

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

Bernard Birnbaum, MD, President

Brian DelGrosso, Vice President

Jennifer Lee, MS

Janna West Kowalski, MS

Tony J. Van Goor, MD

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 – February 17, 2022

The Larimer County Board of Health (BoH) convened their regular meeting at 6:00pm through the Zoom virtual platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Executive Secretary: Tom Gonzales

County Staff: Andrea Clement-Johnson, John Voss, Phillip Daniel, Kelsey Lyon, Chris Manley, Kori Wilford, Laura Walker, Commissioner John Kefalas, Dr. Paul Mayer, Frank Haug, Dr. Jared Olson, Erika Cathey

Call to Order - Dr. Bernard Birnbaum, Board President, called the regular Board of Health meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Public Comment - Keri Park, Fort Collins; Jeff Aufderheide, Wellington; Jessica Kraus, Fort Collins; Alida Villatoro, Fort Collins; Heather Lahdenpera, Fort Collins; Dee Dee Vicino, Fort Collins; Tanya Bradbury, Loveland; Nancy Eason, Fort Collins; Erin Ramler, Fort Collins; Lisa Winbourn, Loveland all made public comment.

Approval of January 20, 2022 Minutes

Action - Dr. Tony J. Van Goor motioned to approve the minutes. Janna West Kowalski seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Financial Report - John Voss, Accounting Manager, presented the financial report for the 2021 fiscal year.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Progress Report - Kelsey Lyon, Office of Public Health Planning and Partnership Manager, highlighted the CHIP work completed in 2021, with equity and community engagement as a focus. Laura Walker, Human and Economic Health Director, presented on the Board of County Commissioners Strategic Plan centered around increasing access to childcare and the work within Human Services focused on Child Care Assistance Program outreach. Christina Taylor, Executive Director of the Early Childhood Council of Larimer County, presented on Federal and State Relief funding for childcare-related expenses, Childcare Quality Improvement and Licensing Incentives, and workforce supports that will be provided



through American Rescue Plan Act dollars. She additionally highlighted their local work connecting families to providers and growing supports around Early Childhood Mental Health. Rachel Olson, a Program Director at the Alliance for Suicide Prevention, spoke about their involvement in the Colorado National Collaborative, a partnership with state and national agencies to build a strategic collaborative framework to reduce suicide by 20% by 2024. She shared successes in 2021 in working to enhance connectedness, economic stability and supports, education and awareness, access to safer suicide care, lethal means safety, and postvention efforts. Shayle Sabo, Emergency Management Coordinator, spoke about the partnership between the Office of Emergency Management and the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment in processes focusing on elevating community voice when identifying priorities for the American Rescue Plan Act and the results of this shared engagement. The results included the identification of key themes including childcare, food insecurity, housing, representation in leadership, and reliable high-speed Internet. Kim Chambers, Community Health Improvement Plan Coordinator, presented the CHIP work planned for 2022.

UPDATES

COVID-19 Status Update - Dr. Jared Olson, Population Epidemiologist, presented updates on the Omicron variant and data from the state of Colorado.

Tom Gonzales, Public Health Director, presented updates on the department's move from the public health order requiring masks to a recommendation for masking and how it impacts the community. He shared near-term future plans for the COVID-19 suppression activities' transition to routine disease control and surveillance measures.

Margo Karsten, Western Region President for Banner Health, and Kevin Unger, President and CEO UCHealth Northern Colorado, spoke about the current status of the Northern Colorado hospital systems.

Director's Update-

Chris Manley, Environmental Health Director, presented an update on the EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Grant.

Board Member Updates - There were no updates given.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.