

## **LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH – February 20, 2019**

The Larimer County Board of Health (BOH) convened its regular meeting at the Larimer County Building, 200 Peridot Ave., Loveland, Colorado, in the Big Thompson River Conference Room. The regular meeting followed a Board of Health retreat that began at 1:30 and ended at 6 p.m. in the Poudre River Conference Room.

### **Members Present:**

Jennifer Lee

Janna West Kowalski

Teri Olson

Brian DelGrosso

Dr. Bernard Birnbaum

**Executive Secretary:** Tom Gonzales

**County Staff:** Paulina Bennett, Thomas Butts, Andrea Clement-Johnson, Kelli Curl, Kelsey Lyon, Katie O'Donnell, Bruce Peters, Sara Rhoten, Myra Shanks, Averil Strand, Lorenda Volker, Kate Whitman

**Guests:** Anne Marie Braga, Keith Siemsen, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

**Community Members:** Bob Rowland

1. **Call to Order** - Jennifer Lee, board president, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

## 2. Approval of the Minutes

**ACTION:** Teri Olson made a motion to approve the January 2019 minutes; it was seconded by Brian DelGrosso.

*The motion was unanimously approved.*

3. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

4. **Financial Report** – Bruce Peters presented the December 2018 year-to-date financials. These are not the finalized financials for 2018 and there is still intergovernmental revenue that the department is waiting to receive that is usually a quarter behind in timing. Currently, 87% of the expected revenue has been received. Personnel expenses were exceeded by \$230,000, but the department submitted a request for reimbursement of ~\$180,000 in payout expenses to the Larimer County Budget Office. Mr. DelGrosso asked if this was a normal occurrence or if this year was higher than normal. Mr. Peters said the request was higher this year. The payouts are to cover retirements in 2018. The retirement payouts for the public health director and the assistant environmental health director will be paid out in 2019.

Mr. Peters said that the department is still on track with the budget estimations for the year. He provided an update to the January 2019 financial report regarding a 2018 revenue shortage of ~\$100,000 in Charges for Services. The revenue estimates for travel immunization were budgeted to be higher than what was received because we cannot currently receive yellow fever vaccine. Conversely, we saved money by not purchasing yellow fever vaccine. Overall, this revenue shortfall was more than offset by reduced expenses.

Mr. Peters suggested a yearly outline for financial reports; the first three months of the year will be updates on the closing of the previous year financials. After the first quarter, starting in April, the financial reports will provide updates on the current year's financials. In July, Mr. Peters will provide an update on the previous year's audited financials. Board members agreed this was a good outline for updates. Janna West Kowalski said she liked how the overall budget was broken out by the Foundational Public Health model. Mr. Peters said he will look at the monthly financials and see if there is

meaningful data to report to make sure board members are weren't getting more information than what was needed.

5. **Medical Director's Report** – There was no report.
  
6. **2019-2023 Community Health Improvement Plan** – Tom Gonzales presented Board members with an updated 2019-2023 Community Health Improvement Plan. He thanked the Board for the comments and feedback they provided in the January meeting to the draft plan. In addition to the full plan, an executive summary which included the Health Department's role in the plan was presented to the Board. Ms. West Kowalski said the updated plan gives a better sense on what the community identified and what is happening within priorities and strategies while outlining what is going to be accomplished. She said she hopes this plan can be a useful tool both for communications and to outline what the community is trying to do.

***ACTION:*** Ms. Olson made a motion to accept the revised 2019-2023 Community Health Improvement Plan, it was seconded by Bernard Birnbaum.

***The motion was unanimously approved***

7. **Vaccine Survey Report** – Health Educators Kelli Curl and Myra Shanks gave a presentation on the results of a survey they conducted around vaccine hesitation in Larimer County. The survey was marketed online through social media and on the Department's website. Mr. DelGrosso gave an example of conflicting recommendations by physicians around delayed schedules for vaccinations. Ms. Curl said the current recommended schedule from the Centers for Disease Control is what is known to be safe and that there is little research around delayed vaccination schedules.

