OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

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

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; Environmental Health Division Manager Joe Malinowski; Budget and Human Resources Manager Megan Hatten; Health Systems and Policy Planner Summer Laws; Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) and Built Environment Coordinator Rachel Arndt; and Business Operations Manager Tammy Golden.

Special Guests: County Commissioner Cindy Domenico and Boulder County Project Manager Dawn Austin.

Meeting Called to Order.
President Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ITEM 1. Public Comments (on unscheduled agenda items).
None.

ITEM 2. Consent Agenda.
A. Approval of October 9, 2017, Board of Health Meeting Minutes.
B. Approval of September Financial Report.
Board Member Watson made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member DeSantiago, 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 Olga Bermudez and Board Member Morgan McMillan.

ITEM 3. Update on System-wide Integration for Financial Tracking (SWIFT) Project.
Director of Administrative Services Aaron Pratt introduced Boulder County Project Manager Dawn Austin and County Commissioner Cindy Domenico, who gave an update on the System-wide Integration for Financial Tracking (SWIFT) Project.

County Commissioner Domenico said it became evident that the County’s current finance and budget system would be unable to meet the County’s future reporting needs, nor would it be able to ensure compliance with increasingly complex state and federal regulations. The County issued a request for proposals (RFP) in February 2017 for an enterprise resource planning (ERP) software solution and services that would allow the County to consolidate, simplify, and modernize its financial processes and
build a foundation for the future. Proposals from 11 different firms were received, and the proposal submitted by Infor was chosen after an extensive cross-departmental evaluation process. County Commissioner Domenico also noted that the winning bid was one of the lowest bids received.

Commissioner Domenico expressed appreciation to BCPH Director of Administrative Services Aaron Pratt, who served as a key member of the County’s software evaluation team and process. Mr. Pratt had used a centralized financial system at his previous job, so he recognized the value and efficiencies that consolidating all financial information in a centralized location would provide.

BCPH is evaluating the internal resource impact of the project and working with Boulder County to source any necessary backfill support. The goal will be to transition from manual spreadsheets to a streamlined and automated system to allow for greater efficiency and transparency across all platforms.

Ms. Austin said the new system will combine financial processes throughout all County departments. There are currently about 400 people accessing the financial system, but the new system will be a self-serve system that will be accessed by more than 750 people. Switchover to the new software begins in January 2018, and the new system is targeted to go live in January 2019. The first conversion will be the financial system, followed by budget reporting, and then application of the 2020 budget.

County Commissioner Domenico said Ms. Austin was one of the primary contributors for the SWIFT Project. She evaluated the different financial systems proposed and conducted staff workshops on a variety of topics, including month-end close and streamlining processes. She said the new financial system will help Boulder County to clearly identify where funding is being spent specifically (e.g. mental health, fire mitigation, etc.) across all departments.

Board Member Watson said her agency receives funding from Boulder County, but it wasn’t always clear what the source of funding was (e.g. Worthy Cause, TANF, etc.). Commissioner Domenico said the new system should provide more clarity at that level of detail.

Public Health Director Zayach said the new financial system features more self-service functions, so staff will be able to efficiently access their own financial information. The current system is labor-intensive since reports must be run manually whenever grant-level reporting is conducted for multiple fiscal years. The new system will automate that function, thereby significantly improving usability, efficiency, and providing a clearer picture across all grant cycles.

Mr. Zayach thanked Ms. Austin and Commissioner Domenico for their presentation. He expressed his appreciation to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for their support of this project and associated staffing needs of BCPH. He said the BOCC authorized BCPH to backfill Mr. Pratt’s position so his workload would remain balanced throughout the conversion process. The BOCC also committed to providing additional funding to backfill staffing during the implementation process.

President Thomas thanked Commissioner Domenico, Ms. Austin, and staff for the update. He said his employer also recently switched to a new financial system, so he knows the benefits of having more efficient financial reporting and access to financial information. He cautioned there will be challenges and hiccups throughout the implementation process, but he encouraged patience because the benefits are well worth it.
ITEM 4. Approval of Resolution 2017-03, Adopting 2017 Budget Amendment.
Director of Administrative Services Aaron Pratt introduced Budget and Human Resources Manager Megan Hatten. Ms. Hatten presented Resolution 2017-03, adopting an amended 2017 budget, and explained what changes warranted a revised budget, including:

- Addition of supplemental groundwater funding from Boulder County in the amount of $199,000 for the Water and Air Quality Programs.
- Decrease of $130,000 due to rollover of Gary Piton grant (from $219,000 to $89,000). All related expenditures will occur in 2018, even though the revenue was received in 2017 for the Health System and Policy Program.
- Increase of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Communities that Care (CTC) grant funding in the amount of $129,000 (from $225,000 to $354,000) for the Community Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) Program.
- Addition of a CDPHE Communicable Disease Assistance Program (CDAP) syringe access grant in the amount of $68,400 for the Communicable Disease Control/HIV Prevention Program.
- Addition of $50,000 in sugary drink tax funds for the Built Environment & HEAL Program.
- Elimination of the City of Broomfield oil & gas grant (from $52,000 to $0) due to non-renewal of funds in 2017.
- Decrease of $42,000 in Keep it Clean Partnership (KICP) Project expenditures (from $111,000 to $69,000) due to the difference in retired employee versus new hire expenses.

