

OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Boulder County Board of Health (BOH) Regular Meeting Online/Telephonic Meeting February 12, 2024

BOH Members:

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

BCPH Staff:

Executive Director, Lexi Nolen; *Deputy Director*, Indira Gujral; *Director of the Strategic Initiatives Branch*, Kelli Hintch; *Community Health Division Manager*, Heather Crate; *Environmental Health Division Manager*, Joe Malinowski; *Healthy Drinks Specialist*, Christina Edstrom; *Communications Manager*, Shawn Hollister; *Finance Manager*, Desiree Kazarosian; *Communicable Disease Program Coordinator*, Carol Helwig; *Business Operations Manager*, Jorden Thomas; *Administrative Specialist*, Dalia Mohamed; *Administrative Assistant*, Patrick Kuhnell.

Boulder County Staff:

Senior Assistant County Attorney, Erica Rogers.

Guests:

Barbara Hamlington
Raghav Lamsal
David Banner
Seth Kramer
Amanda Zimmer
Tyler Post

Members of the Public who Provide Comment:

None.

Meeting Called to Order.

President McMillan called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. and asked all participants to identify themselves for the record (see above). Jorden Thomas conducted a rollcall and 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 and address was included to allow for public participation. This

meeting was held in hybrid-fashion with members of the board, staff, and members of the public meeting in-person and online.

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

No public comments.

ITEM 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes.

Board Member Harrison made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member Johnson, to approve the January 16, 2024, Regular Board of Health minutes. With all Board Members present in favor of the motion, President McMillan declared the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM 3. Personnel Announcement.

Jorden Thomas introduced Patrick Kuhnell to the board. Patrick started as the Administrative Assistant for the Administration and Finance Section on Monday, February 5, 2024.

ITEM 4. Divisional Spotlight: Sugary Drinks.

Christina Edstrom presented data on the impacts of sugary drinks on children's health and highlighted the collaboration between Louisville, Colorado restaurants and the Community Health Coalitions focused on the removal of sugary drinks offered to children in restaurants. President McMillan read a letter of support addressed to participating restaurants and celebrated guests in attendance for their participation.

ITEM 5. 2023 in Review.

Shawn Hollister created a brief video to highlight BCPH's accomplishments in 2023.

- The board thanked Shawn and the staff for all their work in 2023, and is looking forward to 2024.

ITEM 6. Standing Agenda Item: Budget Discussion.

Desiree Kazarosian presented slides from the February 7, 2024, Board of Health retreat. No budgetary updates had been made between the retreat and the Regularly Scheduled Board of Health meeting.

ITEM 7. Planning Coordination with Boulder County.

Lexi Nolen highlighted 10 projects BCPH is working on with partner agencies within Boulder County. These projects are part of county-wide initiatives, including collaboration with the Board of County Commissioners.

- Board Member Johnson asked what types of services could be billed towards Medicaid.
 - Indira Gujral noted direct services offered through the Immunizations Program and GENESIS could be billed towards Medicaid, and highlighted the agency is

working across the county to build the infrastructure to support this initiative but it is a large project that will require some time to complete.

- President McMillan thanked Lexi for the update and asked if there would be a more formal reporting of these efforts to the Board of Health.
 - Lexi noted these initiatives are ongoing and can provide updates to the board as needed.

ITEM 8. Director's Report.

Lexi provided a few agency-wide updates referenced in the Director's Report.

- Board Member Hinman asked for more clarification on the increase in epidemiology case and outbreak investigations.
 - Indira noted the epidemiology team reports a 20% increase in investigations compared to the past three-year average. Additionally, last year was a high vector season, and the lasting impacts of climate change will continue to contribute to investigations.
 - President McMillan also asked if the increase in investigations is due to the increased reporting from organizations throughout the county.
 - Lexi confirmed that this is part of the reason.
 - Carol Helwig confirmed Indira's and Lexi's responses and added the epidemiology team continues to investigate and complete infection prevention in high-risk priority facilities like jails and long-term-care facilities and other congregate settings.
 - Board Member Johnson asked if this increase in investigation needs will impact the budget.
 - Indira confirmed there are funding cliffs approaching in April 2024, so the team will be utilizing grants to fund epidemiology positions through the end of the year and will need a longer-term solution.
 - Board Member Johnson asked if syphilis falls within the increased investigation reporting.
 - Carol noted syphilis has been on the rise across the country, but the BCPH epidemiology team does not follow cases; they are tracked by the state and BCPH does not have a clinic. The Harm Reduction program works closely with the Boulder County Aids Project and other partners to educate and provide prevention supplies.

ITEM 9. Old and New Business.

None.

ITEM 10. Adjournment.

There being nothing further to discuss, President McMillan declared the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



Morgan McMillan,
President



Alexandra (Lexi) Nolen,
Executive Director