

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
Christy Bush, MHS, Vice President
Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Brian Delgrosso
Janna West Kowalski, MS

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

MINUTES

LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

May 18th, 2023

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. The meeting was translated into Spanish.

Board Members Present: Dr Tony J. Van Goor, MD, President
Ms Janna West Kowalski, MS
Ms Christy Bush, MHS, Vice President
Dr Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Mr Brian DelGrosso

Executive Secretary: Mr Tom Gonzales, MPH, Public Health Director

County Staff: Commissioner John Kefalas
Ms Andrea Clement-Johnson, MS, Deputy Public Health Director
Dr Paul Mayer, MD, Medical Officer
Ms Kori Wilford, MPH, Office of Communications and Technology Manager
Ms Erika Cathey, MPH, Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager
Mr Chris Manley, Environmental Health Director
Mr John Voss, Office of Accounting and Business Operations Manager
Ms Kelsey Lyon, MPH, Office of Public Health Planning and Partnership Manager
Dr Jared Olson, PhD, Population Epidemiologist
Ms Bron MacGregor, Executive Assistant to the Public Health Director (Recorder)

Ms Nina Wickens-Bhowmik, Population Epidemiologist
Ms Olivia Kraus, Senior Department Specialist
Ms Kimberly Chambers, Community Health Improvement Plan
Coordinator
Ms Mia Murphy, Youth Engagement Specialist

Call to Order - The President called the regular BoH meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and introduced the Spanish interpreter.

Public Comment - Dr Stephen Hanks, Larimer County Coroner, and Scott Smith, Executive Director of Alliance for Suicide Prevention of Larimer County, made public comment.

Approval of April 20, 2023 Minutes

Action - Ms West Kowalski moved to approve the minutes as written. Ms Christy Bush seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 - 2029 Community Health Improvement Plan Priorities

The Board was given an update on the proposed priority statements for the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) by the Office of Public Health Planning and Partnership and members of the Healthy Larimer Committee.

Discussion points:

- Identifying gaps for alignment of existing programs and collaborating with partners to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Information regarding the community groups involved with the CHIP.
- Concerns regarding loneliness and social isolation reported in the Surgeon General's Advisory on our Nation's Loneliness Epidemic.
- Access to new and existing community spaces.
- Public Health's access to data and regional influence within communities.
- The LCDHE serves as the Community Health Strategist in addressing population health and convening cross-sector collaborations that support shared ownership of the CHIP including implementation and evaluation of the priorities.
- Interventions identified in the priorities are focused on specific communities to improve health outcomes among the most susceptible populations with the greatest needs.
- The importance of inclusion in LCDHE's daily work, per the Vision, Values, and Mission, which is to provide everyone in Larimer County the opportunity for a healthy life.



- Priority connectedness to Public Health 3.0.
- Final CHIP will be brought to the Board for approval in early 2024.

Action - Dr Birnbaum moved to accept Resolution 05182023A as written and Mr DelGrosso seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

BoH Member Recruitment Update and Process

Discussion points:

- Ms West Kowalski's term ends on June 30, 2023.
- Three applications have been received and reviewed.
- Application period was reopened until May 31, 2023, in the hopes of attracting additional applications.
- Historically, interviews have been conducted by the Commissioner and the Public Health Director but an invitation to participate will be extended to the President of the Board in the future by the Commissioner. Ultimately, the Board of County Commissioners makes all appointments to the Board of Health.
- Potential reluctance of community members to apply after COVID-19 challenges.
- The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Board has referred applicants to the Commissioner's Office.
- Interviews would be conducted in June 2023.
- Personal invitations from existing members of the Board are encouraged.

UPDATES

Director's Update

The Director guided the Board to the Director's Update in the packet. He highlighted the work of Youth Action for Health and the role of LCDHE as a fiscal agent for the Center for Family Outreach and the creation of the Teen Activity Center (TAC 212). One of the Department's Youth Engagement Specialists shared a speech that she read at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the opening of TAC 212.

Discussion points:

- TAC 212, a Teen Activity Center, has been created by youth for youth to improve the sense of community and belonging for young adults and teens in Larimer County.
- Resources, staffing and adult supervision available at TAC 212.
- Mr Gonzales appreciates LCDHE's partnership with the new Coroner, Stephen Hanks.

- The Community Health Assessment (CHA) process was named as one of the finalists for the Larimer County Innovation Awards.
- NACCHO360 has invited LCDHE to serve on a panel entitled, “A Vision of Health Equity in Local Health Departments” during the plenary session of the Annual 360 Conference in July 2023.
- LCDHE has a longstanding contract with UCHHealth, which has been expanded to provide fourteen routine laboratory testing and radiological services at a discounted cost, specifically for tuberculosis testing.

Board Member Updates

Discussion points:

- Dr Birnbaum has attended the Youth Mental Health Task Force meetings. The focus is on specific actions which can be taken by school districts, municipalities, mental health providers, and nonprofits in the County that will make a significant impact.
- Support for the Teen Center.

Adjourn Meeting

Ms West Kowalski moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.