

# OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

## **Boulder County Board of Health (BOH) Regular Meeting Boulder County Public Health Auditorium January 9, 2017**

**BOH Members Present:** President Gregg Thomas and Board Members Olga Bermudez and Sonya Jaquez-Lewis. Absent: Board Member Jorge DeSantiago.

**Staff Members Present:** Public Health Director Jeff Zayach, Director of Administrative Services Stephanie Martz, Director of Health Divisions Heath Harmon, Director of Strategic Initiatives Susan Motika, Environmental Health Division Manager Joe Malinowski, and Business Operations Manager Tammy Golden.

**Special Guest:** Boulder County Policy Analyst Mark Ruzzin

### **Meeting Called to Order.**

President Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

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

None.

### **ITEM 2. Consent Agenda.**

#### **A. Approval of December 12, 2016, Board of Health Meeting Minutes.**

*Board Member Jaquez-Lewis made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member Bermudez, 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 DeSantiago.*

### **ITEM 3. Legislative Update and Approval of 2017 Boulder County Legislative Agenda.**

Environmental Health Division Manager Joe Malinowski introduced Boulder County Policy Analyst Mark Ruzzin, who presented the *2017 Boulder County State Legislative Agenda*. The legislative agenda is the document that will guide Boulder County staff in taking positions on legislative matters or legislative policies in 2017.

Mr. Ruzzin said the Colorado General Assembly included 100 legislators – 65 representatives and 35 senators; 8 of whom formed the Boulder County delegation: Representatives Edie Hooton, Jonathan Singer, Mike Foote, KC Becker, and Matt Gray and Senators Tim Neville, Matt Jones, and Stephen Fenberg. Mr. Ruzzin gave background information on each member of the Boulder County legislative delegation and said the 2017 legislative session would begin on January 11.

Mr. Ruzzin spoke about his collaborative working relationship with BCPH staff and the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO). Mr. Malinowski serves as BCPH's legislative liaison, and he and other County staff work closely with the Boulder County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

Policy Team to discuss legislative and policy priorities for Boulder County. Mr. Malinowski and other BCPH staff members also participate on the Boulder County Health and Human Services (i.e. Public Health, Housing and Human Services, and Community Services) Policy Team to assist the BOCC Policy Team regarding legislative issues or policies affecting human services or public health.

Mr. Ruzzin said Boulder County is a member of a new collaborative opportunity called the Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA), which consists of 14 Colorado counties and municipalities to advocate for state and federal policies that will protect Colorado's climate for current and future generations. The CC4CA has met with legislators and hired the same lobbyist who works for CALPHO on public health issues. Mr. Ruzzin said there aren't very many Colorado communities that have the same level of legislative resources that are available in the Denver/Boulder area. Since many CC4CA members don't have a strong lobbying presence, their membership in CC4CA enables their voices to be heard. Mr. Ruzzin said Denver and Longmont will hopefully consider joining CC4CA too.

Mr. Malinowski said the 2017 legislative priorities for Boulder County were outlined in the *2017 State Legislative Agenda*, the legislative "roadmap" for Boulder County and guiding staff when advocating for or opposing potential legislative action and policies that could affect Boulder County. Board of Health approval of the County's legislative agenda allowed staff to quickly endorse or oppose proposed legislation affecting public health on behalf of BCPH and/or the Board of Health. Mr. Malinowski said that was important because often there wasn't sufficient time to seek Board of Health approval before the legislative action occurs.

The issues covered by the Boulder County Housing and Human Services Policy Team comprise the largest component of Boulder County's legislative agenda and include public health positions focusing on food and nutrition; health and well-being; and energy, environmental, and sustainability. Many issues covered impact the overall health of all Coloradans, such as the importance housing has on people's health. Mr. Malinowski said housing was one of the social determinants of health, and BCPH could choose to support proposed legislation that would increase availability of housing due to the public health benefits that ensuring access to housing presents.

Mr. Malinowski highlighted two issues that weren't part of the County's legislative agenda for which he requested Board of Health support:

- *Food Safety*: Opposition to any expansion of unregulated, potentially dangerous foods (e.g. raw or unpasteurized milk).
- *Firearm Safety*: Support for firearm safety to help reduce firearms-related fatalities. Board Member Jaquez-Lewis expressed concern that firearm deaths have outpaced motor vehicle fatalities in Colorado since 2009; in 2012 suicides by firearms surpassed motor vehicle fatalities for the first time.