Mr. DelGrosso asked how to better partner with providers? Ms. Curl and Ms. Shanks said they have handouts and materials to give to providers but they're not entirely confident that they're being used. Mr. DelGrosso asked how the department can help build confidence since the information isn't coming from a drug company but instead coming from the local Board of Health? Katie O'Donnell said there has been a push to get that messaging out in the community and that LCDHE utilizes their own branding and communication in lieu of drug company materials. Dr. Birnbaum recommended finding a "vaccination champion" in every practice, partner with non-physicians, or nurses, to help encourage vaccinations and make them feel empowered in working with physicians. Ms.

West Kowalski and Dr. Birnbaum both recommended looking at systems change, and getting the systems involved, to understand how vaccination rates might affect Medicaid/insurance payouts to practices that have good vaccination rates. Also, they recommended looking at reaching out to the schools with the lowest vaccination rates.

Instead of redoing the survey, the Board recommended using the survey baseline data and doing a population based and targeting approach to work with providers. Dr. Birnbaum said there's literature around doing a population-based approach and going directly to the populations most affected. Dr. Birnbaum added it is important to target populations to make big changes as opposed to targeting broadly for small gains, and he emphasized building relationships. Ms. West Kowalski recommended utilizing existing literature and developing relationships out in the community. Dr. Birnbaum said he could help identify practices and in providing feedback, and the Board could provide a role to help get in the door to providers and populations.

8. **Role and Responsibility of Local Boards of Health** – Anne Marie Braga and Keith Siemsen from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment did a presentation around the roles and responsibilities for the local boards of health. The presentation provided an overview of public health, background for the Public Health Transformation project and the Foundational Public Health Model.

Board members were given a handout of their expected roles and responsibilities that outlined how the specific roles are delegated to the Board of Health and the Public Health Director. It was recommended that the board develop a legislative policy on when to provide advocacy and to develop a media policy.

9. **Director's Report** – Mr. Gonzales provided an update from Medical Director Dr. Adrienne LeBailly that hospitalization for flu cases are up, but that isn't out of the ordinary for this time of year.

Mr. Gonzales highlighted items in the January 2019 Director's Report. The Department submitted a letter of partnership to the Early Childhood Council of Larimer County, this is in line with the priority in the 2019-2023 Community Health Improvement Plan. Mr. Gonzales met with all county commissioners individually and received feedback that can be incorporated in the strategic planning efforts. The first week of April is National Public Health Week. The communications office is putting together a group to plan

activities during the week and the Department will draft a joint proclamation for the Board of Health and Board of County Commissioners to consider in honor of Public Health Week. Public Health Week will also highlight the future of public health and will emphasize the roll out of the 2019-2023 Community Health Improvement Plan. On April 25, all three Health Department locations will close, and staff will participate in an all-day staff development day with training on emergency preparedness, and presentations on the Community Health Improvement Plan, social determinants of health, health equity and a motivational speaker. The department did a second round of interviews with a candidate for the Environmental Health Director position. The hiring team will evaluate the outcomes of the interviews and review the feedback forms submitted by staff and outside partners involved in the interview process. The interview process was designed in a similar fashion to the process used to hire Mr. Gonzales, inviting community partners and staff to participate and to give feedback.

10. **Legislative Update** – Averil Strand provided an update on several bills. One bill referred to as the “Lemonade Stand Bill” is moving through the legislature and would allow kids to sell food without regulations as long as they’re not competing with local business. Dr. Birnbaum said that Boards have an important role to be aware of “groupthink” in the senate, the house, and the governor. If there are things that come up that the Board needs to be aware of, be sure to bring it as an action item to the Board. Larimer County has local state representatives that are willing to listen to the Board of Health.

Mr. Gonzales presented a draft letter in support of HB19-1076, Clean Indoor Air Act (CCIAA), for the Board to consider taking action. The bill updates the Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act (CCIAA) to add a definition of “electronic smoking devices” (ESD), and it discontinues the former exemptions included in the CCIAA when it passed. Mr. Gonzales said vaping is no safer than smoking and there’s research that it could be worse because of ultra-fine particulates. Ms. Olson said she has a problem with limiting business through the efforts included in the exemptions list. Andrea Clement-Johnson clarified that the bill is trying to correct exemptions for protecting the public that weren’t included in the original bill. Dr. Birnbaum said there’s good evidence to support this bill and that the Board should support it.

