the next president of CALPHO beginning January 2023 and Kelsey Lyon, Office of Public Health Planning and Partnership Manager, for her role in facilitating the very successful Youth Mental Health Summit that took place on November 16, 2022.

UPDATES

Director's Update

Leigh Ann Frost, Nurse Family-Partnership (NFP) Supervisor, gave a presentation detailing the work NFP is doing, as well as the research outcomes and impacts on our communities. NFP is a long-term program that begins at early pregnancy and continues throughout a child's second birthday, with continuous evaluation and progress measured ongoingly. Ms Frost provided data that reflects the success of the program and clarified the difference between the WIC and NFP breastfeeding programs, in response to Mr DelGrosso's question. Mr DelGrosso inquired about referrals to the program and Ms West Kowalski asked if all nurses were at capacity. Ms Frost explained that as graduations or openings occur, capacity may fluctuate. Ms Christy Bush asked about the graduation versus dropout rates of the participants. Ms Frost spoke of high levels of retention and effective relationship building training which had resulted in a high client commitment and program completion rate. When families leave the program to move out of the state, they are connected to the national program so support is most often continued.

Director Gonzales discussed the statistics related to the media campaign called Make a Plan. He also talked of the recent two-day, goal-focused Leadership Team / Management Team workshop. During the workshop Director Gonzales received feedback from all team members, both those that are positive and those that are distracting, which had highlighted two personal goals for him to work on in 2023.

Ms Bush asked for information about the meeting held between the Leadership Team and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Director Gonzales said the discussion centered on efforts related to child fatality, opioid abatement, mental health, and air quality. Continued priorities and conversations that were identified were funding and improving communication between the CDPHE and LCDHE.

Board Member Updates

Dr Van Goor attended the Loveland Senior Advisory Board meeting where a question was posed regarding mobile unit services to help provide residents immunizations for COVID and influenza. Director Gonzales responded that long-term care facilities are charged with providing these resources to their residents.

Commissioner Kefalas said that he found the student voices at the Youth Mental Health Summit to be very compelling. The Environmental Health Advisory Board has submitted an air monitoring proposal to the Board of County Commissioners. The Commissioner reported that at the Administrative Matters meeting, the Commissioners recently committed two million dollars for a fish hatchery project in Estes Park, to provide workforce housing and a Loveland property on which to build forty-four micro-housing units for transitional housing for people experiencing homelessness. The Commissioner thanked Dr Van Goor, the Board, and the staff for their good work.

Adjourn Meeting

Dr Birnbaum moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr DelGrosso seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.