

OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**Boulder County Board of Health (BOH) Regular Meeting
Online/Telephonic Meeting
October 12, 2020**

BOH Members: President Gregg Thomas and Board Members Morgan McMillan; Landrey Fagan, M.D.; and Brooke Harrison, Ph.D. Absent: Vice President Jorge DeSantiago.

BCPH Staff: Public Health Director Jeff Zayach; Deputy Public Health Director Lexi Nolan, Ph.D.; Director of Strategic Initiatives Susan Motika; Director of Finance and Administration Megan Hatten; Community Health Division Manager Nadine Bridges; Environmental Health Division Manager Joe Malinowski; Health Equity Coordinator Sheila Davis, M.D.; Consumer Protection Program Coordinator Lane Drager; Environmental Health Specialist Melissa Ellis; Assistant County Attorney Kate Haywood; and Administrative Assistant Rita Mangeyn.

Meeting Called to Order.

President Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and asked all participants to identify themselves for the record (see above). He declared that a quorum was present, that notice of the meeting was posted on the Board of Health website, and that call-in information was included to allow for public participation. Due to COVID-19, the need for social distancing, and the current public health order, President Thomas said the meeting was being conducted online and telephonically.

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

None.

ITEM 2. Approval of September 14, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes. Approval of September 23, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes.

Board Member Harrison made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member McMillan, to approve the September 14, 2020, Board of Health regular meeting minutes and September 23, 2020, special meeting minutes, as presented. With all members present voting in favor of the motion, President Thomas declared the motion carried. Absent: Vice President Jorge DeSantiago.

ITEM 3. Public Hearing on Adoption of Revised Body Art Regulations.

Consumer Protection Program Coordinator Lane Drager introduced this item and said the proposed body art regulation revisions were presented at the September 14, 2020, Board of Health meeting. The Boulder County Public Health Body Art Regulations have not been updated since 2009.

The National Environment Health Association (NEHA) developed model regulations for use nationwide, so Mr. Drager said it was an ideal time to assess and update the local regulations to mirror the national model. He said staff met with local body art stakeholders to discuss the proposed changes. One area not revised that may be explored later was the licensing of individual body artists.

Mr. Drager reviewed the major regulation changes with the Board, including revisions pertaining to ear piercing. He said ear piercing hasn't been historically included in the regulations, so some facilities will now need to become licensed.

President Thomas opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to comment. There being none, he closed the public hearing.

President Thomas asked if any local body artists were under the age of 18 years. Mr. Drager said he wasn't aware of any but reiterated that the regulations allow for persons under 18 years to serve as body art apprentices.

The Board discussed the effective date of the revised regulations and determined they should become effective on January 1, 2021, to allow staff to prepare and distribute the updated regulations and associated documents (e.g. forms, website, database, etc.).

Board Member Harrison made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member Fagan, to approve the revised body art regulations, with an effective date of January 1, 2021. With all members present voting in favor of the motion, President Thomas declared the motion carried. Absent: Vice President DeSantiago.

ITEM 4. Update on Current COVID-19 Pandemic.

Public Health Director Jeff Zayach presented this item and shared slides of current COVID-19 metrics being monitored. He said the current third wave of the pandemic cycle that Colorado was experiencing was the result of reduced compliance with social distancing and masking requirements. He said the metro Denver area, including Denver and Adams Counties, was experiencing a steep uptick in COVID-19 cases. The data also indicate higher education facilities were responsible for many cases in Denver, but Boulder County was seeing a downward trend in cases at the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU) due to the implementation of measures to mitigate surges, both on and near the campus.

Mr. Zayach outlined Colorado "dial" metrics defined by various levels that correspond with associated restrictions. Because of the successful slowdown of COVID-19 activity at CU, the State has returned Boulder County to Safer at Home, Level 2. Mr. Zayach said three primary indicators allow movement between levels on the state's dial: 1) number of new cases, 2) percentage of positivity rates, and 3) stable or declining hospitalizations.

As of October 12, the case rate for Boulder County was 127.5 per 100,000 persons, and Mr. Zayach said he anticipated the number would decline even further. He said the current 2.7% positivity rate was promising, and hospitalizations showed 11 straight days of declining or stable hospital admissions. He reported that key mitigation metric indicators (e.g. testing goals for CU students, new cases per 100,000 among people 18-22 years old in Boulder County, positivity rates among that population, etc.) were evaluated to determine current public health orders. Mr. Zayach said he met every Tuesday with key agency administrators in Boulder County to present and evaluate metrics and determine next steps. The information is also shared with the public and the CU community. He reported there has been a significant drop in cases over the past several days, which was positive news, although hospitalizations were on the rise.

