

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, MPH

LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH – July 21, 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
Janna West Kowalski
Brian DelGrosso
Dr. Bernard Birnbaum
Christy Bush

Executive Secretary: Tom Gonzales

County Staff: Commissioner John Kefalas (virtual), Erika Cathey, Kelsey Lyon, Chris Manley, Dr. Paul Mayer, John Voss, Bron MacGregor, Emily Darrell, Olivia Kraus, Kori Wilford

Call to Order - Dr. Tony J. Van Goor, Board President, called the regular BoH meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Van Goor welcomed the new Board of Health member, Christy Bush.

Public Comment - No Public Comment was made.

Approval of May 15, 2022 Minutes

Action - Brian DelGrosso motioned to approve the minutes. Janna West Kowalski seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.



NEW BUSINESS

Child Fatality Review and Prevention

Kelsey Lyon presented an overview of the Child Fatality Review Committee, which Dr. Jared Olson facilitates. When looking at the number of deaths among children under 18, suicide is the leading preventable cause of death in Colorado. The Community Health Improvement Plan is currently supporting a systems-wide approach to reducing suicide deaths. Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) is another leading cause of death among all children and SUID occurs at the highest rate when compared to all other types of child deaths. This data, coupled with the details discussed in Child Fatality Committee case review meetings, provided data to support development of an infant sleep campaign in Larimer County. This campaign will include education and harm reduction strategies around co-sleeping.

Kori Wilford detailed the Safe Sleep outreach and education campaign, which has been launched by the Office of Communications and Technology. The department has purchased 500 sleep sacks for distribution. The sleep sacks will be sent along with educational information to under-served community members. Some funding is also being used for paid advertising on social media. Dr. Birnbaum suggested that print media be available for distribution by healthcare workers to new parents.

UPDATES

COVID-19 Update

The weekly COVID-19 update was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. Dr. Birnbaum asked if Novavax has a role in this community. Dr. Paul Mayer answered that it is a more viable option for people that are vaccine hesitant, but in terms of efficacy, there is not enough data with the new Omicron BA.5 variant. When LCDHE has supplies of this vaccine, the website will be updated. Immunity from infection and vaccination fades, so COVID-19 boosters continue to be very important. Dr. Paul Mayer further stated that a multi-valent vaccine has been submitted for approval at the federal level. Dr. Mayer addressed further questions about hospitalizations (which have remained low) thanks to higher baseline immunity and therapeutics. The Office of Communications and Technology is working on an effective communication campaign regarding treatments that are available. This is known as Make A Plan. Dr. Birnbaum mentioned the need for enhanced communication with pharmacies and healthcare providers who do not readily promote treatment.

Director's Update

Erika Cathey, Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager, reported that there are no Monkeypox cases in Larimer County at this time. LCDHE is not currently a testing site, but will be enrolling as a vaccine provider in preparation for an outbreak. Dr. Birnbaum discussed CDPHE requirements and protocols for patients presenting with a rash (full PPE and recommendations for sterilizing the treatment room, as well). Commissioner Kefalas asked about LCDHE's outreach to partners in various networks. Dr. Mayer said testing locations have improved dramatically in Colorado.

Chris Manley, Environmental Health Director, outlined the collaborative work being done by LCDHE and Larimer County Economic and Workforce Development staff to build on the positive relationships that were developed during COVID-19. Mutually beneficial training programs are being planned for all stakeholders. Commissioner Kefalas commended Mr. Manley on the great initiative and asked if the Food Protection Manager training was available in Spanish. Mr. Manley shared that it is in Spanish and noted that the team is working on making it more accessible, as well as assisting the Spanish speaking community with applications.

Tom Gonzales, Chris Manley and Lea Schneider, Environmental Health Planner and Supervisor, attended a BoCC work session last week to discuss Air Quality Monitoring efforts, and they provided four proposed actions and associated costs. The BoCC were supportive and the actions are being built into the department's 2023 budget. The Board discussed the various factors that negatively impact the air quality in Larimer County, in comparison to those that have the greatest impact on neighboring counties.

Dr. Van Goor inquired about the status of the national baby formula shortage. Mr. Gonzales said that the shortage remains a challenge for many families and that the WIC team continues to assist affected families.

COVID-19 After Action Report interview sessions have been scheduled. Mr. Gonzales inquired to BoH members about their availability for attending.

Board Member Updates

Mr. DeGrosso asked about the time required for the mandatory BoH training.

Dr. Van Goor is attending the NALBOH conference in Grand Rapids, MI next week.

Adjourn Meeting

Dr. Birnbaum moved to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. West Kowalski seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.