

# OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## Boulder County Board of Health (BOH) Regular Meeting Online/Telephonic Meeting

April 10, 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; *Director of the Strategic Initiatives Branch*, Kelli Hintch; *Health and Racial Equity Manager*, Kevalyn Maw; *Community Health Division Manager*, Heather Crate; *Environmental Health Division Manager*, Joe Malinowski; *Health Planning and Evaluation Manager*, Elise Waln; *Health Planner*, Rachel Mintle; *Emergency Management Planner*, Colleen Sinclair; *COVID-19 Data Epidemiologist* Steffie Goodman; *COVID-19 Health Systems Lead Epidemiologist*, Stacy Farman; *Immunization Program Coordinator*, Keith Rawls; *Emergency Management Coordinator*, Chris Campbell; *Emergency Management Planner* Kari Middleton; *Business Operations Coordinator*, Jordan Thomas; *Administrative Lead Technician*, Rita Mangeyn.

### Boulder County Staff:

*Assistant County Attorney*, Erica Rogers.

### Invited External Presenters:

*Principal*, Sam Hellwege.

### Members of the Public who Provide Comment:

Ryan Scott.

### Meeting Called to Order.

President Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:31 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).**

Member of the public expressed concerns related to BCPH's response to COVID-19 and returning to in-person board meetings.

**ITEM 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes.**

Vice President McMillan made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member Harrison, to approve the March 13, 2023, Regular Board of Health minutes. With all Board Members present in favor of the motion, President Thomas declared the motion unanimously carried.

**ITEM 3. 2021 Audit Results.**

Sam Hellwege from Clifton, Larson, Allen LLP presented the Boulder County Public Health 2021 Audit Results. There were no significant issues identified through the audit. The Administration and Finance Section is working with Clifton, Larson, and Allen LLP to complete the 2022 audit.

- Vice President McMillan asked if pension liabilities continue to be an impact across the state of Colorado.
  - Sam noted that the liabilities have been incorporated into the yearly audited financial statements and are not a risk for concern of becoming immediately due and payable.
- President Thomas asked how far out the firm looks at the impacts of the pension liability samples.
  - Sam noted the schedules in the audit report show the previous 10 years, including all the required pension contributions, but the liabilities have not been collected for 10 years so they are not reflected in the entire schedule.

**ITEM 4. Public Health Improvement Plan (PHIP) and Strategic Plan Progress.**

Elise Waln reminded the board that the focus of the PHIP is mental and behavioral health (MBH), and public health's role is to assist in Promotion, Prevention, and the Identification and Referral of Treatment. BCPH created a MBH Framework that guides the agency's work in the MBH-space via shared goals and coordinated objectives and strategies to align current efforts, identify gaps, and to prioritize and coordinate funding. Elise reviewed the PHIP work that the Health Planning and Evaluation team completed in February and March and the work that will be completed in April through June.

- Board Member Hinman asked for clarification on the board's role in the PHIP process.
  - Elise noted that the board will be able to review the final PHIP documentation before it is submitted to CDPHE in June or July.

Omni is developing MBH data snapshot one-pagers for each of the PHIP priority populations that will be disseminated to the community.

- Vice President McMillan asked how the team is defining people affected by climate change.
  - Elise provided each priority population may not have a specific-definition, but rather encompass a broad collection of community members – such as those impacted by climate change. The team will look at broad indicators around climate change and MBH impact within Boulder County, rather than a specific subset of only those impacted by climate change.
- Vice President McMillan asked how many of the PHIP recommendations emerged from staff versus the community.
  - Elise noted it is a mixture of the two groups. The team is filtering information from the community to fit into the framework that public health has created to make sure the work that can be accomplished with partners and staffing capacity.

Rachel Mintle reminded the board that the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan will be finalized by December 2023. Rachel reviewed the work that has been completed since February and March, and reviewed the work that will be completed in April and May.

**ITEM 5. Program Spotlight: COVID-19 Transition and Stability Plan & Emergency Preparedness Response Strategic Priorities/Rebuilding Plan.**

Representatives from the Communicable Disease and Emergency Management division presented the next steps in the transition of the end of the Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19 response. Colleen Sinclair noted the COVID-19 Transition and Stability Plan's purpose is to outline the agency's transition out of expanded communicable disease operations and the beginning of stabilizing the division's core programming:

- Testing – BCPH will continue to connect with community partners to ensure they are using the remaining supplies of rapid antigen tests as necessary, and will continue to monitor state reporting requirements.
- Therapeutics – BCPH will continue to monitor and communicate changes in therapeutic efficacy, new treatments, and changes to existing treatments.
- Immunizations – BCPH will continue to work with community coalitions to offer vaccines for low-income children on Medicaid; integrate COVID-19 vaccines into routine vaccine clinics for children; and provide COVID-19 vaccines to priority populations and settings throughout Boulder County.
- Epidemiology, Infection Prevention, Surveillance, Resource Navigation and Call Center – BCPH will continue to respond to outbreaks in priority settings and foster relationships with key partners.

- Vice President McMillan asked if the increase in outbreak reporting, not just COVID-19 reporting, was due to the strengthened relationship of BCPH and community partners.
  - Stacy confirmed and noted that partners saw and continue to see the value in reporting outbreaks to BCPH and that this is probably a new normal for partners and the agency.
- Communications – BCPH will ensure clear, accurate, and timely communications of ongoing data surveillance and monitoring efforts for COVID-19 to inform the public, promote transparency, and support individual and institutional decision-making.

Chris Campbell and Kari Middleton presented on the agency's Emergency Preparedness Response and Recovery Strategic Priorities/Rebuilding Plan. Public Health's role during emergencies/disasters uses an all-hazards approach to support health care systems, assist in medical countermeasures, support those with access and functional needs, and to support long-term recovery.

The Emergency Management team is working to develop a plan to create system changes to improve response and community outcomes based on compiled information from improvement plans and After-Action Review processes. The plan includes the following priorities:

1. Update emergency plans and agreements
2. Internal administrative and fiscal system improvements
3. Long-term fiscal and staffing resource sustainability
4. Strengthen community partnerships
5. Staffing and resiliency plan

The plan will be integrated into BCPH's Strategic Planning process and will be completed over the course of five-years.

ITEM 6. Director's Report.

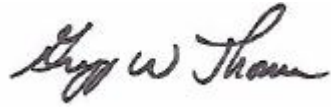
None.

ITEM 7. Old and New Business.

None.

ITEM 8. Adjournment.

There being nothing further to discuss, President Thomas declared the meeting adjourned at 7:23p.m.



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Gregg Thomas,  
President



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Alexandra (Lexi) Nolen,  
Interim-Executive Director