

OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Boulder County Board of Health (BOH) Regular Meeting Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) Auditorium December 9, 2019

BOH Members Present: President Gregg Thomas; Vice President Jorge DeSantiago; and Board Members McKenzie Rieder; Morgan McMillan; and Landrey Fagan, M.D.

Staff Members Present: Public Health Director Jeff Zayach; Director of Health Divisions Heath Harmon; Director of Administrative Services Megan Hatten; Director of Strategic Initiatives Susan Motika; Communicable Disease/HIV Prevention Program Coordinator Carol Helwig; HIV Program Prevention Specialist Patty Brezovar; CDC Public Health Fellow/Community Opioid Response Specialist Arielle Gross; Health Equity Coordinator Sheila Davis; and Business Operations Manager Tammy Golden.

Meeting Called to Order.

President Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Introductions.

Director of Strategic Initiatives Susan Motika reintroduced Dr. Sheila Davis, BCPH's Health Equity Coordinator, for the board members who weren't able to meet her at the October 14 Board of Health meeting.

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

None.

ITEM 2. Consent Agenda.

The consent agenda included:

- A. *Approval of October 14, 2019, Board of Health Regular Meeting Minutes.*
- B. *Approval of October 2019 Financial Report.*

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

ITEM 3. Update on Opioids and Presentation on Naloxone.

Naloxone Presentation

HIV Program Prevention Specialist Patty Brezovar explained when and how to use naloxone (e.g. Narcan Nasal Spray) to reverse the effects of opioids in overdose situations. She said naloxone only works on opioids; therefore, it's safe to use when it's unclear if other drugs are also present in the body.

Ms. Brezovar said mixing drugs and/or alcohol with opioids increases the risk of overdose, and she said stimulants increase a body's need for oxygen. Since opioids cause breathing to slow and eventually stop, depriving the brain of oxygen could lead to an overdose. Signs of a person overdosing on opioids include unresponsiveness or unconsciousness; slowed or stopped breathing; snoring or gurgling signs; and blue, gray, or white lips and/or fingernails.

Board Member McMillan asked which age range had the most overdose cases. Communicable Disease/HIV Prevention Program Coordinator Carol Helwig said people who overdose on opioids range in age from the teens to the 60's, but there are more overdoses in people who are in their 30's. Overdosing is also more prevalent with males than females, and more overdose cases occur in Longmont (but there are overdose cases throughout Boulder County). There is also a higher prevalence of people overdosing after being released from jail or following an extended period of non-use.

The Boulder County Jail recently began medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for inmates identified with opioid use disorder upon intake. They are started on Suboxone (i.e. used to treat opioid addiction) while serving in jail and are then connected to treatment providers to continue treatment upon release from jail. BCPH has discussed establishing overdose surveillance in conjunction with the Coroner's Office, but that hasn't started yet.

Ms. Brezovar said naloxone is available to anyone without a prescription at participating pharmacies, costing \$70-\$90 without a prescription. Narcan is sensitive to temperature, does have an expiration date, and Works Program clients can receive free Narcan prescriptions at BCPH locations. It's also available at Clinica at a reduced cost, and Walgreens will send it overnight. She then explained how to respond to an opioid overdose and demonstrated how to administer Narcan. She said Narcan is effective for 30-90 minutes and can cause withdrawal symptoms after that, so timing is important for receiving aid because patients can relapse. The 911 Good Samaritan Law protects those who are overdosing, as well as those who are helping them, from receiving drug-related charges.

Opioid Update

Communicable Disease/HIV Prevention Program Coordinator Carol Helwig gave an update on the former Boulder County Opioid Advisory Group (OAG), which changed its name to the Substance Use Advisory Group (SUAG) to cover substances other than opioids. Ms. Helwig introduced CDC Public Health Fellow/Community Opioid Response Specialist Arielle Gross, who provided the SUAG update.

Ms. Gross said SUAG consists of 230+ members, with about 30-50 attending meetings. The meetings consist of informational presentations on substance use topics, opportunities for partnerships, and working to meet SUAG goals. Members include criminal justice, law enforcement, treatment providers, primary care providers, nonprofits, prevention-based programs, harm reduction programs, community members, policy makers, and individuals and families with lived substance use experiences.

