

OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Boulder County Board of Health (BOH) Regular Meeting

Online/Telephonic Meeting

March 11, 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; *Chief Medical Officer*, Dr. Bob Belknap; *Deputy Director*, Indira Gujral; *Director of the Strategic Initiatives Branch*, Kelli Hintch; *Environmental Health Division Manager*, Joe Malinowski; *Consumer Protection Program Coordinator*, Lane Drager; *Emergency Management Program Coordinator*, Chris Campbell; *Communicable Disease Program Manager*, Carol Helwig; *Immunization Program Coordinator*, Keith Rawls; *Finance Manager*; Desiree Kazarosian; *Business Operations Manager*, Jordan Thomas; *Administrative Assistant*, Patrick Kuhnell.

Boulder County Staff:

Senior Assistant County Attorney, Kate Haywood.

Members of the Public who Provide Comment:

Carolyn Brinski

Meeting Called to Order.

President McMillan called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked all participants to identify themselves for the record (see above). Jordan 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).

Member of the public spoke about BCPH's response to COVID-19 and encouraged the board to listen to other perspectives if another pandemic were to occur.



ITEM 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes.

Board Member Harrison made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member Johnson, to approve the February 12, 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. Program Spotlight: Vaccine Preventable Disease Response Across CDEM.

Lexi Nolen introduced Chris Campbell, Carol Helwig, and Keith Rawls to present this month's Program Spotlight. Chris prefaced the presentation represents how the various programs in the Communicable Disease and Emergency Management (CDEM) division work together in a community vaccine response. Keith provided statistics on global, national, and state/local vaccination prevention rates for death and illness. Carol provided data on vaccine preventable diseases from an epidemiological perspective at the global, national, and state/local level including the tracking and preparation of outbreak response for diseases.

- Board Member Harrison asked if and how Boulder County's vaccine hesitancy rates have changed since 2019/2020 through 2024, and specifically how has children's vaccination rates changed.
 - Carol noted the team would have to review the data. Schools report children's vaccine rates to the state, which is publicly available, but interpreting the data to determine true vaccine hesitancy versus compliance with vaccine requirements would take time and effort.
 - Indira Gujral added the school data does provide a good view of the vaccine rates for children aged 5 through 12, but it is more difficult gathering and interpreting the data for children under 5 due to missed appointments, or date and time of data collection.
- Board Member Harrison asked if pediatricians submitted vaccine records to the state.
 - Indira confirmed, and noted the system also allows parents to have access to their children's records.
- Board Member Harrison asked if the collected data is representative of the entire school population and does not eliminate those students who have filed for religious exemption.
 - Indira confirmed, the data set is based on the entire school population, and you can separate students who are vaccinated, who have filed religious exemption, and those who have no religious exemption and have no vaccines on file.
 - President McMillan also noted you can view the data sets based on schools in Boulder County.
- President McMillan asked if the state of Colorado restricted the exemption rules in the past couple of years.

- Carol noted there are two types of exemptions: Clinical and Nonmedical. Some states do not allow nonmedical exemptions, but Colorado does, which includes the religious exemption.

Chris provided data of recent vaccine preventable disease efforts BCPH responded to, including Hepatitis A, Mpox, and Meningococcal disease. Chris also noted the role of the Emergency Management team within the response is to help support community partners and BCPH staff. Chris also highlighted funding deficits these programs have faced and will continue to face in the future. Lastly, the team noted how their responses align with the agency's strategic priorities.

- Board Member Harrison asked if there were any confirmed cases of new mosquitoes in Boulder County and for general information from the Vector program.
 - Lane Drager noted while there have been new species of mosquitos identified, none are concern for disease-related risk in Boulder County.

ITEM 4. Policy Update.

Lane Drager provided updates on the current legislative session. As of the first week of March over 542 bills were introduced. Lane provided updates on bills BCPH staff have been following including, Public Health funding, Harm Reduction, Flavored Tobacco, Air Quality, and Mental and Behavioral Health. Lane presented a state-wide legislation tracking webpage that staff use to review status and news of the legislative session.

- President McMillan asked how the coordination between BCPH staff and the County Commissioner's Policy team is going and if the partnership with Colorado Association of Public Health Officials (CALPHO) is with the county's policy team or just BCPH staff.
 - Lane noted three Policy Team members are former BCPH staff, so they have close ties with current BCPH staff and partnership organizations. The county's team are hosting separate committees, including BCPH staff, on legislative issues including Air Quality, Climate Change, Housing and Human Services, and other public-health related topics. Lane also noted if BCPH staff want to help on certain legislative topics, they are able to go to the County's Policy Team and work with specific members based on topic areas; and Lane and other BCPH staff are able to provide information of public-health-specific meetings if needed.
- President McMillan thanked staff for their work in this space and noted she was able to provide testimony on a tobacco bill and encouraged staff to continue to ask BOH members if they would like to participate.
 - Jorden Thomas asked Lane if it would be beneficial to collect subject/topics each member would like to help with at the beginning of the year to prepare for the upcoming legislative session.

