

# OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

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

**Staff Members Present:** Public Health Director Jeff Zayach; Director of Administrative Services Aaron Pratt; Director of Health Divisions Heath Harmon; Director of Strategic Initiatives Susan Motika; Health Planning and Evaluation Specialist Megan Noel; Health Systems and Policy Planner Summer Laws; Budget and Human Resources Manager Megan Hatten; and Business Operations Manager Tammy Golden.

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

President Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

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

None.

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

#### **A. Approval of August 14, 2017, Board of Health Meeting Minutes.**

#### **B. Approval of June-August Financial Reports.**

***Board Member Bermudez 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: Vice President Jorge DeSantiago.***

### **ITEM 3. Update on Community Health Assessment.**

Director of Strategic Initiatives Susan Motika presented this item and said a great deal of work has been done to conduct the latest community health assessment (CHA) in Boulder County. She said BCPH will host a community discussion on November 15 to present the CHA results to residents and key stakeholders, who will then be asked to vote on one of two issues – affordable housing or mental health – that they feel should be the priority in Boulder County for the next five-year cycle of the Public Health Improvement Plan (PHIP).

Ms. Motika introduced Health Planning and Evaluation Specialist Megan Noel and Health Systems and Policy Planner Summer Laws, who detailed how the CHA was conducted and explained next steps. Ms. Noel said all local public health agencies (LPHA) must conduct a CHA every five years; this was the second one done by BCPH. Between February-April 2017, 53 “community health conversations” were conducted with 665 participants representing a broad cross-section of Boulder County residents and community organizations. All of the participants were asked the same question, “If you could waive a magic wand to improve your health or the health of your loved ones in Boulder County, what would you

change?” From the community conversations, 3,021 ideas were identified, and that number was narrowed to 1,776 starred ideas.

The results from the community conversations and quantitative public health data were synthesized to identify the following eight key themes that were based on the social determinants of health: housing, mental health, active living/built environment, affordability, environmental quality, health care access and quality, healthy eating, and social and community context. Using feasibility as a criterion and evaluating quotes from the community health conversations, an advisory group that included the PHIP Executive Steering Committee coded the results using the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) health equity model to narrow the eight issues to the top two priorities – housing and mental health.

The next community engagement approach involved asking those who facilitated the original community conversations to return to their groups to specifically ask about the issues of mental health and housing. The data stories collected included community quotes, local public health data, social determinants data, and capacity assessment results, which will feed into a community health profile product of the CHA. The goal will be to create a community health profile using these community conversations. Interested community members will meet on November 15 to discuss improving mental health and access to healthy housing and the data stories will show what those two priorities look like in Boulder County. The group will then decide which of those two issues should be the priority focus in Boulder County during the next five years.

Staff answered questions from the Board. They said Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Fellow Lily Sussman has been conducting a capstone project to identify and evaluate case studies in other communities across the country where public health played a role in addressing homelessness and housing issues. Ms. Sussman is working with the PHIP Steering Committee to discuss what could be done in Boulder County. BCPH won't play the leadership role in addressing housing but will play a supportive role to help develop policy and bring health data into affordable housing discussions.

Director of Health Divisions Heath Harmon explained how strategic planning will be used to help identify health and core service priorities over the next five years.

The board was invited to attend the November 15 community discussion, where Vice President Jorge DeSantiago will provide the introduction on equity. Staff asked for a board volunteer to welcome the community members and provide an overview of the discussion, and Board Member Bermudez volunteered. Staff also asked for recommendations for community member invites and encouraged the board members to promote the event throughout the community.

President Thomas and Public Health Director Zayach thanked staff for the presentation and their hard work on this project.

**ITEM 4. Election of New BOH President and Vice President.**

Board Member Bermudez volunteered to serve as BOH vice president, and President Thomas said he would be happy to serve another term as BOH president.

