

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

November 21, 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: Ms Christy Bush, MHS, President
Mr Brian DelGrosso, Vice President
Dr Bernard Birnbaum, MD
Ms Heather Weir, MPH, RD
Dr Tony J. Van Goor, MD

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

Staff: Ms Laura Walker, Director, Human and Economic Health Services
Ms Andrea Clement-Johnson, MS, Deputy Public Health Director
Mr John Voss, Accounting and Business Operations Manager
Ms Kori Wilford, MPH, Communications and Technology Manager
Dr Paul Mayer, MD, Medical Officer
Mr Matt Bauer, Interim Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager
Ms Talia Hirsch, Strategic Planning, Health Equity & Partnerships Program Supervisor
Dr Jared Olson, PhD, Senior Population Epidemiologist
Ms Bron MacGregor, Executive Assistant (Recorder)
Ms Liv Kraus, Senior Administrative Specialist

Mr Devontay Tobe, Health Equity Initiatives Coordinator
Ms Dominique Cain, Community Engagement Program Coordinator

Call to Order - The President called the regular BoH meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Public Comment - No Public Comment was made.

Approval of October 17, 2024 Minutes

Action - Ms Weir moved to approve the minutes as written. Dr Birnbaum seconded the motion. Dr Van Goor abstained due to his excused absence from the October 17, 2024 meeting. ***Motion was approved.***

NEW BUSINESS

Healthy Larimer Committee

Discussion points:

- The Healthy Larimer Committee (HLC) gave an update on their work related to social belonging, access to health-related sources, and social determinants of health.
- The committee has been in existence since 2019 and currently is composed of Facilitators, Community Health Ambassadors, Committee Liaison and Wellness Advocates.
- HLC gave examples of passion projects they have supported, such as yoga classes to promote physical wellness in marginalized communities.
- HLC is representative of Public Health 3.0 through participatory engagement and reducing barriers, encouraging active participation and empowerment of community members.
- HLC is involved in several key projects, including the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), the Community Health Assessment (CHA), Climate Smart / Future Ready, and the creation of a community Resource Guide. The HLC has played a crucial role in ensuring that an equitable lens is applied to the CHIP.
- The finalization of the Resource Guide is underway and consideration given to where this guide will be made available, including creating both digital and hard copies, posting hard copies at bus stops, and distribution by Human Services.
- The BoH suggested that the committee reach out to the Larimer County Office on Aging who have pathways to the community.
- Annual goals have been established and committee members shared their reasons for joining the initiative.
- Opportunities to work with youth coalitions in Larimer County have been identified.
- Meetings are held biweekly and hosted at 200 W Oak. in Fort Collins.



Request for Environmental Health Fee Schedule Hearing

Discussion points:

- The BoH is required by law to publicly advertise the date, time and location of the Environmental Health Fee Schedule Hearing.

Action - Dr Birnbaum moved to approve resolution 11212024A to hold an Environmental Health Fee Schedule Hearing on December 19, 2024. Dr Van Goor seconded the motion.

Motion was unanimously approved.

Regional Opioid Abatement Council Summary

Discussion points:

- The BoH received an update from Ms. Walker on the Regional Opioid Abatement Council's (ROAC) activities since 2022, including an overview of the ROAC's composition.
- The ROAC comprises voting members appointed from the City of Fort Collins, City of Loveland, Town of Wellington, Town of Estes Park, Larimer County and the Board of Health, along with advisory members and subject matter experts.
- The County Attorney and Public Health Director were recognized for their work on the council.
- Dr. Olson has provided essential data on the impact of the funding and offered guidance on how to prioritize future funding as it decreases.
- Larimer County has been seen as a successful example by the Colorado Attorney General's Office and by other regions throughout the state.
- Mr Voss, Ms Kraus and the Communications and Technology team were thanked for their invaluable involvement and the support they have provided with grant and administrative coordination.
- The Director provided examples of programs funded by ROAC, including school-based prevention programs, supportive housing, behavioral health support for the Co-Responder Diversion program, care coordination, and harm reduction.
- The BoH expressed appreciation for the diverse allocation of funds and the fact that administrative costs have been maintained below 10% of available funds.
- The increased use of Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT) has been observed in both the County Jail and Emergency Departments.
- NOCO Cares facilitates a network for participating medical providers.
- The Butler Institute in Denver receives funding through a ROAC grant. This grant has enabled the formation of an epidemiology work group aimed at offering long-term technical assistance to support the longevity and sustainability of grassroots organizations.
- Strategies needed to ensure programs are self-sustaining when funds are no longer available.

- Question on how the composition of the council was determined.
- Standardized performance measurements will be determined.
- Members of the council with lived experience are encouraged to participate and share their experiences.

UPDATES

Director's Update

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

- Communications regarding RSV and Influenza season. The CDC has updated its guidelines to group respiratory illnesses together and provide recommendations due to a decline in hospitalizations and deaths related to respiratory illnesses, a trend also observed in Larimer County.
- There has been a statewide increase in viral respiratory illnesses that are nearing pre-pandemic statistics but are below baseline levels. The trend is similar to what we typically see towards the end of the year.
- Educational efforts to schools and childcare centers surrounding respiratory viruses.
- The COVID-19 page on the LCDHE website has been retired and a new page created for COVID-19, Influenza and RSV which links to CDPHE webpages.
- The number of reportable norovirus/gastrointestinal outbreaks has seen a significant increase. Between August 1st and October 21st, there were 3 reported outbreaks, whereas the number jumped to 15 outbreaks since October 28th.
- There have been enhanced mitigation efforts including exclusion between 48 - 72 hours after symptom resolution, and increased disinfection of surfaces.
- Norovirus can cause gastrointestinal symptoms for 1 -3 days; rehydration is important but cases generally do not require hospitalization.

Board Member Updates

- The President reminded the BoH that the Public Health Director evaluation is due Dec 3, 2024.
- The Board Self-Evaluation will be done separately and at a different time, as discussed at the October 17th Board of Health meeting.
- A question was raised about the annual Board of Health training requirements. CDPHE will be holding virtual training in December, if enough participants are registered.

Commissioner Liaison Update

There were no updates from the Commissioners' office.

Adjourn Meeting

The President moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.