- Lane confirmed, and noted it would also be beneficial if the board is able to meet with Boulder County delegates.
- Board Member Hinman asked if there are items/topics that need to be prioritized in the legislative session that was not presented this year.
 - Lane noted BCPH staff are still in a reactive mode during the legislative session, and it is the goal of the team to be able to provide initial input on legislation creation, but currently the need for more flexible funding should be a priority.

Lexi thanked the staff who are involved in the policy work across the agency, and thanked Patrick Kuhnell for drafting letters to local legislators and the Joint Budget Committee.

ITEM 5. 2022-2023 Roadmap Presentation.

Lexi provided an overview of the 2022-2023 Roadmap which focused on three areas of work: Supporting our People; Rebuild Systems, Policies, and Processes; and Advance Agency Vision and Key Plans.

- President McMillan thanked Lexi for the report and appreciated the inclusion of specific personnel data points the board is interested in.

Lexi continued the next Roadmap will be developed and reported on in conjunction with the Strategic Plan, and the Roadmap will help to capture programmatic work metrics that are not directly tied into the Strategic Plan. Additionally, the goal for the next Roadmap is to be nimbler and more flexible to agency needs and to have real-time reporting mechanisms for the board to view.

- Board Member Harrison asked if the Roadmap will be a continual 18-24 month document the agency will use, and noted she would like to have more frequent updates on progress rather than once a year.
 - Lexi noted the shift of the upcoming Roadmap is to allow staff and supervisors the ability to provide leadership in key areas and report on programmatic work. If the board finds this type of document useful then it will continue to be produced by staff.
- President McMillan agreed with Board Member Harrison, the focus should be on the frequent reporting to the board. Additionally, if the Roadmap is helpful for internal planning and can assist Indira in the Deputy Director role, then to continue the development.
- Board Member Johnson is interested in understanding how the agency prioritizes short-term benchmarks, rather than long-term goals as in the Strategic Plan, and offered the board's assistance in helping prioritize work.

ITEM 6. Standing Agenda Item: Budget Process Update.

Desiree Kazarosian provided an update on the budget process including inactive vacancies being resolved by Human Resources; continuing to correct county expenditures to the correct appropriation category; revising the 2023 OpenGov budget; revising the analysis of the 2024 budget cut impacts; completing the 2023 closeout and submitting the trial balance to the auditors; and beginning the audit process for the 2023 budget.

- Board Member Harrison asked if the work to correct 2023 expenditures in Oracle will be transferred into 2024 and future years.
 - Desiree confirmed.
- Board Member Harrison asked if Katherine Palmer, *Director of Administration and Finance*, would be providing the board with language from other county's reserve policies prior to the upcoming April board meeting.
 - Desiree said she will follow-up with Katherine.
- President McMillan thanked Desiree and her team for all their work.

ITEM 7. Director's Report.

Lexi provided updates to items that were not listed in the Director's Report:

- The agency is experiencing increased demand for programmatic support in relation to the migrant influx, and the agency is working hard to be responsive to the community and systems.
 - President McMillan asked how the agency is offering support.
 - Lexi noted the food security programs such as Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) and school-based programs are seeing an increased need of support.
 - Board Member Harrison asked who is leading the response in Boulder County.
 - Lexi noted there is not one single entity responsible, but the health systems are very concerned, and the agency will be having conversations with them in the upcoming months.
 - Board Member Harrison asked if the state has provided any lessons learned or next steps in response to the influx in Denver.
 - Lexi said no, and that Denver is really feeling the strain of the response.
- The federal government voted in favor of full funding for the WIC program, but are still expecting to have a local match requirement in the future.
- BCPH signed the agreement with Colorado University, Boulder to accept the donation of air quality monitoring equipment.

ITEM 8. Old and New Business.

None.

ITEM 9. Adjournment into Executive Session to receive legal advice under C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) regarding the Collective Bargaining for County Employees Act, C.R.S. § 8-3.3-101 *et seq.*, and Protections for Public Workers Act, C.R.S. § 29-33-101 *et seq.*

Board Member Harrison made a motion, which was seconded by Vice President Fagan to enter Executive Session to receive legal advice. With all Board Member present in favor of the motion, President McMillan declared the motion unanimously carried.

The board adjourned from Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.



Morgan McMillan,
President



Alexandra (Lexi) Nolen,
Executive Director