***Board Member McMillan made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member Watson, to nominate Gregg Thomas for another term as Board of Health president. With all members present voting in favor of the motion, President Thomas declared the motion carried. Absent: Vice President DeSantiago.***

*President Thomas then made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member McMillan, to nominate Olga Bermudez as vice president. With all members present voting in favor of the motion, President Thomas declared the motion carried. Absent: Vice President DeSantiago.*

**ITEM 5. Director's Report.**

**Hepatitis A:** Board Member Bermudez asked about the national increase in hepatitis A cases, particularly in southern California where the lack of affordable housing was forcing more people to live in the streets under unsanitary conditions. She asked if that was an issue in Boulder County. Director of Health Divisions Heath Harmon said he didn't believe so; however, he would confirm that with Disease Control Program staff.

**Teen Pregnancy Funds:** Board Member Watson asked about new federal funding cuts for teen pregnancy programs. Director of Health Divisions Heath Harmon said the result of the executive order will be a two-year reduction in federal pregnancy prevention financing for programs, from five to three years. That loss of funding forced the closure of Colorado Youth Matter, a teen pregnancy prevention program that works with school districts in Denver to provide sex education. In Boulder County, impacts on teen pregnancy prevention will be more serious in Longmont because of the recent closure of the Longmont Planned Parenthood office.

**Retail Food Code:** President Thomas asked about the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) *Food Code*, which is updated by the FDA every four years (the last update was done in 2013). The code serves as a model for state and local food control agencies for developing and updating food safety standards. Director of Health Divisions Heath Harmon said staff was working with the State of Colorado to discuss how the changes will result in loss of guidance for local inspectors.

**Media Coverage:** Board Member McMillan commended staff for the positive coverage in the news regarding public health's role to help address social determinants of health, including harm reduction programs (e.g. opioids), the sugary drink tax in Boulder, and community engagement.

**Oil & Gas:** Public Health Director Jeff Zayach said BCPH will ask the County Commissioners for a supplemental request to fund a part-time position that will help to support the significant increase in oil and gas work. The Air Quality and Business Sustainability Program, particularly Program Coordinator Pam Milmoie and Oil & Gas Specialist Patrick Murphy, has been doing a good job to encourage others to engage in the upcoming rulemaking process to address oil and gas leakage concerns.

**Sugary Drinks:** Public Health Director Jeff Zayach commended Lafayette youth for their role in helping to pass an ordinance restricting the presence of sugary drinks on children's menus. The youth put a lot of effort into educating local businesses and the Lafayette City Council about detrimental health impacts from consuming sugary drinks. He said it was terrific to witness the enthusiasm of the youth as they worked with community leadership and sought support from the local businesses to make an impact in their community.

**Health Equity:** Public Health Director Zayach commended Director of Strategic Initiatives Susan Motika for her work in promoting health equity. He said Ms. Motika recently led an engaging exercise with local public health staff on building a 21<sup>st</sup> century work force, diverse populations in senior leadership in public health, recognizing bias in hiring, and how many agencies are struggling with those issues. Mr. Zayach said Ms. Motika is working hard to hold difficult discussions and raise awareness on the issue of health equity, which was a focus at last year's National Association of County and City Health Officials

(NACCHO) annual conference. He noted that Boulder County Human Resources and Jefferson County were also dedicating a great deal of time to address the issue.

**ITEM 6. Old and New Business/Announcements.**

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

None.

**B. Old and New Business.**

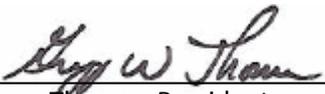
None.

**C. Announcements.**

Director of Administrative Services Aaron Pratt introduced newly hired Budget and Human Resources Manager Megan Hatten, who will be presenting the 2017 budget amendment resolution at the next Board of Health meeting. Ms. Hatten said her financial background was working with hospitals in Texas, and she was learning a great deal and enjoying Colorado. The Board welcomed Ms. Hatten to BCPH.

**ITEM 7. Adjournment.**

There being nothing further to discuss, President Thomas declared the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

  
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Gregg Thomas, President

  
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Jeffrey J. Zayach, Public Health Director