

OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**Boulder County Board of Health (BOH) Regular Meeting
Online/Telephonic Meeting
September 13, 2021**

BOH Members: President Gregg Thomas; Board Members Morgan McMillan, Landrey Fagan, Brooke Harrison, and Lindy Hinman.

BCPH Staff: Executive Director Camille Rodriguez; Community Health Division Support Lead Tina Guenther; Environmental Health Division Manager Joe Malinowski; Interim Strategic Initiatives Director Kelli Hintch; Marketing and Communications Manager Angela Simental; Immunization Program Coordinator Keith Rawls; Emergency Manager Chris Campbell; and Administrative Services Division Support Lead Rita Mangeyn.

Boulder County Staff: Senior Assistant County Attorney Kate Haywood.

Guests: Community Engagement Specialists Aisa Garita and Ignacio Borunda.

Members of the Public:

- 1) Matt Menza, Boulder, CO
- 2) Kelli Baker, Boulder County
- 3) Mike McGill, 1933 March Court, Erie, CO 80516
- 4) Martine (no last name given), 4185 Apache Road, Boulder, CO 80303
- 5) Elicia Tanja (last name unclear), 322 Jasmine, Longmont, CO 80504
- 6) Mark Milliman, 4080 Greens Place, Longmont, CO 80503
- 7) Joe Mehsling, 2100 Breckenridge Street, Berthoud, CO 80513

Meeting Called to Order.

Board Member McMillan, acting on behalf of President Thomas, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked all participants to identify themselves for the record (see above). She 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, Board Member McMillan said the meeting was being conducted online and telephonically.

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

Members of the public spoke for and against the recent mask mandates.

ITEM 2. Approval of August 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes and Approval of September 2, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes.

Board Member Fagan made a motion, which was seconded by President Thomas, to approve the August 9, 2021, Regular Board of Health minutes and the September 2, 2021 Special Board of Health minutes. With all Board Members present voting in favor of the motion, Board Member McMillan declared the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM 3. Farewell to Outgoing Vice President Jorge De Santiago and Introduction of New Board Member Lindy Hinman.

Director Rodriguez said it was an honor to work with Vice President De Santiago for the past 90 days that she has served as Executive Director. She was sad that their time together was short, but she is hopeful that their paths will cross again on community public health efforts in the future. Ms. Rodriguez thanked Vice President De Santiago on behalf of BCPH and the community that he served so well for the past nine and a half years. Board Member McMillan echoed Ms. Rodriguez's gratitude for Vice President De Santiago's time on the board and noted his valuable contributions to the immigrant and Latinx communities including efforts around health equity. President Thomas said he will miss the few minutes spent before each board meeting, during pre-COVID days, talking about interests outside the board. President Thomas also offered his thank you and wished Vice President De Santiago well for the future. Vice President De Santiago thanked everyone for their well wishes, expressed appreciation for the work BCPH is doing to fight COVID-19, acknowledged the great BCPH leadership, and the dedicated board members. He hopes to continue the partnership with BCPH on community public health efforts well into the future.

Ms. Rodriguez then introduced new Board Member Lindy Hinman who began her tenure on September 1, 2021. Board Member Hinman thanked everyone for the warm welcome and said she is excited to begin her service on the board. She spoke of her passion for public health starting with her master's degree from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She spent many years in Washington D.C. working to identify the nexus between industry and policy and how these two worlds could intersect in a meaningful way especially in health care. Board Member Hinman is also passionate about access to care. She returned to her native Colorado to help start up Connect for Health Colorado. She expressed her commitment to being involved in the public health community, is honored to have been chosen to serve on this board and is looking forward to working with everyone and serving the community.

ITEM 4. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Survey

Community Engagement Specialists Aisa Garita and Ignacio Borunda presented on the ARPA community engagement outreach that is currently being conducted throughout the county. As part of this effort, the Community Engagement Team seeks to gather input from this board that will help inform how Boulder County can help its residents, workers, and business build assets, strength, and resilience to withstand future impacts.

Mr. Borunda provided background information on the community outreach effort. He said that Boulder County like many other local governments recently received \$63.3 million in funds through ARPA. These funds were distributed to help respond to community needs, address the pandemic's economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery. Boulder County along with Community Foundation Boulder formed the ARPA steering committee. The two organizations reached out to Rebuild by Design, a government consultant, which helps communities rebuild after disasters or traumatic events. This group then partnered with several community organizations such as Front Range Community College, Human Services Alliance of Boulder County, Boulder County Arts Alliance, Peak to Peak Housing and Human Services Alliance, and Northwest Chamber Alliance to better understand the broader community's needs and impacts of the pandemic.

