OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Boulder County Board of Health (BOH) Regular Meeting
Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) Auditorium
March 13, 2017

BOH Members Present: President Gregg Thomas and Board Members Jorge DeSantiago, Bobbie Watson, and Morgan McMillan. Absent: Board Member Olga Bermudez.

Staff Members Present: Public Health Director Jeff Zayach, Director of Administrative Services Stephanie Martz, Director of Health Divisions Heath Harmon, Budget/Human Resources Manager Aaron Pratt, Healthy Beverage and Food Advisor Tessa Hale, and Business Operations Manager Tammy Golden.

Special Guests: Former BOH Member Sonya Jaquez-Lewis and BCPH Legal Counsel Mark Doherty and Kate Burke.

Meeting Called to Order.
President Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

ITEM 1. Public Comments (on unscheduled agenda items).
Three members of the public addressed the Board to voice concerns about a ten-year surface mining operation currently under consideration near Hygiene. The primary spokesperson was Richard Cargill, 5976 Hygiene Road, Longmont, who was accompanied by Elaine Paul, 11678 N. 59th Street, Longmont; and Amanda Dumenigo, 11742 N. 59th Street, Longmont. The residents were concerned about potential dust, chemicals, and noise that could stem from such an operation and asked BCPH to provide them with reliable, scientific facts that they could share with other concerned community members. They expressed particular interest in receiving information about crystalline silica dust and the impacts of fugitive dust on Alzheimer’s and other diseases.

Ms. Dumenigo said her business provides a peaceful, natural environment for people seeking self-discovery and socialization, and she voiced concern about how the proposed surface mining operation would have an impact on her ability to provide a serene environment for her clients.

ITEM 2. Farewell and Introductions.
Farewell to Outgoing BOH Member Sonya Jaquez-Lewis
The term for former Board of Health Member Jaquez-Lewis expired on February 28; she was a Board of Health member since September 2009. Public Health Director Zayach read a letter of appreciation into the record, acknowledging the support Ms. Jacquez-Lewis provided to BCPH, its staff, and her fellow Board of Health members. He then presented her with a thank-you gift in recognition of her dedicated service to Boulder County. Ms. Jaquez-Lewis said she was honored to serve on the Board of Health and that she thoroughly enjoyed working with staff and her fellow BOH members. She said BCPH was highly regarded as a public health leader in Colorado and the nation, thanks to its staff.
Welcome to New BOH Members Morgan McMillan and Bobbie Watson
President Thomas welcomed newly appointed Board of Health members Bobbie Watson and Morgan McMillan:

- Board Member Watson said she has lived in Boulder since 1994 and in Colorado since 1974. She was formerly the executive director at Women’s Health in Boulder and is now executive director of the Early Childhood Council of Boulder County (ECCBC).
- Board Member Morgan McMillan said she moved to Boulder in 2001; she is actively involved in community work through her job at The Community Foundation Boulder County.

Public Health Director Zayach said the two new board members were valuable stewards of public health, and he and the other board members welcomed Board Members Watson and McMillan to BCPH.

Welcome to BOH Legal Counsel Mark Doherty and Kate Burke
Public Health Director Zayach introduced Boulder County Assistant County Attorneys Mark Doherty and Kate Burke:

- Mr. Doherty said he’s been working in the County Attorney’s Office since 2004, providing a variety of legal counsel services for Boulder County, including oversight of the county’s contracts. He started serving as general legal counsel for BCPH last summer.
- Ms. Burke is fairly new to the County Attorney’s Office and will serve as BCPH’s legal counsel on environmental health issues, including oil and gas. She is a Boulder native, recently returning to the Front Range from Durango.

The Board welcomed Mr. Doherty and Ms. Burke to BCPH.

ITEM 3. Consent Agenda.
A. Approval of January 9, 2017, Board of Health Meeting Minutes.
B. Approval of November and December 2016 Financial Statements.

Board Member DeSantiago made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member McMillan, to approve the consent agenda, as presented. With all board members present voting in favor of the motion, President Thomas declared the motion approved. Absent: Board Member Bermudez.

ITEM 4. Presentation from Lafayette Youth Advisory Committee.
Healthy Beverage and Food Advisor Tessa Hale introduced the following Lafayette Youth Advisory Committee members: Astrid Juarez, Amalia Munding, John Painter, Co-Chair Ignacio Perez, Co-Chair Eden Piller, and Advisor/Program Director Elaina Verveer.

Ms. Hale announced that the Lafayette Youth Advisory Committee had been selected as a 2017 Healthy Community Award recipient (BCPH honors 2-3 recipients annually from the community in recognition of their work to address public health needs and issues in Boulder County).

