

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

Janna West Kowalski, MS, Vice President

Bernard Birnbaum, MD

Brian Delgrosso

Christy Bush, MHS

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 (BoH) – December 15, 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
Ms Janna West Kowalski
Mr Brian DelGrosso
Ms Christy Bush
Dr Bernard Birnbaum

Executive Secretary: Tom Gonzales

County Staff: Commissioner John Kefalas, Dr Paul Mayer, Frank Haug, John Voss, Andrea Clement-Johnson, Chris Manley, Erika Cathey, Keila Florres, Kelsey Lyon (virtually), Kori Wilford, Steve Tomajczyk (virtually), Ginger Hillyard (virtually), Olivia Kraus, Bron MacGregor

Call to Order - Dr Tony J. Van Goor, Board of Health President, called the regular BoH meeting to order at 6.00 p.m.

Public Comment - No public comment was made.

Approval of November 17, 2022 Minutes

Action - Dr Bernard Birnbaum moved to approve the minutes. Mr Brian DelGrosso seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.



NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing and Resolution for 2023 Environmental Health Fee Schedule

Chris Manley, Environmental Health Director, explained the annual environmental health fee process. Mr Manley indicated that the statute requires the Fee Hearing to be advertised in the media twenty one days in advance of the hearing. Mr Manley also stated that staff sent an email to all affected industries regarding the proposed fees for feedback. Frank Haug, Assistant County Attorney, said that the proposed fees have been published with a clerical error, stating that the hearing would be held on December 15, 2023, instead of December 15, 2022, but he suggested that the hearing move forward and that we publish the legal notice once again and hold an additional hearing on January 19, 2023, to ensure that any interested party be allowed to comment and if there is any additional public comment thereafter, and the fees need amending, the Board can amend the fees at the January 2023 meeting.

Mr Manley explained the justification for line item changes and said there were no fee changes for 2021 because there had been a significant increase in 2020. Mr Brian DelGrosso discussed the actual cost increase and said it was important to note that the department was not making any profit. Mr Manley said there was comparison across other local public health agencies, in response to a question by Dr Birnbaum about utilizing comparison information. Mr Manley said he received seven responses from industry members regarding the proposed fees ranging from feeling the increases were reasonable to indicating that now is not the time to increase fees given the increases in all areas. Mr DelGrosso inquired about the impact of inflation and higher costs of pool chemicals and Mr Manley said that vendors are now better monitoring their levels of chlorine and the efficiency of the mechanical equipment. A late fee for vendors who apply for retail food event licenses within 48 hours of an event has been included in the proposed fee schedule. Dr Van Goor asked how this might impact the thin profit margins. Mr Manley explained that it is hoped that event coordinators might be better organized and highlight the higher cost implications to their food vendors. He explained that late applications require more department resources, place a strain on the staff, and creates increased costs to the department in overtime. He confirmed that it was easy for out-of-town vendors to access permit applications online. Mr DelGrosso commented that it is unlikely that vendors will make a snap decision to attend an event as it requires planning, and in his opinion, the late fees are fair.

Public comment (virtual) - an unidentified person asked how is it determined that the food is healthy? The person also wished participants happy holidays. No further public comment was made.

Ms West Kowalski and Dr Birnbaum appreciated the involvement of Mr Voss, the Office of Accounting and Business Operations Manager, in the EH fee proposal process. Commissioner Kefalas indicated that the county has done an evaluation of the engineering and planning review fees which will also be increased, so there is consistency in other areas of the county.

Dr Van Goor read the 2023 Environmental Health Fee resolution aloud.

Action - Dr Birnbaum moved to accept resolution 12152022A as written and Ms Christy Bush seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of 2023 Board of Health Meeting Schedule

Action - Ms West Kowalski moved to accept the meeting schedule as written and Dr Birnbaum seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

UPDATES

Director's Update

Director Gonzales reported that as a part of Investing in Our People, 85% of the staff have recently attended a Verbal Judo course which was very successful. Dr Birnbaum was impressed that staff were receiving training on conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques.

Director Gonzales announced that Mr Steve Tomajczyk, Senior Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator was selected as October Larimer County Employee of the Month, a particularly impressive distinction given there are approximately 2,100 Larimer County staff. Mr Tomajczyk received two nominations, one from his supervisor and a second from the Deputy Chief Coroner. Mr Tomajczyk was humbled and thankful and said he came to work for Larimer County because it is known for its caring and empathetic citizenry.

Director Gonzales announced that Ginger Hillyard, Program Coordinator for Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs, was the first recipient of the Early Childhood Provider Appreciation Reward. Laura Walker also thanked and congratulated Ms Hillyard.

Board Member Updates

Dr Van Goor was a member of the Loveland Senior Advisory Board and has been asked to give a biannual report back on LCDHE activities. Dr Birnbaum said the role of the Health Department regarding persons experiencing homelessness and aging communities, transportation, and engagement with the community should be determined over the next five years.

Mr DelGrosso requested that a year-on-year comparison of statistics for RSV, COVID-19, Influenza and West Nile virus be included in the monthly communicable disease summary.

The Board thanked the staff for their work and dedication throughout the year and Commissioner Kefalas wished all staff a happy holiday season.

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 the appeal to the dismissal of case 2022CV30091 Resurrection Christian School et al. v. Tom Gonzales et al. Ms West Kowalski seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

The BoH meeting was reconvened at 7:14 p.m. following the Executive Session. Dr Van Goor reported that an appeal has been filed and that there will be a record due on December 29, 2022, after which a briefing will take place.

Action - Dr Birnbaum motioned to go into recess to move to 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. Ms Bush seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

The BoH meeting was reconvened at 8:32 p.m. following the Executive Session. Dr Van Goor reported back that the Board Members wished to acknowledge an excellent performance evaluation of Public Health Director, Tom Gonzales. Dr Van Goor reported that the evaluation reflects that Director Gonzales not only meets, but exceeds, expectations of the Board. Dr Van Goor reported that the Board recommends a 12% salary adjustment to increase the Public Health Director salary.

Dr Van Goor noted that Ms West Kowalski helped to facilitate a market analysis of the compensation of other Public Health Directors in the state and found that, in comparison, the Larimer County Public Health Director earns less. Dr Van Goor indicated that consideration for the adjustment included the fact that Larimer County staff will receive a pay increase in 2023. In addition, Dr Van Goor reported that the Public Health Director has met goals in the strategic plan, as well as personal goals, in a superior fashion and he believes goals will continue to be met and expanded.

Action - Dr Van Goor presented a motion to approve a salary adjustment of a 12% increase based on a superior performance evaluation for the Public Health Director. Brian Delgrosso seconded the motion. Motion was suspended to determine a date that the adjustment shall begin. After discussion, Dr Van Goor amended the motion to include that the start date for the 12% upward adjustment be December 3, 2022. Dr Birnbaum seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourn Meeting

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.