Board Member Bermudez asked if there were any other issues staff wanted to include that weren't part of the legislative agenda. Mr. Malinowski said he felt all public health issues have been addressed. Public Health Director Jeff Zayach said CALPHO also prioritized public health issues, soliciting input from BCPH and other jurisdictions when developing the priorities. He said there might be issues that could become more pressing, such as loss of funding for long-acting, reverse contraception (LARC), which is a budget priority for CALPHO, that may need to be addressed as they surface.

Mr. Ruzzin spoke about potential deficits that may occur that would affect transportation, higher education, public education, corrections, as well as public health. He said Boulder County hires a fiscal lobbyist to help guide their positions accordingly.

**Board Member Jaquez-Lewis made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member Bermudez, to authorize Board of Health support of: 1) 2017 Boulder County Legislative Agenda, as presented, 2) opposition to the expansion of unregulated, potentially hazardous foods, which can include legislation promoting the retail sale of unpasteurized milk and raw milk products (with the exception of aged raw milk cheeses produced by licensed/registered manufacturers and retailers); 3) support for firearm safety opportunities that would help reduce firearms-related fatalities. With all Board Members present voting in favor of the motion, President Thomas declared the motion approved. Absent: Board Member DeSantiago.**

Mr. Zayach and the Board acknowledged the contributions of Mr. Malinowski in his role as BCPH's liaison for all legislative issues affecting Boulder County Public Health. Mr. Malinowski has served in that capacity for many years, representing both BCPH and Boulder County at the state level and in collaboration with a variety of outside agencies, both internally at Boulder County and at the state level.

**ITEM 5. Old and New Business/Announcements.**

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

None.

**B. Old and New Business.**

**Water Quality:** Board Member Jaquez-Lewis questioned the specific water quality testing requirements for local municipalities and water districts in unincorporated Boulder County. Environmental Health Division Manager Joe Malinowski said the State did have specific standards and would find out what they were.

**C. Announcements.**

None.

**ITEM 4. Director's Report.**

**Client Identifiers:** Board Member Bermudez asked how unique clients were tracked, and Director of Health Divisions Heath Harmon said they were given a unique code that didn't include their name or date of birth but created a unique identifier that allowed them to be tracked and not counted more than once.

**Syringe Exchange:** President Thomas asked if staff received many complaints about used syringes left in public areas (e.g. along creeks, in parks, etc.). Mr. Harmon said the number of complaints have decreased since self-disposing sites have been placed in Boulder and Longmont. Board Member Bermudez asked about mountain residents, and Mr. Harmon said mountain residents still had to exchange their syringes in Boulder; however, they often sent one person to Boulder to make exchanges for multiple people.

**PACE:** President Thomas acknowledged the reference from the Platte River Power Authority (PRPA, the power provider for the cities of Longmont, Loveland, Ft. Collins, and Estes Park) praising the Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) Program. PRPA said it could distinguish which projects PACE advised on and wished PACE-style business advising was available in all PRPA cities.

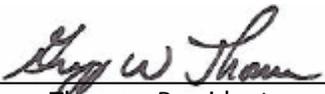
**Opioids:** Public Health Director Jeff Zayach recently distributed an opioid summary to the Board and said staff was actively working on the issue. They recently trained several local police departments on how to administer naloxone, a medication that can be administered to block the effects of opioids.

**Health Equity:** Mr. Zayach said health equity work was progressing well, and Director of Strategic Initiatives Susan Motika said she would provide an update to the Board in the near future. Staff's been participating in several community meetings to emphasize to residents that they'd be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their immigration status, whenever they came into any Boulder County program.

Mr. Zayach said data integration work was progressing faster in Boulder County than elsewhere in the state and nationally. Several community partners have been collaborating to determine how best to use population and client data to match residents more efficiently and effectively in the provision of services and to help address the social determinants of health. Mr. Zayach said Boulder County's work was being watched closely around the state, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has expressed interest in replicating the efforts.

**ITEM 6. Adjournment.**

There being nothing further to discuss, President Thomas declared the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

  
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Gregg Thomas, President

  
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Jeffrey J. Zayach, Public Health Director