The Lafayette Youth Advisory Committee (LYAC) was formed in 2006 and currently has 25 members from Lafayette area high schools and middle schools. The LYAC works to engage Lafayette youth in a variety of outreach, advisory, and educational opportunities throughout the Lafayette area. The LYAC makes recommendations to the Lafayette City Council that address youth-related issues, which helps to ensure that Lafayette youth have a voice on relevant community issues. The committee’s presence helps to promote an understanding in the community about the importance of youth leadership and civic par-
The LYAC stated that their peers also tend to put more credence on messages received from other youth than from adults.

The LYAC has worked on a variety of issues in Lafayette, including mental health (e.g. teen depression, suicide), local facilities (e.g. skate park), community events (e.g. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Cesar Chavez Day marches and city council candidate forums), and youth-related issues (e.g. awareness about school inequities in public school funding, creating dialogue for diversity and inclusion, advocating for a later curfew, and addressing substance abuse and youth access to alcohol).

The LYAC was active in “BoCo4H2O” (i.e. Boulder County for water), which highlights the detrimental health effects associated with consumption of sugary beverages. According to the committee, 47% of sugar in the diet is from sugary beverages, resulting in a significant increase in the youth diabetes cases. Approximately 14% of Boulder County youth, ages 1-14, drinks at least 1 sugary beverage daily. One in three children born in 2000 will develop diabetes; one in two (50%) children of color born in 2000 will develop the disease. Teens are also specifically targeted by the beverage industry, especially Latinos and other people of color.

The LYAC said young people don’t always have critical thinking skills, and so they believe and are drawn to ads promoting sugary drinks – this is especially true when the products are marketed by professional athletes or others idolized by the youth, such as entertainers. To help educate their peers, the LYAC participates in a number of outreach events in Lafayette and Longmont by manning “happiness” stands. The committee displays visual aids demonstrating how much sugar there is in sugary drinks (e.g. 1 20-oz. Coke has as much sugar as 1 Snickers, 1 Almond Joy, and 7 Pixy Stix; or 1 Capri Sun = 7 pixie sticks). The LYAC distributes marketing merchandise (e.g. sunglasses, t-shirts, water bottles) targeted to youth.

The LYAC has given a number of presentations on the detrimental health effects caused by sugary drinks, including to the Colorado Public Health Association (CPHA) Public Health in the Rockies Annual Conference, Lafayette City Council, LiveWell Colorado, Longmont Youth Advisory Board, and Tri-County Youth Board.

The LYAC is now turning its focus to policy work. The committee is working to require all Lafayette restaurants to offer healthy beverages with children’s meals. The proposed Lafayette policy was modeled after policies successfully adopted in California. If the proposed ordinance is adopted, Lafayette will be the first city outside of California requiring a healthy beverage choice in restaurant children’s meals. LYAC members are meeting with local advocates, city council members, and restaurant owners to discuss the proposed ordinance; there are currently 22 of 75 Lafayette restaurants that offer packaged children’s meals and would be impacted by the proposed ordinance.

The Board thanked the LYAC members for the presentation, commending the youth for their active leadership in the community. Board Member DeSantiago invited them to meet with some Latino groups that his business is associated with, and Board Member Watson said she would be happy to attend an upcoming Lafayette City Council meeting as a show of support for the LYAC by the Board of Health.

**ITEM 5. Approval of Resolution 2017-01, Approving 2017 Operating Budget.**
Director of Administrative Services Stephanie Martz introduced Budget and Human Resources Manager Aaron Pratt and acknowledged former Budget Manager Sandy O’Connor, who helped to draft the 2017 operating budget.
Ms. Martz reviewed the 2017 operating budget in detail. The budget is $16,471,183, which is 9% higher than the 2017 proposed budget for $15,451,654 adopted by the Board of Health in July 2016. She said the increase was mainly due to supplemental funding received from Boulder County. County funding increased 11% from the July estimate, mainly due to additional environmental health work and increased personnel costs, as well as new and/or increased grant funding (local funds decreased 10%, state funding increased 5.1%, and federal funding increased 15%).

Ms. Martz said the 2017 operating budget included a merit-to-base increase of 5% for BCPH employees. Boulder County also enacted a livable wage hourly rate of $15.67 (i.e. the minimum salary for any county employee). She said some counties don’t give merit increases to grant-funded employees, but Boulder County does. She said the County Commissioners also approved a 1.8% cost-of-living adjustment for all employees, and the county continues to pay nearly 80% of employee health care coverage.

Ms. Martz said there were additional requests totaling $652,516 that were not added to the 2017 proposed budget. The new expenses would be funded by the Reserve Fund and include a variety of furniture, equipment, office space, and personnel costs. The Reserve Fund balance is 6% (the goal is to maintain a balance between 5-10%); it does not include $200,000 held in contingency for emergency preparedness purposes.

