

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 – August 19, 2021

The Larimer County Board of Health (BoH) convened their regular meeting at 6:04pm at 1525 Blue Spruce Dr. Fort Collins CO 80524 and through the Zoom virtual platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Executive Secretary: Tom Gonzales

County Staff: Andrea Clement-Johnson, John Voss, Dr. Jared Olson, Phillip Daniel, Kelsey Lyon, Chris Manley, Kelli Curl, Kori Wilford, Laura Walker, Erica Wagner, William Ressue, Commissioner John Kefalas, Katie O'Donnell, Dr. Paul Mayer

Call to Order - Dr. Bernard Birnbaum, Board President, called the regular Board of Health meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Public Comment - Heather Lahdenpera, Fort Collins; Keri Park, Fort Collins; Kristin Stephens, Larimer County Commissioner, Fort Collins; Jeff Yarberry, Bellevue; Andrea Sampson, Loveland City Councilor, Loveland; Brent Buckhart, location unknown; all provided public comment.

A break was taken to discuss an issue with time posted on the website. It was decided that since there was a discrepancy between the agenda and the time posted on the Board of Health website, public comment was reimplemented at 7pm.

Approval of July 15, 2021 Minutes

Action - Janna West-Kowalski motioned to approve. Dr. Tony Van Goor seconded the motion.
Motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

COVID-19 Presentation - Tom Gonzales, Public Health Director, Dr. Jared Olson, Population Epidemiologist, Andrea Clement-Johnson, Deputy Public Health Director all presented on current COVID-19 metrics and data trends, indoor mask-wearing and vaccination data and information.



The COVID-19 presentation was paused and the public comment period was reopened at 7pm.

Public Comment - Jeff Aufderheide, Wellington; Kristin Elliott, Berthoud/Loveland; Caleb, last name and location unknown; Cammie Larsen, location unknown; Nancy Eason, location unknown; Michelle Yarberry, Bellevue; Nicholas, last name and location unknown, all provided public comment.

COVID-19 Presentation Continued - Margo Karsten, Western Region President for Banner Health and Kevin Unger, President and Chief Executive Officer of Poudre Valley Hospital and Medical Center of the Rockies, both presented on the state of hospital systems in Larimer County.

Dr. Bernard Birnbaum called a five minute recess.

Discussion of Appropriate COVID-19 Prevention Measures including Mask-Wearing - The Board held a discussion surrounding the COVID-19 presentation and the three “snap back” metrics indicated in the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment’s COVID-19 Suppression Plan. Tom Gonzales, Public Health Director, indicated that the County has met one of the three metrics at this time. He also explained that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has let their orders expire regarding indoor mask mandates and it is now a local public health decision.

Action - Dr. Bernard Birnbaum moved to direct the Public Health Director to use the three metrics outlined in the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment’s COVID-19 Suppression Plan, and to express support for the Public Health Director to use those metrics in assessing whether to issue public health orders, and to determine if additional preventative measures are necessary and if an order is issued, to reconvene the Board of Health as soon as possible to get further guidance.

The Motion was amended, and the amendment was accepted, to state that the Public Health Director is directed to use the best available science and data to determine if additional preventative measures are necessary. If an order is issued the Board will convene as soon as possible to give further guidance.

Motion was approved by a vote of 4-1.

2022 Draft Budget Presentation/Q&A - John Voss, Accounting Manager, presented the 2022 Draft Budget.

Approval of the 2022 Draft Budget

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

Motion was unanimously approved.

UPDATES

Director’s Update - Tom Gonzales, Public Health Director, presented an update on West Nile Virus.

Andrea Clement-Johnson spoke about the WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program receiving the 2021 Breastfeeding Award of Excellence Gold Level Award.

Board Member Updates - No updates were given.

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.