

OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Boulder County Board of Health (BOH) Regular Meeting Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) Auditorium December 11, 2017

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

Staff Members Present: Public Health Director Jeff Zayach; Director of Administrative Services Aaron Pratt; Director of Strategic Initiatives Susan Motika; Environmental Health Division Manager Joe Malinowski; Community Health Division Manager Andrea Poniers; Air Quality and Business Sustainability Program Coordinator Pam Milmoie; Health Planning and Evaluation Specialist Megan Noel; GENESISTER Bilingual|Bicultural Youth Specialist Maya Dansie; GENESISTER Program Assistant Yanina Gomez; and Business Operations Manager Tammy Golden.

Meeting Called to Order.

Vice President Bermudez called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. (President Thomas arrived at 5:33 p.m. and conducted the meeting thereafter).

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

GENESISTER Bilingual|Bicultural Youth Specialist Maya Dansie introduced several GENESISTER youth who expressed their appreciation to Public Health Director Jeff Zayach for his ongoing support of the GENESISTER Program. Ms. Dansie said Mr. Zayach was instrumental in securing funding from Boulder County for the program, so the youth wanted to show a video highlighting why GENESISTER was so important to them and why they were thankful to Boulder County Public Health and Mr. Zayach.

Mr. Zayach said he was honored by the presentation and thanked the youth for the wonderful surprise.

ITEM 2. Consent Agenda.

A. Approval of November 13, 2017, Board of Health Meeting Minutes.

B. Approval of October 2017 Financial Report.

Vice President 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: Board Members DeSantiago and Watson.

ITEM 3. Recognition of Pam Milmoie for Her Contributions to State Air Quality Rulemaking Process.

President Thomas read a letter of appreciation into the record recognizing Air Quality and Business Sustainability Program Coordinator Pam Milmoie for her continued advocacy and tireless work in protecting air quality in Boulder County and Colorado. President Thomas said Ms. Milmoie's incredible foresight and longstanding commitment to fight for clean air has benefitted all Colorado residents and visitors. Her contributions were instrumental during the recent Colorado Air Quality Control Commission rulemaking

process. He also acknowledged Ms. Milmoë's role in helping to organize a local government coalition that was instrumental in the adoption of more stringent leak detection and repair provisions for the oil and gas industry.

President Thomas said he has worked closely with Ms. Milmoë on many air quality issues through his employment in local environmental health. He said Ms. Milmoë has an "incredible public health voice" that is highly respected by peers throughout the state, as well as industry representatives. He said he's learned a lot from Ms. Milmoë on successfully advocating for public health. He announced Ms. Milmoë will be retiring next year and said she will be missed. He again thanked Ms. Milmoë for her significant contributions and diligence in protecting the public's health and air quality in Colorado.

Public Health Jeff Zayach echoed President Thomas's comments and said he has always been in awe of Ms. Milmoë's advocacy for better air quality across so many platforms; he also noted that her role in organizing the local government coalition was significant. Mr. Zayach said Ms. Milmoë should be very proud of the work she's done to help protect air quality in the state, especially in Boulder County.

Environmental Health Division Manager Joe Malinowski said the Boulder County Commissioners and many others in Colorado heavily rely on air quality data collected by Ms. Milmoë and her staff, especially regarding oil and gas. He said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) still does not have a mercury rule in place since it continues to be argued in the courts; however, Colorado is one of only a handful of states with mercury controls in place at power plants. He credited Ms. Milmoë for helping to advance those regulations.

Ms. Milmoë thanked everyone for the kind words and said she truly appreciated the support she has received over the years.

ITEM 4. Update on Health Equity and Community Engagement.

Director of Strategic Initiatives Susan Motika introduced Health Planning and Evaluation Specialist Megan Noel and GENESISTER Bilingual|Bicultural Youth Specialist Maya Dansie.