Mr. Zayach thanked the City of Boulder, CU, and BCPH staff for their excellent mitigation work to address the recent surge of cases at CU. He added, however, there continued to be large gatherings in the Hill neighborhood near campus, so Boulder Police would be following up to determine next steps for enforcement and disciplinary actions. Mr. Zayach said he had received feedback and complaints from some CU students and parents because the public health orders also affected students who were compliant with public health orders. He acknowledged their frustration but noted that it was not possible to separate the student population to only target noncompliant students. Looking forward, Mr. Zayach said he anticipated there will be more challenges due to the onset of colder weather, the flu season, holiday gatherings, and the need to stay indoors. He stressed the importance of all individuals continuing to

follow public health guidelines to keep case numbers down. He said individual behavior will drive outcomes.

Board Member Harrison asked if “social distancing burnout” was influencing the rise in cases around the state. And if so, she asked if discussions were taking place to address that. Mr. Zayach said multiple conversations were being held. He cited recent marketing campaigns of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and Kaiser-Permanente to provide education on the importance of social distancing and masking. CDPHE messaging has been well-tested and included consultation with multiple populations across the state.

Director of Strategic Initiatives Susan Motika said a campaign called “Step Up Colorado” was a joint effort among metro area public information officers (PIOs) and other key stakeholders. The campaign would be released soon and continue through the end of the year. She said she will share that information with the Board when it is received. Health Equity Coordinator Sheila Davis added it was an impressive campaign that spoke to all demographics.

Board Member McMillan asked if school district data was being tracked with the reopening of schools. Mr. Zayach said cases were being tracked, but that data wasn’t being separated by county. He said St. Vrain Valley School District tracked cases, but Boulder Valley School District hadn’t committed to do that yet. He cited a Brown University study that evaluated 200,000 children to assess COVID-19 transmission rates of K-12 grades across the country and concluded those transmission rates were low, and super spreader events didn’t typically derive from that population. He said nearby Cherry Creek School District and others have cited similar trends. He indicated that many schools were closing or scaling back because of operational issues and not due to outbreaks of COVID-19.

President Thomas asked for additional hospitalization information, and Mr. Zayach said he would confirm with staff and follow up with the Board.

Board Member McMillan commended Mr. Zayach and BCPH staff for their work in mitigating the recent surge at CU. President Thomas asked if that area command structure would continue, and Mr. Zayach said that will likely demobilize soon but will continue at least through October.

President Thomas asked if staff was going to release any guidance for safe trick-or-treating at Halloween. Mr. Zayach said CDPHE released safe Halloween guidance, which was linked on BCPH’s website.

Board Member McMillan asked if BCPH will collect flu data and how that compared to previous years. Mr. Zayach said he would gather that data from the Epidemiology Team and follow up with the Board.

ITEM 5. Director’s Report.

Mosquito Control: President Thomas asked if Vector Disease Control International (VDCI) was historically the contractor hired by Boulder County. Director of Administration and Finance Megan Hatten said this vendor has been selected to provide mosquito control services for Boulder County the past four years.

Syringe Exchange: Board Member Harrison asked what was driving the increase in syringe numbers, as reported by The Works Program. Mr. Zayach said he would follow up with staff for that information.

COVID-19: Board Member Harrison asked for an update on the COVID-19 vaccine, and Mr. Zayach said he would have more information from CDPHE to share at the November 9 Board of Health meeting.

President Thomas asked about the current testing capacity. Mr. Zayach said the current capacity was 495 tests a day but has been as high as 1,600/day. He said there hasn't been issues with testing capacity, even with the recent surge at CU. He said the drive-up site at Stazio Fields will be supported by CDPHE through 2020. Testing at that site is free to anyone and provides good surveillance of community spread. He said there are discussions about possibly moving that site so it's more centrally located. He said the walk-up site has been moved to the CU campus to better serve CU students.

Board Member Harrison asked about the need to address increased food insecurity. Environmental Health Division Manager Joe Malinowski said additional funding would help and that staff was working with the Boulder County Farmers Markets on increased delivery of fresh fruits and vegetables.

ITEM 6. Old & New Business / Announcements.

Mr. Zayach announced he is retiring next April after 31 years at Boulder County Public Health. He said he's been planning his retirement for two years and adjusted his plans because of COVID-19. He assured the Board that a solid transition plan will be developed over the coming months, and BCPH was poised for continued success due to its strong leadership and innovative and progressive staff. He said the agency has strong support from the Boulder County Board of County Commissions, legislators, and the community to help BCPH carry public health initiatives forward. President Thomas and the Board Members congratulated and thanked Mr. Zayach for his many years of service.

ITEM 7. Adjournment.

There being nothing further to discuss, President Thomas declared the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.



Gregg Thomas, President



Jeffrey V. Zayach, Public Health Director