Ms. Hatten said the above budget modifications would only affect the 2017 budget year and would not be carried over to 2018. The Board of Health initially approved Resolution 2017-01 on March 13, 2017, which approved a revised 2017 Operating Budget in the amount of $16,471,182. The budget revisions outlined above will increase the approved 2017 Operating Budget from $16,471,182 to $16,668,336, which is a net increase of $197,154. The overall changes will also decrease the unrestricted / undesignated fund balance from $1,043,779 to $1,036,779 (a net decrease of $7,000), which brought the Reserve Fund balance to 6.3% of 2017 expenditures.

**Board Member DeSantiago made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member Watson, to approve Resolution 2017-03, adopting the revised 2017 operating budget. With all board members present voting in favor of the motion, President Thomas declared the motion carried. Absent: Vice President Olga Bermudez and Board Member McMillan.**

ITEM 5. Update on Sugary Drink Tax.
Health Systems and Policy Planner Summer Laws and Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) and Built Environment Coordinator Rachel Arndt presented this item. In November 2017, the City of Boulder passed the nation’s second voter-approved sugary drink tax. During this inaugural year of the tax, BCPH staff provided ongoing technical assistance to the Healthy Boulder Kids Coalition, coordinated and supported a robust academic evaluation of the tax’s impacts, and supported the city and coalition with implementation support and leadership. They also convened community health equity partners who were interested in applying for sugary drink tax funding to ensure that project duplication was minimized and partnerships were maximized.

The sugary drink tax was very successful in its first year, with more than $765,000 collected during the first 2 months of tax collection and $950,000 to date in the first year. The amount of tax that’s being collected is $0.02/ounce.

All tax revenue received is being earmarked for healthy eating and active living (HEAL) projects, and funding has been distributed to a variety of agencies, including: Safety Net Dental Services by Dental Aid, For Our Kids: Equal Access to Bikes by Community Cycles, Care System Enhancements by Clinica,
Healthy Eating Active Living by Boulder County Public Health, Healthy Food Redistribution by Boulder Food Rescue, Trip Tracker and No Student Hungry by the Boulder Valley School District, Healthy Weight and Your Child and Children’s Alley by the YMCA, Fresh is Best by Community Food Share, Health and Fitness through Nutrition and Play by Family Learning Center, Promoting Healthy Eating by Growing Gardens, Dream Big: Healthy Together by I Have a Dream Boulder County, Goals for your Health by El Centro Amistad, Financial Aid Enhancement by Boulder Parks and Recreation, and Children’s House Garden by the Children’s House Preschool.

Sugary drink consumption is a health equity issue. Sugary drinks are the primary source of sugar in the U.S. diet and a major source of calories fueling the obesity epidemic. The risks of sugary drink consumption are bountiful, and there are zero health benefits from consuming sugar. Marketing is targeted towards children, low-income, and minority populations. Sugary drink consumption is twice as high for children of color than for white children, and one-half of adults and two-thirds of youth consume at least one sugary drink on any given day.

Cities collecting soda taxes include San Francisco, Oakland, and Philadelphia, and several other cities (e.g. Los Angeles, Denver, Phoenix, San Diego, and Seattle) are now considering the tax. Staff noted that the tax not only provides additional funding – sales of healthier drinks concurrently increase as well. Exemptions from Boulder’s sugary drink tax include infant formula, milk products, alcoholic beverages and mixers, and 100% fruit and/or vegetable juice.

Ms. Laws said it takes a lot of work and dedicated time and effort to successfully promote this type of community issue. Public Health Director Zayach agreed and said he’d like to specifically acknowledge the contributions of youth, especially in Lafayette. He said they helped to ensure successful passage of the sugary drink tax. Director of Strategic Initiatives Susan Motika agreed, saying this community effort illustrated the potential level of engagement and contributions of youth in community issues. She said it clearly demonstrated how youth can be helpful and powerful in supporting and promoting worthy causes. She said the work done in Boulder County is now serving as a model for the Healthy Beverage Partnership, and she commented that in addition to several communities in California, Boulder County was one of the most innovative in the entire country.

Lessons confirmed or learned from working on this tax initiative included:

- Having the support of and collaborating with advocates from a variety of nonprofits was helpful.
- Using spokespeople, including Board of Health Member Jorge DeSantiago, was invaluable.
- Having excellent legal counsel was critical for the coalition.
- Having a lot of financial support was necessary, and the coalition was very grateful to Healthier Colorado for providing a lot of that support.
- Recognizing that the community of Boulder supports health, as well as innovative and progressive measures.

Things that should be noted or could be improved for future work include:

- It would be good to involve even more people, especially those with policy experience.
- Funds were raised locally, yet it would have been good if the coalition raised even more funding.
- It would be very beneficial if the coalition was expanded to include youth.

Board Member Watson asked when the sugary drink tax was set to end (i.e. sunset), and Ms. Laws said it did not include a sunset clause.

Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) and Built Environment Coordinator Rachel Arndt said post-passage of the tax, BCPH’s role has been to provide continued coalition coordination and technical assis-
tance, conduct research, ensure that the tax was being implemented as intended by the voters, and to organize and inventory health equity groups. Because the final ordinance wasn’t available until June 20, 2017, and the tax became effective in July, there wasn’t a lot of time to accomplish everything. Staff worked considerably with a number of advocates, including Harvard nutrition researchers, Healthy Food America, and many others to help share information with the Boulder City Council. Staff also worked with City of Boulder staff to ensure that an active health equity committee was formed to make decisions on the funding. The coalition worked hard to keep a positive message in the press (e.g. letters to editor).

It was estimated that Boulder’s sugary drink tax will result in 938 fewer cases of obesity by 2025, a 10% drop in diabetes, $3.8 million for healthier kids, and $6.4 million in health care savings. Five months after the $0.01/ounce tax was implemented in Berkeley in 2014, sugary drink consumption in Berkeley decreased by 21% while increasing 4% in low-income neighborhoods in Oakland and San Francisco.

Staff said price collection audits (i.e. price comparison) were conducted at local grocery stores, convenience stores, coffee shops, etc. to see if prices were being displayed and charged appropriately to include the new tax. Vendors had been asked to include the tax in prices displayed on shelves rather than tacking the tax on at point of sale (i.e. displayed on receipts). It was felt that showing the inclusive prices on the shelves would help to deter people from deciding to spend the extra money to purchase sugary drinks. The audits will help to determine how much prices have changed since the tax was implemented.

Ms. Arndt said staff was evaluating the data to create longitudinal evaluation of the tax impacts across various groups of people. She also mentioned that the American Medical Association has shown interest in providing funding to help continue the data evaluation into the future.

Many interested communities have contacted staff about adopting a sugary drink tax in their communities too because it is a source of long-term, sustainable funding. Board Member DeSantiago said he’d like to see the Health Equity Committee expanded to include more representation from the Latino community. This would provide expanded community information and advocacy when working with the city council on future issues.

Ms. Motika announced that Ms. Laws and Ms. Arndt had been recognized as “public policy champions” at this year’s Colorado Public Health Association (CPHA) Public Health in the Rockies Annual Conference, where they received the Award for Excellence in Policy. The Board congratulated Ms. Arndt and Ms. Laws on the success of their work and thanked them for the update.

ITEM 6. Director’s Report.

OWTS Permits: President Thomas asked if the number of onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) permits was average. Environmental Health Division Manager Joe Malinowski said the Water Quality Program has been receiving more applications for property transfer permits due to the increased housing market and because many existing systems are aging and now starting to fail.

Funding Concerns: Board Member DeSantiago asked if recent changes in the federal government have impacted local program funding. Public Health Director Zayach said they have impacted local programming, especially at Boulder County Community Services, Housing and Human Services, and Medicaid more than at BCPH. The main concern for public health was that the reduction in funding could have an impact on chronic disease and issues like family planning. He noted that other local public health agencies in Colorado have also been more significantly impacted than BCPH.

Food Code: Environmental Health Division Manager Joe Malinowski said the rulemaking for the updat-
ed U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Code will be held on November 15. The State of Colorado has expanded the state code. He said input was not requested from local public health agencies, even though they would be tasked with implementing the code. Implementation is planned for January 2019, and he noted that the proposed changes have received mixed support from local food program managers.

**Public Health Improvement Process:** Director of Strategic Initiatives Susan Motika invited all community members, BCPH staff, BOH members, and community leaders to participate in a community discussion on November 15 at The (Boulder County) Hub located in Longmont. The purpose of the event will be to discuss and select the primary focus area for the next public health improvement process. The two choices are “improving mental health” or “increasing access to healthy housing.” Board Members De-Santiago and Bermudez will be featured presenters, and Board Member Watson said she also planned to attend.

**Strategic Planning:** Public Health Zayach and Director of Health Divisions Heath Harmon also invited the board members to attend BCPH’s all-staff strategic planning event on December 5. The purpose of that half-day event will be to collect input to help develop the agency’s next strategic plan. The three priorities identified for the strategic plan are:

- **Achieving Health Equity:** Making sure all people have full and equal opportunities to lead healthy lives.
- **Improving Mental Health:** This priority was selected by the community and represents what residents felt was most important to living a healthy life.
- **Improving organizational Stewardship, Transparency, and Sustainability** of funding and resources to make sure people had the resources to do their jobs and ensure that they made the most of what they already had.

President Thomas said he enjoyed attending the last all-staff meeting and would like to attend the event on December 5. Mr. Harmon said sometime next spring staff would return to the Board of Health for approval of the updated strategic plan.

**Oil & Gas:** President Thomas acknowledged the significant work of BCPH staff, especially Pam Milmoe, Patrick Murphy, and Collin Tomb, for their leadership and partnership on oil and gas issues at the state level.

**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.
None.

**ITEM 8. Adjournment.**

There being nothing further to discuss, President Thomas declared the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.