Opioid-related activities during the past year included:

- Organizing a community event for International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31, 2019, which was held on the Boulder County Courthouse lawn and featured information about Narcan and treatment resources.
- Promoting National Prescription Drug Takeback Day on October 26, 2019, that included distribution of outreach materials and raising awareness on safe storage/disposal of prescription medications.
- Hosting *Innovation Summit on Opioid Response in the Healthcare Setting* on June 3, 2019, a provider-led event for sharing innovative approaches to address opioid use disorder within the primary care or hospital settings. Providers from the five local hospitals attended and presented.
- Organizing the testimony of SUAG members to support two state legislative bills, both of which ultimately passed – SB19-227 (Harm Reduction Substance Use Disorders) and SB19-228 (Substance Use Disorders Prevention Measures).
- Hiring OMNI, a research consulting group, to analyze the feasibility of creating a county-wide coordinated behavioral health system.
- BCPH and SUAG members participating in community presentations organized by Boulder

Community Health's Opioid and Chronic Pain Response Program. Harm reduction and syringe access presentation were provided by BCPH, and SUAG presented on supporting family members in recovery.

- Opening a Works Program location at Clinica in Lafayette that allows the program to expand its services by serving a greater portion of the county's population.

Recent opioid-related initiatives in the community included:

- Boulder County Jail initiating a medication-assisted treatment (MAT) program for inmates identified with opioid use disorder upon intake. The individuals begin Suboxone while in jail and are connected to treatment providers to continue treatment upon release.
- County hospitals starting to implement MAT induction in emergency department settings.
- Assembling the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Task Force to examine the feasibility of expanding the LEAD diversion/co-responder model county-wide. LEAD, which consists of law enforcement and criminal justice representatives, currently only exists in Longmont.
- Community Justice Services receiving grant funding to hire new staff members to serve as case managers for those identified with opioid use disorder at the county jail, particularly those who have a history of substance use.

Board Member Rieder asked about the safety of mental health professionals on-scene with law enforcement officials to assess if individuals could be diverted to treatment rather than the criminal justice system. She was told their safety is very important and is always taken into consideration. LEAD has about 180 diversion participants so far, and 130 of them are engaged in case management and linked with housing and supportive services. Because the program has resulted in a reduction in call volume, especially with frequent users, the district attorney would like to see LEAD replicated throughout Boulder County. Offenders have 72 hours to engage with a case manager and must commit to working with them before charges will be dropped. Public Health Director Jeff Zayach said the LEAD Program can also determine if there are repeat offenders. Board Member Fagan said it was a very good program.

The Board and Mr. Zayach thanked staff for the update. Mr. Zayach emphasized the importance of working with law enforcement officials throughout the county since opioid use and abuse has increased significantly in recent years. Board Member McMillan voiced her appreciation for The Works Program, which has been challenged recently by residents at City of Boulder City Council meetings. Mr. Zayach agreed and said Ms. Helwig has done an outstanding job explaining The Works Program services and its benefits at the city council meetings. He noted that local law enforcement and district attorney officials strongly support the program.

ITEM 4. Approval of Resolution 2019-06, Adopting Revised 2019 Approved Budget.

Director of Administrative Services Megan Hatten presented Resolution 2019-06 and detailed the changes requiring an amended budget of \$17,384,837. She said the Board of Health adopted Resolution 2018-04 on July 9, 2018, approving the 2019 recommended budget in the amount of \$16,163,045, as well as Resolution 2019-01 on March 11, 2019, which approved the 2019 approved budget in the amount of \$17,631,686.

Ms. Hatten reviewed the significant adjustments responsible for the revised budget. It was a net decrease of \$246,849 from the initial budget (i.e. \$17,631,686 to \$17,384,837). The adjustments included:

- \$130,000 increase of HHS (Health and Human Services) Ballot 1A revenue.
- Decrease of \$110,000 in carryover 2018 Gary Piton revenue.
- \$140,000 reduction in Boulder SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Gap revenue.
- \$121,000 reduction in Boulder Double Up Food Bucks revenue.

- \$143,000 reduction in administrative personnel costs.

Board Member McMillan made a motion, which was seconded by Vice President DeSantiago, to approve Resolution 2019-06. With all board members voting in favor of the motion, President Thomas declared the motion approved.

ITEM 5. Approval of Resolution 2019-07, Adopting 2020 Approved Budget.

Director of Administrative Services Megan Hatten presented this item and reviewed the 2020 budget timeline. Once unfunded budget requests are finalized and approved in January-February 2020, she said the BOH will be asked to adopt the final approved 2020 budget in March 2020.

Ms. Hatten said there were some significant glitches when the County transitioned to a new financial software system in May, and there hasn't been enough time or manpower to fully remedy the situation. BCPH continues working with Boulder County and the software consultants to identify the issues and tweak the system. Public Health Director Zayach acknowledged the work of BCPH's Finance Team to learn the new system and resolve implementation problems.