Ms. Dansie reviewed the history of health equity at BCPH, which began in 2014 with "Moving Upstream and Health Equity" sessions to help identify health equity issues in Boulder County. That work evolved into BCPH's first health equity plan in 2015, and structural racism training and an agency BARHII (Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative) survey was conducted in 2016. That was followed by formation of BCPH's Health Equity Transition Team in 2017 and the Health Equity Coordinating Committee in 2018. BCPH hosted a presentation earlier this year by Dr. Tony Iton, Senior Vice President of the Building Healthy Communities program, The California Endowment, whose mission is to expand access to affordable, quality health care for underserved individuals and communities and promote fundamental improvements in the health status of all Californians.

Ms. Dansie said the vision at BCPH was, "An inclusive and racially and socially just agency that centers the voices of marginalized people and embeds equity at all levels of leadership and agency decision-making. In partnership with our community, we work to provide equitable access to a healthy life for all people in Boulder County." She outlined BCPH's health equity priorities: Organizational culture; hiring, recruitment, retention, promotion; training; policies, procedures, and practices; and community engagement.

The Health Equity Coordinating Committee consists of 18 staff members representing a wide range of positions throughout the agency, as well as a Boulder County Human Resources staff member.

One tool being used by the Health Equity Transition Team was a target that showed three stages of learning: a) “Alarm Zone,” where there is very little learning, damage, and shutdown, and where people felt overwhelmed, unsafe, and things were difficult; b) “Comfort Zone,” where there is very little learning, and people felt bored, safe, and easy; and c) “Discomfort Zone,” where there was a lot of learning and people felt interested, challenged, and uncomfortable. Ms. Dansie said the Health Equity Transition Team is encouraging staff to consistently perform in the “Discomfort Zone.”

Ms. Dansie said she was BCPH’s representative on Boulder County’s Cultural Responsiveness and Inclusion Advisory Committee (CRIAC), an internal board appointed by the County Commissioners that is working to develop and promote a culturally responsive and inclusive environment at Boulder County. The committee’s work involves review and development of internal policies, hiring and management practices, communication, trainings, and the meaningful celebration of diversity.

Board Member McMillan asked if Boulder County was trying to increase the diversity of its staff, and Director of Strategic Initiatives Susan Motika said it was. She noted she conducted training at this year’s Public Health in the Rockies Annual Conference on implicit bias in recruitment, hiring, and retention. The training featured a mock interview panel conducting a debriefing where implicit bias statements were made about four hypothetical candidates. She said it was a successful training, and the materials are available for interested health equity trainers at Boulder County and metro area local public health agencies. Ms. Motika also said her team was working to deepen staff’s role in health equity to ensure that health equity is seeped into the work of all BCPH staff.

Health and Evaluation Specialist Megan Noel gave an update on the community engagement event hosted by BCPH on November 15. She said child care and food were provided to make it easier for community members to attend. Many BCPH staff volunteered at the event, which was attended by approximately 100 people. The event featured prepared comments from several people, including BOH members Jorge DeSantiago and Olga Bermudez.

The purpose of the event was to solicit input from community members and have everyone vote on the #1 issue that they’d like Boulder County to focus on during the next public health improvement process (PHIP), either 1) improving mental health; or 2) increasing access to healthy and affordable housing. Interested community members were able to vote in person at the event or online, and Ms. Noel said the vote totals were very close – affordable housing received 143 votes, and improving mental health (i.e. the selected health priority) received 179 votes. Ms. Noel also said more than 3,000 suggestions were submitted by participants. People voting online were asked to identify the town they lived in, and Ms. Noel reported all Boulder County cities were represented, with the majority living in Boulder and the fewest from Jamestown. Feedback from 53 community groups was also collected.

Vice President Bermudez said she enjoyed participating in the event, and it was great to see so many people get involved from a wide variety of organizations and backgrounds. She said it was a very active event that provided a lot of rich information. Ms. Motika agreed and said it was the most outward-focused community event she’s ever attended. She thanked Vice President Bermudez for giving the welcome speech at the event.

Public Health Director Zayach and President Thomas reflected on both the community event, as well as the recent all-staff strategic planning event. They both said BCPH had an incredible staff, demonstrated by the tremendous amount of passion and hard work it took to host these the two events.