**ACTION:** Dr. Birnbaum made a motion to support and sign the letter as written, it was seconded by Ms. West Kowalski.

**Discussion:** Ms. West Kowalski said the original intent of the bill was to keep employees in business safe and protecting people from the effects of secondhand smoke.

*The motion was unanimously approved.*

It was requested that more information about the “Lemonade Stand Bill” be provided to the Board.

Ms. Strand provided an update on another bill that would require scientifically-based sex education in schools. The bill has passed out the house. Ms. West Kowalski suggested that the Board receive additional information around the pros and cons of a bill in their legislative update. Dr. Birnbaum said the Health District does a good job of providing a pro and con analysis, but that another source could be used. Ms. Olson said that information around bills should also try to look at the unintended consequences. The board is recommending that staff present or share evidence about issues to make informed decisions.

11. **Board Member Updates** – Ms. West Kowalski said that County Health Rankings will be releasing data and that this could be a great opportunity to leverage national media and pivot to our local plan and work on equity. This information can be used to make a story about our county. Ms. Lee reminded the board that the Mental Health Kickoff, related to the 1A ballot initiative will be on Feb. 23.

The Board provided feedback about how the meetings have been going and recommendations for future meetings. Dr. Birnbaum recommended keeping the presentations short and to the point. Ms. West Kowalski appreciated knowing in advance on the agenda if the board needs to take action. Ms. Olson and Dr. Birnbaum both thought the retreat went well and that the information provided, and the use of an external facilitator, was a good choice.

The Board recommended canceling the July meeting and will reevaluate at the June meeting if there is a need to have a July meeting.

12. **The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.**

## Director's Report

February 2019

### **Workforce Development**

**Goal: Strengthen LCDHE's workforce to improve public health and environmental quality**

#### **2019 Annual Workplan Objective Goal and Result:**

- By February 26, 2019, review covered entities report for HIPAA.
  - o The report from Berry Dunn (the reviewers) has not yet been released; they are visiting the three department sites in late March. More to come.
- By February 28, 2019, assess program staffing levels to ensure coverage for zoonotic investigation, follow-up, and testing.
  - o Zoonoses staffing has been discussed; final team assignments pending new hires in Environmental Health. Team members will attend state zoonoses conference in April.
- By February 15, 2019, develop notification tools and supporting material to increase efficiency of zoonoses program.
  - o Draft letters for final bite follow-up and quarantine templates are in place; final draft for bite follow-up is pending approval by Animal Control.
- By March 1, 2019, complete an assessment of employee knowledge and comfort around public health core competencies.
  - o Utilizing a Core Competency Assessment developed for Tri-County Health Department, all staff were surveyed with a 67 percent response rate. Survey results will help guide the department's priorities to identify training for staff. The Leadership Team will use the results of this survey to develop a workforce development plan.
- By March 1, 2019, develop a department-wide quality improvement team to develop a quality improvement plan and work toward continuous quality improvement.

- o Public health planner announced the beginning of the Quality Improvement (QI) Team at the February Supervisor Team meeting. The goal is to have representation from all programs and supervisors were asked to identify interested staff to participate. This team will facilitate the QI process for the department, divisions, and programs.

### **Non Workplan Related Department Activities:**

- The department was selected as a host site for a funded intern via the National Environmental Health Association. The intern will focus on gathering data about the condition and management of public swimming pools and the possible benefits of developing an inspection program and will shadow our EH staff in the field.

