

LARIMER COUNTY | HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

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

BOARD OF HEALTH

Tony J. Van Goor, MD, President
Janna West Kowalski, MS, Vice President
Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Brian DelGrosso
Jennifer Lee

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.

LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH – April 21, 2022

The Larimer County Board of Health (BOH) convened their regular meeting at 6:01pm in-person at 1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, CO, 80524 and virtually through the Zoom platform.

Members Present: Dr. Bernard Birnbaum
Dr. Tony J. Van Goor
Janna West Kowalski
Brian DelGrosso

Executive Secretary: Tom Gonzales

Absent: Jennifer Lee

County Staff: Andrea Clement-Johnson, Erika Cathey, Kelsey Lyon, Chris Manley, Kori Wilford, Frank Haug, John Voss, Bron MacGregor, David Ayraud, Bill Ressue, Linda Diede, Dr Paul Mayer, Cindy Cloyd.

Call to Order - Dr. Tony J. Van Goor, Board President, called the regular Board of Health meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Public Comment - Gina Forcatto, Tasha Carr, Heather Lahdenpera (all of Fort Collins) each made public comment.

Approval of March 17, 2022 Minutes

Action - Janna West Kowalski motioned to approve the minutes. Dr. Bernie Birnbaum seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.



Dr. Tony J. Van Goor asked that the agenda be amended to include time to discuss the Health District's Community Health Survey after the COVID-19 Update.

Financial Report - John Voss provided the first quarter financial update. Revenue is coming in as expected and expenditures are on track.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Regional Governance Agreements for Colorado Opioid Settlements - David Ayraud, Deputy County Attorney for Larimer County, gave an overview of the opioid litigation and settlement. An MOU was signed by the Attorney General to divide the proceeds of the settlement. It is expected that Larimer County Region will receive approximately \$11 million - \$15 million over an 18 year period. Larimer County, City of Loveland, City of Fort Collins and Town of Wellington will need to appoint a member to serve on the regional council to oversee planning and expenditures. Funds received will all go to opioid-related expenses. The council is composed of 5 voting entities, of which it is proposed that the BOH is one. The BOH is required to determine which member of the Board will act as representative to the council and to convene their first meeting before July 1st, 2022, when the first council meeting will be held.

Action - Dr. Birnbaum motioned to approve the resolution to join the regional council. Mr. DelGrosso seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

The Board briefly discussed their participation in the council and the value of including the Department of Health and Environment as health strategists. Ms. West Kowalski stated the need for the Board to be the voice of prevention and education, and requested regular feedback from the council representative. Dr. Birnbaum expressed appreciation of funding for the opioid crisis from the government level. There was a brief discussion on the appointment of the representative.

Action - Dr. Birnbaum motioned to appoint Tom Gonzales, Public Health Director, as the BOH's representative to the regional council. Ms. West Kowalski seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting went into recess for a 5 minute break.

UPDATES

Health District's Community Health Survey- Mr. Gonzales updated the BOH on the recent survey which is sent out by the Health District of Northern Colorado every 3 years. It is a randomized mailing to 13,000 people within the community. Responses to the survey will help the Health District better understand the health, and healthcare needs, of area residents. Information gathered will guide the planning and design of programs and services at the Health District. Results also will be made available to other local agencies working on health-related issues, including LCDHE.

Strategic Plan Objectives Update - Talia Hirsch updated the Board on the progress that has been made with the Strategic Plan, to include the completion of the first phase of the Skills Gap Assessment of our All Hazard Response Plan (which will inform our Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan), the addition of a new Emergency Response Coordinator and the accomplishments of the Invest In Our People work group and efforts. Ms. Hirsch covered the progress in investing in our internal processes and systems and our new policy management system, DocTract. Being Health Strategists means ensuring we have access to the data we need to support Health Strategists capabilities. The Access to Data workgroup is creating a tool focused on qualitative data from community groups. We are additionally operationalizing our MOU with CSU to become an Academic Health Department. The Board commended the department on the progress that has been made thus far, especially during the pandemic.

Andrea Clement-Johnson, Deputy Public Health Director, discussed the upcoming Staff Development Day that has been scheduled for staff in August 2022. The event will feature trauma and resiliency support for our staff following two years of COVID-19 response work. Dr Birnbaum indicated that members of the Board would like to attend.

Public Health Director 2022 Goals Update - Tom Gonzales, Public Health Director, updated the Board on the progress made towards achieving the Director's annual goals, which includes elements of the Strategic Plan. A formal process is being put together to include the Strategic Plan in the annual budget formulation, listening sessions with all members of the staff have been scheduled and feedback provided will be relayed back to the Leadership and Management Team, for swift action. The success of the new Employee Orientation has prompted the creation of an Orientation program for new BOH members, the first of which is scheduled for May 17, 2022, with Dr. Van Goor in attendance. Mr. Gonzales also discussed the work being done with the Trebuchet Group on utilizing a new leadership tool, and timeline for its implementation and activation. Ms. West Kowalski mentioned the value of accessing the free resources offered by Public Health Training Centers for staff development.

COVID-19 Update - Erika Cathey, Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager, gave an update on COVID-19. We have seen a slight uptick in 7-Day case rate but the hospitalization case rates are still on the low end of our community dashboard. Wastewater is being monitored very closely for BA.2 as well as the new sub-variant BA.2.12.1.

Dr. Paul Mayer, Medical Officer, presented on Public Order 2201 and the impact of such on therapeutics and treatment. He emphasized the need for attention being paid to the Order regarding that treatment is recommended. Paxlovid, the oral antiviral, is readily available and very effective. Infusion centers know which monoclonal antibodies (mAb) are most effective for each strain, so it is important that patients are guided by them. Molnupiravir is also an oral treatment, but only 30% effective. Evusheld is an effective prophylactic mAb for people who cannot be vaccinated or who do not respond well to immunization. Test-To-Treat programming is being rolled out throughout the state. The Board discussed the various treatments available.

Public Health Director's Update - Linda Diede, Supervisor of the Maternal Services Program, announced that Cindy Cloyd, Nurse Advisor for LCDHE and Human Services, has been awarded with the Jim Drendel Community Solution Award for her outstanding work with children, youth and families.

Ms. Clement-Johnson and Kori Wilford gave an update on the activities that took place during Public Health Week, celebrated between April 4 and 10, 2022. Events included the Joint Proclamation between the BOH and Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), LCDHE staff volunteering at the Food Bank of Larimer County, a trivia evening, and an all-staff celebration at The Lyric Theater.

Mr. Gonzales announced that the Vital Statistics Program won the Excellence Award for 5 star service (for both Larimer and Jackson counties) for 100% accuracy in 2021.

Board Member Updates - Dr. Van Goor attended the trivia night and congratulated the department on an enjoyable event. Ms. West Kowalski attended a BOCC event with the Center for Public Deliberation and CSU to foster civil conversations with the public.

Dr. Birnbaum advised that he would be unable to attend the May meeting and the one scheduled for June 16, 2022.

Action - Dr. Birnbaum motioned to go into recess to move to Executive Session with County attorneys, pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402(4)(b), to discuss legal questions about case 2022CV30091 Resurrection Christian School et. al. v. Tom Gonzales et. al. to determine appropriate response. Mr. DelGrosso seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

The BOH meeting was reconvened after the Executive Session and Dr. Van Goor recognized Mr. Haug to speak to the decision. Mr. Haug announced that the BOH had agreed to the Larimer County Attorney's Office representing the BOH, Mr. Gonzales, and Larimer County Department of Health and Environment in the aforementioned litigation and, as such, they will be filing a responsive pleading to this case.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.