

OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Boulder County Board of Health (BOH) Regular Meeting Online/Telephonic Meeting January 9, 2023

BOH Members:

President Gregg Thomas; *Vice President* Morgan McMillan; *Board Members* Brooke Harrison, Ph.D., Lindy Hinman, and Landrey Fagan, M.D.

BCPH Staff:

Interim-Executive Director, Lexi Nolen; *Director of Administration and Finance*, Katherine Palmer; *Community Health Division Manager*, Heather Crate; *Family Health Division Manager*, Daphne McCabe; *Environmental Health Division Manager*, Joe Malinowski; *Communicable Disease and Emergency Management Division Manager*, Indira Gujral; *Consumer Protection Program Coordinator*, Lane Drager; and *Business Operations Coordinator*, Jorden Thomas.

Boulder County Staff:

Senior Assistant County Attorney, Kate Haywood; *Senior Policy Analyst*, Mark Ruzzin; *Policy Analyst*, Summer Laws; and *Policy Analyst*, Nick Robles.

Members of the Public who Provide Comment:

Ryan Scott.

Meeting Called to Order.

President Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. and asked all participants to identify themselves for the record (see above). He declared that a quorum was present, that notice of this meeting was posted on the Board of Health website, and that the call-in information was included to allow for public participation. This meeting was held in hybrid-fashion with members of the board and staff meeting in-person and members of the public attending online to test the hybrid-capabilities of the on-site meeting space.

ITEM 1. Public Comments (on unscheduled agenda items).

The member of the public expressed concerns for BCPH's response to COVID-19 and returning to normal activities amid the pandemic, along with concern for vaccines for community members.

ITEM 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes.

Vice President McMillan made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member Harrison, to approve the December 12, 2022, Regular Board of Health minutes. With all Board Members present in favor of the motion, President Thomas declared the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM 3. Approval and Adoption of Boulder County Legislative Priorities and Discuss Upcoming Legislative Session.

Lane Drager introduced members of the Boulder County Policy Team: Mark Ruzzin, Summer Laws, and Nick Robles to present the Boulder County Legislative Priorities for the 2023 Legislative Session. The legislative agenda was adopted by the Boulder County Board of County Commissioners in the first week of January, and is scheduled for board approval during this meeting.

The 2023 State Legislative Agenda is a document that provides a high-level overview and guidance for county staff and fiscal lobbyists who help create the state budget. The agenda was created in 2010 and is updated on an annual basis to identify the diverse set of core county legislative and state budget priorities in need of support from our state legislative delegation. Over the summer and fall of 2022, Policy Team staff consulted with individual departments, the Human Services Policy Committee, other internal stakeholders, community members, and key partners to update the agenda based on outcomes from the 2022 Legislative Session and to capture any new policy priorities and needs that have emerged over the past year.

The Policy Team's Legislative Principles guide the team's and county staff in the development of the positions that the county takes on state legislation. These principles are used when it feels important for the county to engage with a bill, but the legislative agenda policies themselves provide either insufficient or no guidance on what position the county should take. The principles also serve as a guidepost for examining the outcomes of potential legislation. Principles include:

- Racial Equity and Equity
- Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action
- Land and Natural Resources
- Public Service Integration and Collaboration
- Health and Human Services
- Local Control
- Fiscal Responsibility

The 2023 Legislative Priorities will be the primary focus of the Policy Team's lobbying efforts during the Legislative Session. While the team conducts a high-level review of every introduced bill, those bills that touch on the legislative priorities, along with those that touch on the

legislative principles, will be prioritized for some form of advocacy on the part of the county. The priorities include:

- Environment
- Housing
- Child Welfare
- Oil and Gas – Forced Pooling
- Homeowner’s Insurance Reform

The Policy Team focuses a significant effort on the state budget since the decisions are critical to the county’s ability to meet local goals and priorities for serving residents. There are two budget principles that the team centralizes in advocacy efforts. First, when proposing programs, reforms, and services that will be provided by county government, the team asks that the General Assembly provide adequate funding for the staffing and administrative costs associated with those efforts. Often, these changes cannot be effectively implemented without adequate and sustainable funding. Secondly, there has been many attempts to save Coloradans money by reducing fees. The team supports fee relief as it relates to career opportunities or economic relief for those economically disadvantaged, but feel that fees should be maintained or increased where appropriate to address state staffing and other program needs, and to ensure that regulated industries pay the fees that allow regulatory programs to reach cost recovery.

The team works closely with the county’s fiscal lobbyists to ensure that the state budget includes provisions that address the county’s fiscal needs. Because the county administers state-wide programs, much of the funding to operate those programs come from the state appropriations. The engagement with the state budgeting process begins the year prior to any legislative session. The team works with other partners to share county priorities with state departments, key stakeholders, and the legislature’s Joint Budget Committee. These advocacy efforts continue through the development of the Governor’s budget, the budget supplemental process, and the development and passage of the Long Bill. Boulder County identified the following 2023 State Budget Priorities:

- Human Services
- Local Public Health Agency funding
- Wildfire Mitigation

Mark thanked BCPH staff who are involved throughout the legislative session, and opened the floor for any questions or discussion.

