

OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Boulder County Board of Health (BOH) Regular Meeting

Online/Telephonic Meeting

April 14, 2025

BOH Members:

President Morgan McMillan; Vice President Lindy Hinman (virtual); Board Members Brooke Harrison, Landrey Fagan (virtual), and Amber Johnson.

BCPH Staff:

Executive Director, Lexi Nolen; Deputy Director, Indira Gujral; Director of Administration and Finance, Armando Guardiola; Director of the Strategic Initiatives Branch, Kelli Hintch; Chief Medical Officer, Dr Bob Belknap; Senior Budget Analyst, Sarah DeVore; Finance Manager, Desiree Kazarosian; Family Health Division Manager Daphne McCabe; Community Health Division Manager, Heather Crate; Administrative Assistant Patrick Kuhnell; Administrative Specialist, Dalia Mohamed.

Boulder County Staff:

Senior Assistant County Attorney, Kate Haywood.

Members of the Public who Provided Comment at the Meeting:

Brianna Barber, Kathryn Lehman, Sharla Benjamin, Alex Yukhananov, Loree Dedic, Christina Edstrom.

Members of the Public who Provided Written Comment:

Anthony Beck, John Queen, Christina Edstrom, Nicole Speer, Martha Lugo, Lauren Folkerts.

Meeting Called to Order.

President McMillan called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. and asked all participants to identify themselves for the record (see above). President McMillan 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.

Members of the public spoke on Boulder County employees right to collectively bargain. Speakers urged the board to support collective bargaining and drop legal actions against the union.

ITEM 2. Approval to Enter Executive Session.

Board President McMillan made a motion session under Colorado Revised Statute section 24-6-402(4)(b) to receive legal advice on specific legal questions regarding the continuation or potential stay of underlying agency action in the limited appeal of Boulder County, the Boulder County Housing Authority, and Boulder County Public Health in District Court of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment's Collective Bargaining Unit Determination for Boulder County under the Collective Bargaining by County Employees Act. The motion was seconded by Board Member Johnson and unanimously approved. The Board then moved to a private meeting space.

ITEM 3. Legal Advice Discussion.

Senior Assistant County Attorney Kate Haywood requested the Board of Health to authorize the executive director to work with outside counsel to file a motion to stay bargaining between the Board of County Commissioners and Boulder County Public Health employees under the Collective Bargaining by County Employees Act (COBCA). This request is based on the opinion that public health would suffer irreparable harm without a stay, due to the resources required for negotiations without certainty about their applicability to public health employees. Previously, the Union had declined to agree to proceed with bargaining without public health employees, leading to the current recommendation for a motion to stay.

Board President McMillan clarified that the board was not against employees organizing, but wanted to maintain the department's autonomy. The board deliberated on whether to start bargaining while waiting for court clarification on union representation. Board Vice President Hinman argued against pausing negotiations, believing it would not cause irreparable harm. However, other board members supported waiting for the court's decision to avoid potential complications and protect the department's independence. President McMillan made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member Fagan, for the Board of Health to direct the executive director to work with counsel to pursue a stay of underlying agency action pending resolution that the appeal of CDLE's collective bargaining unit determination for Boulder County, under COBCA. The motion passed with four members voting "aye" and Board Vice President Hinman voting "nay".

ITEM 4. Approval of Meeting Minutes.

Board Member Harrison made a motion, which was seconded by Board President McMillan, to approve the March 10, 2025 Regular Board of Health minutes. With all Board Members present in favor of the motion, President McMillan declared the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM 5. Maternal Child Health Programs at Boulder County Public Health

Daphne McCabe and Heather Crate presented on BCPH's maternal and child health programs. They highlighted the scientific basis for home visitation programs and explained how supporting families could reduce stress and strengthen life skills. They discussed the state-level home visiting investment task force recommendations and how Boulder County was implementing these

strategies. They outlined the continuum of services offered by BCPH, including programs like Nurse Family Partnership, Healthy Families America, and Family Connects. They emphasized the programs' preventive nature, and targeting populations such as first-time parents, families with special needs, teen parents, and families facing financial stress.

They also highlighted the benefits of home visitation, including supporting healthy pregnancy outcomes, promoting child development, connecting families to resources, and encouraging positive parent-child interactions. Board members expressed appreciation for the comprehensive approach and the important work being done to support families in the community.

ITEM 6. Budget Update

Armando Guardiola provided an update on Priority Based Budgeting, reporting that divisions had submitted 130 recommendations to support potential budget reductions, using the revised scorecard discussed at the previous budget study session. The director's team is in the process of reviewing these recommendations individually, categorizing them by feasibility, potential impact, and funding considerations. The goal is to draft a preliminary budget by early June, with the recommendations serving as potential options depending on the final budget situation. More discussion and details will be available at the June 2, 2025 Budget Study Session.

ITEM 7. Legislative Policy Update.

Lexi Nolen reported that the stop work order on two grants had been lifted, with a pending decision on grant continuation. Federal agencies are making staffing and grant funding decisions that could impact local governments. Lexi noted that declines in marijuana tax revenues might cut the Communities That Care grant by 30% and discussed ongoing legislative discussions about restaurant inspection fees and community health worker funding. Lexi anticipated that BCPH budget decisions would continue through the summer, with the state legislative session ending on May 7th and ongoing federal budget decisions, and highlighted uncertainties around federal grant renewals for July 1st.

ITEM 8. Director's Report.

Lexi Nolen reported on the rising measles cases, with three cases in Colorado in eight days, and highlighted the immunization team's proactive work in coordinating with schools and issuing press releases to protect the community. She noted positive vaccination data, including 95% MMR vaccination rates for K-12 students in local school districts, and praised the team's preparedness and hard work in responding to the potential outbreak.

Discussion and Action Items:

Board President McMillan asked about working with community-based partners to reach harder-to-reach communities for vaccination, particularly those who might be undocumented. Stephanie Faren responded, mentioning they have relationships with agencies like Clinica and will have a vaccination clinic at the Cinco de Mayo event in Longmont. Amber Johnson praised

the proactive approach to increasing vaccination rates. Indira Gujral added that their immunization team has built a solid reputation as an accessible place for vaccination, regardless of status. Lexi Nolen also gave a shout-out to staff members like Carol Helwig, Chris Campbell, and Keith Rawls and their teams, who have been working hard on the response.

ITEM 7. Old and New Business.

None.

ITEM 8. Adjournment.

There being nothing further to discuss, President McMillan declared the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.



Signed, Morgan McMillan,

President



Signed, Alexandra (Lexi) Nolen,

Executive Director