### **Technology**

#### **Goal: Strengthen capabilities to collect, analyze, share, and use data to make decisions**

### **2019 Annual Workplan Objective Goal and Result:**

- By March 1, 2019, evaluate 2018 performance measurements and determine top priorities for improvement and create protocol for leadership team quarterly discussion on performance measurement.
  - o Performance metrics were provided to the Leadership Team. Based on staff capacity, the Leadership Team decided to identify a subset of metrics to focus on for 2019. They will be deciding this subset in March.
- By March 1, 2019, collect evaluation metrics from 2018 and input them into the CHIP dashboard.
  - o Completed for the mental health dashboard. Partners are sending in data for the access to quality childcare dashboard by the end of March. The CHIP dashboards can be a useful tool for community partners to identify the work happening in the county around the CHIP priority areas. Additionally, United Way just signed a contract to utilize the same dashboard platform, making collaboration between CHIP and United Way easier.

### **Non Workplan Related Department Activities:**



- Medical check-in technology was used for the first time between Immunization, Reproductive Health and clerical teams during the Saturday walk-in clinic on February 9. The technology worked well and promoted efficient collaboration among staff.
- Scanning of nearly 15,000 on-site wastewater treatment system permit records into an internal database is near completion. Having access to all permits electronically will allow staff in all three offices the ability to search for permits via the online data warehouse rather than the hard copy files located in Fort Collins. We are working with county IT to provide permit access to the public.

## **Communication**

**External Goal: Strengthen LCDHE's capabilities to provide information on public health programs and issues to external partners**

**Internal Goal: Strengthen LCDHE's internal communication capabilities**

### **2019 Annual Workplan Objective Goal and Result:**

- By Feb. 15, 2019, identify individuals who should receive media relations training.
  - o The Leadership Team developed a draft list and will make a finalized list of identified staff members in March.
- By March 1, 2019, develop a communication plan for CHIP, including any social media promotions, and a plan to update the website each quarter.
  - o A comprehensive communication plan for CHIP was finalized for 2019. The plan includes the role out of CHIP during Public Health Week, April 1-7, and four videos: Introduction to CHIP, Promoting Mental and Emotional Wellbeing Across the Lifespan, Access to Quality Childcare, and Health Equity/Healthy Larimer Committee.
- By March 1, 2019, implement branding guidelines across the department and provide a mandatory training for all staff around this effort.
  - o Training was done in January 2019 at an all-staff meeting. Branding guidelines are available to all staff on the intraweb.

### **Non Workplan Related Department Activities:**

- The department participated in a chemical waste management training seminar with Thompson School District, Larimer County Natural Resources, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on February 28, to improve school chemical management knowledge.
- The department presented on “Land Use Planning for Public Health” for the Colorado State University's seminar program: Tuesday Environmental Health Discovery (TEHD) Talks.

## **Community Partners**

**Goal: Develop and maintain strong relationships with key community partners to support public health**

### **2019 Annual Workplan Objective Goal and Result:**

- By March 1, 2019, review LCDHE coalition survey results from attendees and determine needs for quality improvement.
  - o This is on hold until the Leadership Team determines if this is a performance metric that is a department priority to focus on in 2019.
- By March 1, 2019, create a list of additional CHIP partners to engage and develop an engagement plan.
  - o The CHIP team researched and brainstormed groups and potential partners working in the CHIP priority areas that haven't been engaged in CHIP work. The CHIP team is planning to reach out to any identified groups in the coming months and re-connecting with CHIP partners during Public Health Week and at the next CHIP quarterly coalition meeting.
- By March 1, 2019, identify coalitions with existing CHIP involvement and desired involvement and decide who will attend.
  - o Sara Rhoten will be attending the County Strategic Plan group focused on Access to Quality Childcare. Tom Gonzales is a member on the Behavioral Health Technical Advisory Committee and will be providing information back to the CHIP team on the work of that group. The CHIP team identified other coalitions that were important, but the team has already been actively participating in all of the coalitions on the list.