Ms. Hatten and Mr. Zayach reviewed upcoming 2020 highlights, which included:

- *Universal home visitation:* Public health agencies throughout the Metro Denver area have been collaborating with health and human service agencies about universal home visitation and are focusing on reducing abuse, neglect, maltreatment.
- *Climate change:* BCPH and Boulder County are combining their sustainability programs into a new County department called the Office of Sustainability, Climate Action, and Resiliency (OSCAR), which will help to ensure consistency. OSCAR will report to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).
- *County administrator:* Boulder County has transitioned to the county administrator structure, and Jana Petersen, the County's former Administrative Services Director, was appointed by the BOCC to serve as the new county administrator. Ms. Petersen and the BOCC are working with the County's elected officials and department heads to implement the county's new structure.
- *Partnerships:* BCPH continues working with Colorado Health Institute, Colorado Health Foundation, Caring for Colorado, Colorado Trust, and other foundations on short-term and long-term funding.
- *Funding losses and potential impacts:* Some long-term funding losses and potential impacts will significantly affect BCPH programs due to reduced or eliminated funding from the Communicable Disease Assistance Program (CDAP), SAMSHA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) Drug-Free Communities (DFC), and Colorado Office of Behavioral Health (OBH).
- *Opioid lawsuits:* Boulder County and Colorado both stand to receive funding from opioid lawsuits, which will increase funding for opioid services.
- *Sustainability Tax funding:* Over \$1 million in tax funding will be added to the budget for Business Sustainability, Air Quality, Water Quality, HEAL (Healthy Eating & Active Living) programming.

Ms. Hatten said BCPH will receive 55% of its budget from Boulder County. Expenses will include 77% for personnel costs, 11% for professional services, 8% operating, 3% other, and 1% for property expenses. She then provided a comparison of revenues and expenses.

The 2020 approved budget is in the amount of \$18,807,250, an increase of \$1,423,256 (8%) over the preliminary budget adopted by Resolution 2019-03 for \$17,383,994. The increase is primarily due to the 2020 Sustainability Tax funding being provided by Boulder County.

BCPH's Reserve Fund balance currently sits at \$1,951,402 and includes \$606,379 for additional operating requests not included in the approved budget.

Board Member Fagan made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member Rieder, to approve Resolution 2019-07. With all board members voting in favor of the motion, President Thomas declared the motion approved.

ITEM 6. Director's Report.

Immunizations: Director of Health Divisions Heath Harmon said the Immunization Program was working with Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) to ensure that BVSD students met the school district's immunization requirement in order to prevent them from being suspended or expelled from school.

Tobacco: Mr. Harmon said the Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) Program is working with elected officials and community members to discuss local tobacco policies. The municipalities are considering adding or revising local ordinances to advocate for and support increased tobacco regulations, including retail tobacco licensing and changing the tobacco purchase age to 21 years.

OMNI Report: Upon receiving recommendations from the OMNI report, Boulder County's Housing & Human Services, Public Health, and Community Services directors are meeting to identify resources to help determine how to begin advancing Phase I of the report recommendations. Phase I is focused on expanding co-responder and diversion supports to develop a behavioral hub. The efforts will start with a focus on criminal justice components. Then it will be determined how, when, and what resources are needed to scale the project on a larger level, as outlined in Phase II of the report. Staff will keep the Board of Health updated as the project develops.

ITEM 7. Old & New Business and Announcements.

Harmon Resignation: Public Health Director Zayach announced that Director of Health Divisions Heath Harmon has resigned to accept the Eagle County public health director position. He said Mr. Harmon's been employed at BCPH for more than 19 years; his last day will be December 27. Mr. Zayach said this was an incredible opportunity for Mr. Harmon, although his departure will leave a significant void at BCPH. He said Mr. Harmon has been an outstanding contributor at BCPH and Boulder County, and he extended his gratitude and congratulations to Mr. Harmon.

Mr. Harmon thanked Mr. Zayach and said BCPH was an outstanding organization with an extremely competent staff. He expressed his appreciation to the agency, BCPH staff, and the Board of Health for providing such strong support during his tenure at BCPH.

Mr. Zayach said he is working with the BCPH directors and Management Team to assess the organizational structure and map out a transition plan for replacing Mr. Harmon.

ITEM 8. Adjournment.

There being nothing further to discuss, President Thomas declared the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.



Gregg Thomas, President



Jeffrey J. Zayach, Public Health Director