President Thomas asked how funding for mental health may be impacted by funding cuts that are forecast. Mr. Zayach said Boulder County programs were fortunate to have more support than other Color-

do counties, although funding cuts will challenge and impact work being done in the county. Ms. Motika agreed and said people were looking to public health to serve as a leader and catalyst in addressing the issue of mental health. She said staff will continue exploring best practices and take incremental steps to develop a framework to address mental health. BCPH is working with Boulder County Housing & Human Services and Community Services to identify how the three county departments can work with community groups to address mental health in the community.

The Board thanked staff for the presentation, and Mr. Zayach said staff will keep the board apprised of any new developments.

ITEM 5. Director's Report.

Mobile Home Parks: Director of Strategic Initiatives Susan Motika said the City of Boulder recently adopted an ordinance prohibiting mobile home park (MHP) owners from retaliating against MHP residents. She said residents testified about owner intrusion on their property and their fear of retaliation, including eviction, for posting leaflets or filing complaints. Ms. Motika said she testified before the city council on the issue, which included public health concerns of poor water quality for MHP residents.

Ms. Motika said she also met with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) regarding the possibility of enforcing secondary water standards locally. She is working in partnership with the State Water Quality Control Division to determine such feasibility, and CDPHE is offering free technical support to San Lazaro Mobile Home Park owners as they try to improve their water quality.

Air Quality: Public Health Director Jeff Zayach said BCPH has received supplemental funding from Boulder County to hire an hourly oil and gas specialist, Cindy Copeland, through 2018, which will help to address increased oil and gas work in Boulder County and bridge workload in the Air Quality Program with Program Coordinator Pam Milmo's impending retirement. He expressed his appreciation to the County Commissioners for the continued support. He also noted that Ms. Milmo was instrumental in expanding the Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) Program, which has now reached more than 4,500 businesses (over 70%) by providing energy water cycling and solar rebates, increasing alternate transportation, expanding green business programs in Lafayette/Louisville, and addressing radon.

Children with Special Needs (CSN): Staff said the CSN Program was working with The Assuring Better Child Health and Development Partnership (ABCD) to expand awareness of full child development. They are working to increase community understanding on the importance of the whole child development concept, which includes social emotional development; it also has a direct correlation with mental health. To help support outreach efforts, a social emotional (SE) toolkit was developed and is being shared with targeted audiences.

Health Communications: Staff reported that BCPH is working with Denver Metro Area health departments through the Healthy Beverage Partnership on the "Hidden Sugar" campaign. Evaluation of the campaign's first year shows that 42% of respondents in a follow-up survey were serving fewer sugary drinks to their families, compared to the initial survey. It was noted that this positive behavior change was greatest among Hispanic respondents.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Using 2017 sugary drink tax funds, a WIC pilot program has been implemented to provide free vouchers to WIC clients to use at the Boulder Farmers Market. More than 100 local families are participating in the program, which also supports the local farmers. WIC also received a grant from CDPHE to help enroll more clients.

Administration: Director of Administrative Services Aaron Pratt recognized the Vital Records Program for once again receiving a perfect audit score from the State of Colorado. The state conducted a paper audit of the program’s vital records and found no issues. Mr. Pratt also recognized the Accounting staff, as many of their practices/policies are being reviewed and considered for use by Boulder County.

ITEM 6. Old and New Business/Announcements.

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

None.

B. Old and New Business.

None.

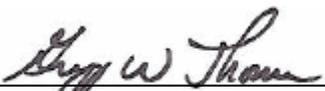
C. Announcements.

Environmental Health Division Manager Joe Malinowski said staff will present the 2018 Boulder County Legislative agenda at the January 8, 2018, Board of Health meeting.

Vice President Bermudez said she’s been receiving calls from people who are concerned about health care for their children. She said Colorado Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) is going to host an out-reach event to help educate residents on that issue.

ITEM 7. Adjournment.

There being nothing further to discuss, President Thomas declared the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.



Gregg Thomas, President



Jeffrey J. Zayach, Public Health Director