Mr. Borunda outlined the four goals of the steering committee. These are to ensure that the disproportionate effects of COVID-19 on certain communities are mitigated for the future by building assets, strength, and resilience; provide robust opportunities for community engagement around the distribution of ARPA funds to promote an inclusive government process; to understand residents' experiences to inform long-term planning for Boulder County; and in the process to be transparent, equitable, and inclusive.

The survey is available in English, Spanish, and Nepali at bouldercountysurvey.com

- Board Member McMillan asked if demographic data are being collected with the survey. Mr. Borunda said yes and then provided some data points. The survey takers have been mostly white,

female, 55 years and older. There were 186 female and 80 male survey takers; 228 identified as white, 20 as Latinx, and 9 as Asian. Nine respondents took the survey in Spanish. The team is working to improve outreach to the Latinx community.

- Board Member McMillan further inquired on what the geographic breakdown looks like especially among the mountain communities; and if members of the Nepali community have taken the survey. Mr. Borunda said that the group is working with the Peak to Peak Housing and Human Services Alliance to provide outreach to the towns of Lyons, Nederland, and other unincorporated areas. The survey is now available in Nepali, so he expects there to be more participation from members of the Nepali community.
- Board Member Harrison asked if board members can forward the survey link to their networks. Mr. Borunda said yes, and the team encourages the survey link to be shared broadly with friends, colleagues, family, neighbors, etc.

Ms. Garita then shared the survey progress and addressed the community engagement goals. She confirmed that 379 surveys have been collected with 200 taken in the first week. Ms. Garita noted that the surveys need to be completed by September 30, 2021 and the goal is to have 1500 collected. The team thus far organized 14 outreach events. Their aim is to have 30 events completed by the deadline. The collected survey data will inform the proposal that will be sent in October to the Boulder County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

Ms. Garita shared the survey themes that have emerged including food insecurity, affordable housing, mental health, childcare, and small business struggles. She also outlined the various ways that everyone can get involved in the effort. These include taking the survey; passing on the survey link to friends, family, neighbors, etc. so as many people as possible can offer their input; signing up to host a community forum; and getting involved by watching for events happening in the community.

- Board Member Harrison asked about hosting a community forum and how the data gathering will work. Ms. Garita said that there is toolkit available. She or Mr. Borunda can also be invited to present at the forum, help the attendees take the survey, and help gather the input received.
- Board Member McMillan asked about the LGBTQIA+ community engagement. Mr. Borunda said that the team is working with Out Boulder and many other LGBTQIA+ groups on outreach.

The survey link will be sent to Director Rodriguez who will forward it to the board. The board thanked Mr. Borunda and Ms. Garita for the presentation and their community engagement work.

ITEM 5. COVID-19 Update: Testing and Vaccination Accessibility, Sites, and Plans

Emergency Manager Chris Campbell began the presentation by acknowledging and recognizing Immunization (IZ) Program Coordinator Keith Rawls and his team for their immunization efforts during the pandemic especially the numerous vaccination clinics that Mr. Rawls has led in the county, far and wide.

Mr. Campbell then went on to give an update on testing and vaccination. The data include:

- Testing and positivity: 1800-2000 tests a day in the county which is a significant increase. The 7-day PCR positivity is holding steady at 4.1%.
- Continuing to ensure that free, easily accessible testing is available in various locations such as Stazio/Boulder, Longmont, Centaurus/Lafayette, Nederland), and congregate (shelters for homeless, jails) settings.
- Redeploying the COVID Recovery Center (CRC), which allows a safe isolation space for unhoused community members.
- Supporting ECE (Early Childhood Education) and K-12 testing needs.
- Board Member McMillan asked about at-home testing and if the results are recorded and tracked in the system especially for individuals who test positive. Mr. Campbell believes that at-home testing is not recorded in the system, but he will confirm and follow up. He said

that BCPH always recommends at-home testing be supplemented with a PCR test so that the results can be confirmed, tracked, and recorded in the system.

- Vaccinated 82% of eligible (12+ ages) population with at least one dose; full course coverage for this group is 77%. Focusing on ages 15-24 to increase their vaccination rates.
- Increased vaccinations to 368 a day, includes third doses for immunocompromised individuals.
- Continuing equity strategy with vaccination education and community partnerships with mountain, faith-based, Latinx, and LGBTQIA+ communities. Also working with Community Ambassadors who are facilitating vaccine access and offering education to community members.