## **Non Workplan Related Department Activities:**

- All Poudre School District high school students enrolled in the Medical Careers Exploration program at Front Range Community College (and their instructors) received Public Health 101 training and an Introduction to Larimer County Department of Health and Environment (LCDHE) programming and services. Training occurred onsite at LCDHE in Fort Collins on February 25. Similar training for the Loveland Front Range Community College Medical Careers partners will be pursued, potentially for fall 2019.
- To identify and assess if there is a need to create a Loveland based built environment coalition, LCDHE staff met with staff from four organizations in February to conduct informational interviews (Loveland First Congregational Church, Chilson Center, Lago Vista Mobile Home Park, and SAINT).
- Reproductive Health program nursing staff were invited to present, in Spanish, about menopause to clients and staff at The Family Center, in collaboration with Poudre Fire Authority outreach efforts to provide CPR/AED training. The presentation was very successful, and participants were engaged and asked a lot of questions about reproductive health topics. Staff were invited back for follow up presentations.
- Reproductive Health program staff met with the directors of the Murphy House and Northern Colorado Health Network to discuss the possibility of offering limited STI screening off-site, where their clientele is most comfortable and accessible.
- Estes Park Communities that Care finalized three selected strategies:
  - o Build Community Support for Ordinances, Regulations, Requirements for Establishments Selling Liquor, Marijuana, or Promoting Prescription Drug Use;
  - o Build Public Support for District-Wide Implementation of Evidence-Based School Social-Emotional Learning; and
  - o Build Public Support for Creating Community Spaces for Youth.
- Northern Larimer County Communities That Care convened a Key Leader meeting to garner feedback on their three prioritized strategies (Fill Gaps in Social Emotional Learning, Advocate for a Tobacco Retail License, and Build Support for a Youth Center). This feedback was incorporated during implementation planning at the February Community Board meeting.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response program met with Larimer County Coroner's Office and Larimer County Emergency Management staff to discuss emergency

operations plans and response efforts in the event of a large-scale disaster or mass fatality event.

- The Northern Colorado Healthcare Coalition (Larimer and Weld) provided training for exercise planning for 23-chapter members. Members attending the training included home health, hospice, long-term care, public health and emergency management.
- Community Tobacco Initiative staff met with staff from Thompson School District, City of Loveland, and the District Attorney's Office to identify strategies to collaboratively work on decreasing youth vaping rates in the community.
- Community Tobacco Initiative staff worked with partners at McKee Medical Center to promote and recruit key participants for a vaping presentation by national researcher and secondhand smoke/vape expert Dr. Stan Glantz. Tom Gonzales introduced Dr. Glantz and other LCDHE staff, community leaders, parents, and youth attended the event.

## **Health Equity**

**Goal: Increase awareness of health equity issues, its systemic causes, and opportunities to foster health equity**

**Goal: Remove barriers to healthcare and community resources to improve health outcomes among health disparate populations**

### **2019 Annual Workplan Objective Goal and Result:**

- By March 1, 2019, promote the Larimer County Health Equity Framework and Evaluation Matrix to all internal programs.
  - o The Health Equity Framework and Matrix was promoted to all supervisors and the document for the assessment was sent out. Supervisors are asked to complete this assessment by May 1. This assessment will help guide a full-time Equity Fellow and Healthy Larimer Committee this summer in designing a resource guide and curriculum catered to LCDHE staff that will ensure more equitable implementation and delivery of programs and services.
- By March 1, 2019, promote the Larimer County Health Equity Framework and Evaluation Matrix to and CHIP community partners.

- o We will be discussing it further at our Quarterly Coalition meeting in March. Partners will be encouraged to complete the assessment and it is a requirement for any organization interested in utilizing the expertise of the Healthy Larimer Committee.

**Non Workplan Related Department Activities:**

- In an effort to increase access to clinic services for those who find it difficult to attend appointments during the work week, a Saturday clinic was offered on February 9 with walk-in clinic services. This was an important collaboration between the Immunization program, Reproductive Health program and clerical team.
- The Immunization Program held outreach clinics for underserved populations at the Murphy Center (one morning and one evening), Northern Colorado Health Network, Crossroads shelter for domestic violence, and at 137 Homeless Connect in Loveland. Additional outreach opportunities are being explored to decrease barriers to care, including evening hours and walk-in weekend hours.

**Other Items:**

- Built Environment and Environmental Health Planner provided joint comments on the Health and Social Section of the Larimer County Draft Comprehensive Plan.