

1525 Blue Spruce Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80524, 970-498-6700
Director Tom Gonzales, MPH

Board of Health

Christy Bush, MHS, President
Brian Delgrosso, Vice President
Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Tony J. Van Goor, MD, MMM
Heather Weir, MPH, RD

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

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DRAFT MINUTES

LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

September 19, 2024

The Larimer County Board of Health (BoH) convened their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m, in-person, at 1525 Blue Spruce Rd, Fort Collins, CO, 80524 and virtually through the Zoom platform.

Board of Health Members: Mr Brian DelGrosso, Vice President
Ms Heather Weir, MPH, RD
Dr Tony J. Van Goor, MD

Apologies: Ms Christy Bush, MHS, President
Dr Bernard Birnbaum, MD

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

Staff: Ms Andrea Clement-Johnson, MS, Deputy Public Health Director
Dr Paul Mayer, MD, Medical Officer
Ms Kori Wilford, MPH, Communications and Technology Manager
Dr Jared Olson, Senior Population Epidemiologist
Ms Shann Holt, Nutrition Supervisor
Ms Olivia Kraus, Senior Department Specialist (Recorder)

Call to Order - The Vice President called the regular BoH meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment - Tiffin Vaughn, from zip code 80524, made public comment regarding the proposed concrete batch plant at 516 North Highway 287 and the air quality concerns that this plant would bring to the neighborhood.

Approval of August 15, 2024 Minutes

Action - Dr Van Goor moved to approve the minutes as written. Ms Weir seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Proclamation

Discussion points:

- The suicide rate declined by 28% in Larimer County since 2019, which is a unique trend in Colorado as the State suicide rate has decreased by 5%.
- Rachel Olson, the Deputy Director of the Alliance for Suicide Prevention, highlighted the community wide commitment to mental health and behavioral health support over the past 5 years with the six different Colorado-National Collaborative (CNC) Pillars of connectedness, economic stability and support, education and awareness, access to suicide safer care, lethal means safety, and suspension.
- The Larimer County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), The Northern Colorado Intersections Report, and the Behavioral Health Master Plan have been instrumental in streamlining collaboration throughout the county to reduce suicide rates by more than 20%. Some examples of how the community has come together to reduce suicide rates include:
 - The efforts of the three school districts in working together through the Youth Mental Health Task Force to expand mental and behavioral health services to students and staff.
 - The creation of the Suicide Fatality Review Board in collaboration with the Coroner's office to gain more insight and understanding so that prevention efforts and intervention efforts can be identified.
 - The work of the Juvenile Gun Safety Coalition.
 - The creation of the Veteran Suicide Prevention Coalition.
 - The opening of the Longview Campus through Behavioral Health Services.
- Trends include an association to Veteran Suicide deaths with firearms due to the comfortability with firearms. The highest rates in suicide are younger adult males, while the highest rates of attempts are young women.



- Outreach to young men, specifically in prevention efforts and providing opportunities for connection, is important.

Action - Dr Van Goor moved to approve the proclamation as written. Ms Weir seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

The board called a recess to take a picture.

Child Fatality Review and Prevention

Discussion points:

- The Child Fatality Prevention Act establishes the Colorado Child Fatality Prevention System (CFPS), a statewide, multidisciplinary, multi-agency effort. Colorado's CFPS is based on a public health approach to preventing injuries and violence-related deaths of children aged 0-17. This shifted all comprehensive reviews from the state to the local level in 2015.
- The three leading causes of death since 2000 have been sudden unexpected infant death, child and youth suicide, and motor vehicle and other transportation deaths.
- 2023 had the highest number of child deaths in Larimer involving motor vehicles since at least 2000.
- There is a big disparity for transportation deaths by county type - urban, rural, and frontier. Rates of transportation deaths are much highest in frontier counties in Colorado, and higher in rural counties than in urban counties.
- The risk of a fatality in a motor vehicle accident increases as the weight of the other car involved in the crash increases. The fatality rate is roughly seven times higher when a vehicle collides with a heavy pickup truck compared to a collision with a compact car.
- Risk factors for teen drivers include substance use, lack of seatbelts, distraction/phones, speeding, and risky driving behaviors. Weather conditions and nighttime driving can also present risks for inexperienced and young drivers. Most fatalities involve more than one risk factor.
- Built environment risk factors in Larimer County include high speed travel such as interstate highways, excessive speed on lower speed limited roads,, and lack of transportation alternatives.
- Proposed public health actions include producing a youth-driven outreach and education campaign, partnering with relevant community organizations, leveraging the momentum of Senate Bill 24-065, Colorado's "no cell phone law."

UPDATES

Director's Update

The Director guided the Board to the Director's Update in the packet. He highlighted the following:

- The LCDHE WIC program received the USDA Breastfeeding Award of Excellence Premiere Award. Our WIC program was one of two programs in the state to receive this award. Rates of fully breastfed infants increased by 4.1% in a single year with a rate of 7.4%, which exceeds the state average. Our WIC program currently serves over 4,000 clients.
- The BoCC awarded LCDHE \$220,000 to implement targeted strategies around reducing ground-level ozone. One of these strategies was to create a short film as an outreach strategy for the community. Larimer County has also expanded ground-level ozone regulatory monitoring sites.
- The Enhanced Mosquito Surveillance Project in Berthoud has concluded. This project was done in collaboration with the town of Berthoud, CDC, CSU, and Vector Disease Control International. This project doubled the amount of mosquito traps in Berthoud, from 5 to 10.
- The 2024-2025 RIHEL Leadership Cohort includes two LCDHE staff members.

Board Member Updates

Dr Van Goor will be absent from the October meeting.

Adjourn Meeting

Dr Van Goor moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms Weir seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.