Mr. Rawls shared the vaccination plans that are slated for the next few weeks. One effort is to require all BCPH staff to be vaccinated as part of employee health policies. Mr. Rawls and the IZ team will again be providing influenza clinics to BCPH staff. He noted that booster doses for employees will be administered as they become available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He noted that over 94% of employees have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

In the community, there is a large effort underway to vaccinate youth and young adults ages 12-29 whose rates are some of the lowest among the ages groups. Broad vaccine equity efforts led by the Vaccine Equity Coordinating Committee (VECC) include working with Community Ambassadors and Cultural Brokers to conduct townhalls, canvassing targeted neighborhoods, word of mouth, direct conversations, training on motivational interviewing, and solidifying relationships with faith communities. Part of the equity strategy is to leverage resources from the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) for businesses, events, and equity clinics. With the resources available, BCPH is able to offer weekend and after hours vaccine clinics at the Longmont St. Vrain HUB site for targeted populations as well as an upcoming event with The Latino Chamber of Boulder County at the Roosevelt Park Community Center. Gifts cards will be provided at this event as an incentive.

Mr. Campbell noted the many partnerships both internal and external have been ongoing in providing vaccine education to the community.

The current planning effort includes focusing on pediatric/youth vaccines (11 years and under) as this group becomes eligible for vaccination. One effort is to connect with primary care providers and pediatricians in the county by hosting an upcoming webinar with CDPHE IZ branch for all pediatric and primary care providers. BCPH is currently administering third doses for the immunocompromised individuals and preparing and planning for booster shots as they become available/approved by ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) and the FDA (Federal Drug Administration).

Mr. Campbell also recognized the mass public information campaigns led by Communications Manager Angela Simental that include parent surveys, print materials, bus/shelter advertisements, social media and website education campaigns, radio interviews in Spanish and English, townhalls, and guest columns in the *Daily Camera*.

Mr. Rawls ended the presentation by recognizing retired public health nurse, Laura Weiss, who has worked with BCPH during the vaccine campaigns. She created a chandelier out of empty vaccine vials as a tribute to health care workers for their tireless efforts. This project received national attention and the Smithsonian Museum has expressed interest in the piece. Mr. Rawls thanked the many people involved in the response battle against COVID-19.

- Board Member McMillan also recognized and thanked the IZ team including the Community Ambassadors for their vaccine equity campaigns in the community. She then asked about vaccine equity for youth of color and if the disparity still exists. Mr. Campbell said that disparities are still being seen. There was a strategy session with the Community Ambassadors to plan for more connection with youth of color. Board Member McMillan added that as the booster

campaign preparations begin, she is hoping that health equity is built into the booster campaign work and it can be delivered to targeted populations as efficiently as possible. Mr. Campbell said he and his team have heard from the outreach team which will build on the momentum of previous campaigns to provide vaccines in an efficient manner.

- Board Member Harrison mentioned that she heard a comment from a city council candidate during a City of Boulder City Council election campaign panel discussion who said that BCPH is failing at vaccine equity. This candidate is an attorney with the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union). She wondered if anyone at BCPH has reached out to the ACLU or if there is any interest in forming a partnership. Director Rodriguez is not aware of anyone reaching out to this organization, but she said that she will not be satisfied until 100% of the eligible population is vaccinated no matter their race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. She acknowledged that more work can be done, but much is being achieved by the outreach teams of Cultural Brokers and Community Ambassadors. Director Rodriguez noted that she and Deputy Director Lexi Nolen have a strong connection and partnership with the City of Boulder and its Council.
- Board Member Hinman said she has been hearing some confusion in the community regarding private and public testing opportunities. She thinks that maybe there is a way to streamline the public's understanding about community testing. She also received community input on school testing and if there is an opportunity to discuss feedback and possibly a pilot that helps support increasing a testing environment for schools. Mr. Campbell welcomes the feedback from community members such as clarifying turnaround times and other testing challenges and working with the board and community members to help improve the testing roadmap.

Public Comment:

- Member of the public suggested shifting the paradigm around mask mandates and instead strongly encouraging the public to stay home when sick, and not sending children to school when they are ill. He noted that hundreds of children who were close contacts have been sent home which severely disrupted their education.
- Member of the public asked about testing and out of the tests conducted, how many are sequenced per CDPHE's public health order that requires 100% of all of the samples to be sequenced.

ITEM 6. Request Approval of Amendments to the Board of Health Bylaws Regarding Public Health Comment and Amendment Procedures.