- Vice President McMillan asked if the team had any insight on the proposed legislation on air quality.

- Mark noted that the team is working to buttress the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) and the state's implementation plan that was adopted in December. The Colorado General Assembly approved the implementation plan that was adopted by the AQCC, which provided opportunities for legislators to provide comment on the quality of the plan. There are a few bills that will be introduced that address air quality as it relates to the ozone nonattainment and emission reduction.
- Vice President McMillan asked what the most anticipated piece of legislation will be introduced during this session.
 - Summer provided there will be legislation introduced which speak to the interstate section of land use, housing, transit, and climate, but also local governance of these resources. There are several conversations in the Executive Branch surrounding this topic which would result in three bills. The team feels strongly that local government should be involved in these conversations due to its position of implementation and understanding of local control.
 - President Thomas asked if this conversation is a push for more expansive state involvement in these decisions.
 - Summer noted the state would potentially set land use policies that have typically sat at the local level. The state feels the need to address issues of housing and transit instead of setting goals and priorities in hope that the local government will be able to accomplish the work.
- Board Member Harrison asked if there are any partnerships in the mental and behavioral health field that the team is working with to advance this as a legislative priority.
 - Summer confirmed the team works closely with Mental Health Colorado, which is the largest statewide organization that is actively engaged in legislative work this session. Mental Health Colorado is supporting a bill that would expand access to behavioral health services for children and youth on Medicaid for issues that encompass the whole social determinants of health spectrum.
 - Board Member Harrison asked if Representative Amabile will be introducing any mental health bills this session.
 - Summer noted that Representative Amabile will be bringing pieces forward to address juvenile competency, child welfare, and access for people with severe mental illness.
- President Thomas asked if there would be any sizeable changes to local public health agency (LPHA) funding.
 - Summer provided that the changes will potentially be small. There have been state budget requests to address LPHA funding and the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials is working to double the funding request.

Lane presented the ask of staff for the Board of Health to adopt the Boulder County 2023 Legislative Priorities which help BCPH staff be nimble in response to county and state programming and to be consistent with the Board of County Commissioner's policy priorities.

Board Member Harrison moved to approve and adopt the Boulder County 2023 Legislative Priorities. Board Member Hinman seconded. With all Board Members present in favor of the motion, President Thomas declared the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM 4. Approval of Appointment Extension for Interim-Executive Director.

Lexi Nolen has served as the Interim-Executive Director for BCPH since July of 2022. Due to the continued recruitment for the permanent Executive Director, the board voted to extend the appointment of the Interim-Executive Director position.

Board Member Harrison moved to approve the appointment extension for the Interim-Executive Director role until a permanent Executive Director is found. Board Member Hinman seconded. With all Board Members present in favor of the motion, President Thomas declared the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM 5. Board of Health Election for President Role.

No action was taken during this proposed election. Kate Haywood clarified the election timeline that the board follows, but noted that the board may elect the next President once the new permanent Executive Director is appointed.

ITEM 6. Director's Report.

Lexi provided an overview of the emergency responses that staff completed over the holidays, including the reported meth residue contamination at the City of Boulder Library. BCPH staff Joe Malinowski and Bill Hayes presented information at the Boulder City Council Meeting during the first week of January, to answer questions on the interpretation of the findings. Staff are working with the Communications Team to draft material for the public to better understand the levels of risk.

Further, staff are discussing the possibility of migrants arriving in Boulder County, and what this would mean for BCPH in terms of responsibility and staffing responses.

- Board Member Fagan asked if the library is reopened.
 - Lexi said it reopened on January 9th.
- Board Member Hinman asked where the regulatory standards for contamination came from.
 - Lexi noted in general it comes from the state, and that staff are working to collect information on how they arrived at those levels.

- Board Member Hinman asked if a future presentation to the board could include ways that BCPH is addressing substance-use in the community.
 - Lexi confirmed there are BCPH programs who work in the MBH space, but there is not a unified strategic plan that links this work to that of community partners, which is a priority in the coming year. Further, the majority of work in this area is grant-funded and therefore has limited resources to address the entire needs of the community. BCPH plans to bring the MBH strategic plan to the BOH in the spring.
- Vice President McMillan asked if the St. Vrain School District continues to decline participation in the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey.
 - Heather Crate confirmed and noted that the district completes their own internal survey, but the survey and results are selectively distributed to outside sources.

ITEM 7. Old and New Business.

- President Thomas asked if Boulder County or BCPH has completed an engagement survey of staff.
 - Lexi confirmed. Boulder County completed a staff engagement survey in 2022, and the county has shared the results with all departments. As a result of this survey, a committee was formed to provide recommendations on how to address staff engagement opportunities. Lexi will also include more information in February for the board to review.
 - Lexi also noted that staff are working to compile the Governmental Alliance on Racial Equity (GARE) survey based on BCPH's responses, and will provide these results to the board in the future.

ITEM 8. Adjournment.

There being nothing further to discuss, President Thomas declared the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.



Gregg Thomas,
President



Alexandra (Lexi) Nolen,
Interim-Executive Director

