

MINUTES
OF THE
BOARD OF HEALTH

JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO

** This meeting was held via Zoom **

On September 15, 2020 at 4:00 p.m., Vice President Lane Drager called the meeting to order. Lindsey Gonzales took roll call. The following additional Board members were present: Cheri Jahn, Dr. Dawn Comstock, Kimberley Krapek and Lane Drager. Amanda Crusier, counsel for Jefferson County Board of Health, was also present.

For the record Greg Deranleau was absent and a quorum was established.

Staff Members Presenting:

Dr. Mark Johnson, Executive Director
Joseph Badalpour, Administrative Services
Mary Sloan, Environmental Health Services

Acceptance of Consent Agenda:

Dr. Comstock made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Dr. Krapek seconded the motion.
Motion Passed

Employee of the Month

Mr. Drager presented Melissa Palay, from Community Health Services with the July Employee of the Month award. Dr. Comstock presented Madison Pitts, from Environmental Health Services with the August Employee of the Month award. Ms. Jahn presented Christine Billings, from Administrative Services with the September Employee of the Month award.

Public Comment

Members of the community provided public comment regarding various topics regarding Bandimere Speedway, COVID-19 restrictions, COVID-19 data sources and resources and hospitalization rates related to COVID-19.

Note: Public Comment is a time for the community to provide comment on issues they would like the Board of Health to be aware of. The Board does not provide feedback to comments during this agenda item.

Variance Case

Ms. Sloan, from Environmental Health presented Variance Case Number 20-117-022 OW to the Board. After review and discussion, Dr. Comstock made a motion to approve Variance Case Number 20-117-022 with the agreed upon case summary approval conditions. Ms. Jahn seconded the motion.
Motion Passed

Financial Report:

Mr. Badalpour presented the August 2020 financial statements to the Board. Dr. Krapek made a motion to approve the presented financial reports. Ms. Jahn seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

Executive Director Comment:

Dr. Johnson addressed some of the comments made earlier during Public Comment. Dr. Johnson reminded the public, that Public Health and Executive Orders are mandated mostly by the state health department and the governor. The health departments spend a lot of time ensuring these lawful orders are complied with by the public. The county health departments can make orders stricter but not less restrictive than what the state has in place.

Jefferson County Public Health has moved into a new phase of COVID response that includes the newly formed Office of Pandemic Response (OPR), which will be located within the emergency preparedness program. This phase is already in motion, with new hires being brought on and deactivating other staff that have been used in the response since the beginning.

Dr. Johnson discussed with the Board how Jefferson County Public Health's Interim Executive Board is working together and planning for Dr. Johnson's October 2nd retirement. Jefferson County Public Health has contracted with a consultant to help facilitate the interim executive board. The interim executive board is also working closely with the Board of County Commissioners as well as Jefferson County's County Manager.

Director Comments:

Jody Erwin, Deputy Director, thanked Dr. Johnson for staying at Jefferson County Public Health instead of retiring in June of 2020. Mr. Erwin also thanked the Board of Health for their continued support.

Dr. Huffman, Director of Community Health Services congratulated staff members within Jefferson County Public Health that have been nominated for the Community Vitality Award through the Board of County Commissioners. Dr. Huffman also discussed whole community inclusion response within the Office of Pandemic Response. Dr. Huffman reminded everyone to get their flu shots this season. Drive thru flu clinics for staff will be available during the next several weeks. Additional flu clinics for the public, and Shots for Tots/Teens clinics are planned throughout October, November, and early December.

Elise Lubell, Director of Health Promotion and Lifestyle Management thanked her staff for their outstanding dedication during the last several months related to the COVID response. Ms. Lubell also thanked Dr. Johnson for staying onboard and postponing his retirement to help Jefferson County and Jefferson County Public Health during this stressful and uncharted time.

Jim Rada, Director of Environmental Health Services discussed with the Board that the Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution declaring climate change as a public health crisis. This will allow Jefferson County to join several other counties across Colorado in working to address climate change issues.

Staff Comments

Pamela Gould, with Jefferson County Communities That Care, discussed with the Board a concern about fentanyl resulting in several overdoses throughout Jefferson County. Jefferson County Communities That Care will be distributing “Save A Life” kits to young people in the community. The kits will contain Narcan and fentanyl test strips and information on how to seek help regarding substance use and mental health programs.

Ellen Stern and Donna Viverette, with the Jefferson County Tobacco Control Program discussed concerns regarding House Bill 1230 which authorizes marijuana hospitality spaces in which medical and retail marijuana may be consumed on site and retail marijuana hospitality and sales establishments in which retail marijuana, retail marijuana concentrate, and retail marijuana products may be sold and consumed on site. This bill could put the Clean Indoor Air Act in jeopardy since these establishments can file for exemptions. There are also concerns regarding further normalization of marijuana for youth. Jefferson County Public Health is committed to advocate for smoke and vape free spaces within the community. The Tobacco Control Program will continue to collaborate with Jefferson County Communities That Care to help educate and provide awareness to the community.

Executive Session:

Mr. Drager made a motion to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel related matters with the Board and the Board of Health’s attorney. Ms. Jahn seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board of Health, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.