Senior Assistant County Attorney Kate Haywood said that the existing BCPH BOH Bylaws ("Bylaws") includes a section on "Public Comment". The proposed amendments to the Public Comment section are intended to bring the Bylaws into greater alignment with Colorado Open Meetings Law ("COML") requirements and to provide flexibility to the BOH to conduct business in a manner that best serves the BOH's needs on a wide range of topics with varying degrees of public interest. Ms. Haywood added that the proposed, amended Bylaws also modify the "Amendments" section to strike language requiring that proposed amendments to the Bylaws be submitted to the BOH three days prior to the BOH meeting at which bylaw amendments are considered for approval. Striking this language brings bylaw amendments into greater alignment with other BOH business, which do not otherwise have specific notice requirements, thereby increasing administrative consistency for BCPH staff.

- Board Member Harrison asked how scheduling public comment during a board meeting would work under the Bylaws. Ms. Haywood said that the language in the Bylaws would allow the board to have flexibility in determining when and how to schedule public comment.
- Board Member McMillan asked for clarification about the amendment to the Bylaws that aims to ensure order and expectations around public comment. Ms. Haywood said that in reviewing the language in the Bylaws around Public Comment, the aim was to bring legal concepts into alignment and the Bylaws to be there to best serve the board in its ability to conduct business.

The aim is not to have constraints in the Bylaws that are unnecessarily and don't further this purpose.

- Board Member Harrison appreciates having the Public Comment opportunity at every meeting, a list of public speakers available beforehand, and having a time limit on Public Comment which can be determined based on the number of people who have signed up. She was concerned, however, with the language in the Bylaws that states, "The President may refuse to allow repetitive or irrelevant testimony regardless of allowable time limits" because the words "repetitive" and "irrelevant" appeared arbitrary and the action could then be subject to the whims of a President. She would prefer the Public Comment be managed through time limits and the number of the public who signed up. Ms. Haywood explained the intent of the language was for the board President, in the consideration of time, to be allowed to thoughtfully control Public Comment if the same point were to be repetitively addressed by members of the public. Board Members Hinman and McMillan agreed with Board Member Harrison's interpretation and moved to strike this language from the Bylaws.
- Board Member McMillan asked if this public comment process is similar to other county departments or does it differ. Ms. Haywood said that she has not conducted a comprehensive survey of other departments, but she is aware that the BOCC does not hear public comment for every single meeting.

Public Comment:

Member of the public agreed about striking the language noted above from the Bylaws.

Board Member Harrison made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member Fagan, to Approve Amendments to the Board of Health Bylaws Regarding Public Health Comment and Amendment Procedures and to modify to strike the following language, "The President may refuse to allow repetitive or irrelevant testimony regardless of allowable time limits" from the Bylaws. With all Board Members voting in favor of the motion, Board Member McMillan declared the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM 7. Request Approval of Contract with a Chief Medical Officer through Denver Health and Hospital Authority.

Director Rodriguez announced that Dr. Christopher Urbina, M.D., will be retiring on September 30, 2021 and a new Medical Officer will need to be appointed by the BOH. As such, Ms. Rodriguez is recommending for the board to give her the authority to sign a new contract with Denver Health and Hospital Authority that will make available to BCPH medical officer services through a pool of qualified physicians with public health practice experience or content area expertise. Dr. Michelle Haas, M.D., will be designated as BCPH's Medical Director, and Drs. Rowan and Belknap will provide backup support to Dr. Haas.

Board Member Harrison made a motion, which was seconded by Board Member Hinman, to approve the Contract with a Chief Medical Officer through Denver Health and Hospital Authority. With all Board Members voting in favor of the motion, Board Member McMillan declared the motion unanimously carried.

ITEM 8. Director's Report.

Director Rodriguez emphasized the great partnerships that BCPH enjoys with community organizations helping to protect and promote public health. She added that BCPH has continued its day to day operations in serving the community outside of COVID-19 efforts. Ms. Rodriguez also highlighted the section where the answers to the board's questions, that were not answered during the previous meetings, were included in the report. The board members appreciated having this section included. Board Member McMillan spoke to the good news in the report that no school outbreaks have been reported. She is also excited about the business community's embracing of the employer vaccine policies. Board Member Hinman said that as a new board member she especially enjoyed reading about the BCPH services

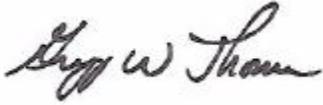
and supports that continue concurrently with the COVID-19 response efforts. She commends all of the work being accomplished amid the pandemic response.

ITEM 9. Old & New Business / Announcements.

Board Member McMillan reminded the public that they are welcome to send the board comments and feedback through healthinfo@bouldercounty.org

ITEM 10. Adjournment.

There being nothing further to discuss, Board Member McMillan declared the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.



Gregg Thomas, President



Camille Rodriguez, Executive Director