President Thomas asked about projections for 2018 and was told the county’s oil and gas inspection program and research may be impacted, which is why the county added more funding for oil and gas in 2017. Board Member McMillan asked about potential risks, and staff said there could be federal funding cuts affecting environmental health, behavioral health, and Medicaid. To help strategize for potential federal funding cuts, the County Commissioners asked county departments to outline which programs would be at greatest risk for significant funding cuts. If BCPH is challenged by major budget cuts, Ms. Martz said the agency would first try to bridge funding before proceeding with staff layoffs. She said staff and Boulder County were actively seeking clarity on potential federal funding cuts by reaching out to legislators, collaborating with other community partners and government agencies, and anticipating how reduced funding would affect the provision of services.

The largest increase in personnel occurred in the Community Substance Abuse Program due to a significant increase in grant funding. BCPH also made a conscious decision to fund some of its short-term positions to begin work on some high-priority issues.

The primary source of funding for BCPH was Boulder County, which provides approximately 42% of BCPH’s total budget. Ms. Martz said the county’s funding comes mainly from property taxes; she and Mr. Zayach both expressed gratitude to the County Commissioners for their continued support of BCPH and all county employees, particularly since the county continues to deal with expenses from the 2013 flood that devastated Boulder County.

Public Health Director Zayach highlighted several key accomplishments, including passage of the sugar-sweetened beverage tax in Boulder, projected to generate up to $4 million/year. Overall, public health funding is on a downward trend, which is why Ms. Martz and Mr. Zayach both serve on state boards to address the issue, especially as it pertains to the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR).

Mr. Zayach said space continues to be an issue for BCPH and Boulder County, especially on the North Broadway Campus (which includes BCPH’s Administration and Sundquist Sites). Mental Health Partners recently vacated the building it had rented from the county, so 17 Environmental Health Division staff
members will relocate to that building. But that only offers a medium solution, so BCPH has had to implement other temporary fixes, such as asking some staff to work remotely or to share office space. The North Broadway Campus is a high priority for Boulder County, which will be working actively over the next 5-7 years to make the site more efficient and effective.

The board members expressed appreciation for receiving the budget in two formats – spreadsheets and a budget booklet. President Thomas said he often refers to the budget throughout the year, and he especially liked the booklet format. Board Members Watson and McMillan agreed, saying the budget booklet was very helpful to them as new board members.

**Board Member McMillan made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member DeSantiago, to approve Resolution 2017-01, adopting the 2017 operating budget, as presented. With all board members present voting in favor of the motion, President Thomas declared the motion carried. Absent: Board Member Bermudez.**

**ITEM 6. Director’s Report.**

**Metro Denver Partnership for Health:** Public Health Director Zayach said the Metro Denver Partnership for Health includes the 7 local public health agencies located in the Denver metropolitan area, which serves 57% of the state’s population: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson Counties. The partnership collaborates with regional leaders on health care, behavioral health, environment, philanthropy, education, business, and local government issues to advance health equity across the region. The partnership is expanding its work to address early childhood, health equity, and climate change. Priority focus areas for the partnership include data sharing, healthy eating and active living (HEAL), behavioral health, and partner alignment.

**Opioids & Syringes:** Mr. Zayach said a large task force has been working on the issue of opioids, which may be another area of collaboration with other communities and agencies. President Thomas asked about syringes left in public encampment areas. Staff said there is a great deal of concern regarding improper disposal of syringes in public encampment areas, and BCPH staff is collaborating with City of Boulder Parks and Recreation staff to help address the issue. The Communicable Disease Program will present an opioid update at the May Board of Health meeting and could also give an update on syringe disposal.

**ITEM 7. Old and New Business/Announcements.**

A. Discussion on Tabled Consent Agenda Items (if any).

None.

B. Old and New Business.

None.

C. Announcements.

- Public Health Director Zayach said he and Board Member Watson serve on each other’s boards of directors, so when Ms. Watson was appointed to the Board of Health, the County Attorney’s Office was asked to determine if that posed any conflicts of interest. The County Attorney’s Office stated it wasn’t a problem, as long as Mr. Zayach and Ms. Watson recused themselves from participating in any action items pertaining to the other person (e.g. personnel matters).
- President Thomas announced he would be absent for the July 10 Board of Health meeting.
• **Family Health Division Manager Resignation:** Director of Health Divisions Heath Harmon said Family Health Division Manager Heather Matthews announced she would be resigning next month to spend more time with her family. Ms. Matthews, who recently became a new mother, was instrumental in developing the county’s new family leave policy. Mr. Harmon said she championed many other family-friendly public health matters in the community and will be greatly missed.

ITEM 8. **Adjournment.**

There being nothing further to discuss, President Thomas declared the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Gregg Thomas, President  
Jeffrey J. Zayach, Public Health Director