

MINUTES  
OF THE  
BOARD OF HEALTH

JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO

\*\* This meeting was held via Zoom \*\*

On March 16, 2021 at 4:00 p.m., President Greg Deranleau called the meeting to order. Lindsey Gonzales took roll call. The following additional Board members were present: Dr. Harriet Hall, Cheri Jahn, Dr. Kimberley Krapek and Lane Drager. Amanda Cruser, counsel for Jefferson County Board of Health, was also present.

A quorum was established.

Staff Members Presenting:

Dr. Dawn Comstock, Executive Director  
Dr. Margaret Huffman, Director of Community Health Services  
Elise Lubell, Director of Health Promotion and Lifestyle Management  
Jody Erwin, Deputy Director  
Jim Rada, Director of Environmental Health Services  
Michael Miller, Community Health Services  
Mary Margaret Fouse-Bishop, Community Health Services

Acceptance of Consent Agenda:

Mr. Drager made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Jahn seconded the motion.  
Motion Passed

Employee of the Month

Dr. Hall presented Anjanette Hawkins, from Administrative Services with the March Employee of the Month award.

New Employee Introduction:

Dr. Huffman, with Community Health Services introduced Marcela Miramontes and Patricia Henney.

Public Comment

Commissioner Dahlkemper thanked Jefferson County Public Health staff for their outstanding work throughout the pandemic. Commissioner Dahlkemper also thanked the Board of Health for their continued dedication and support during the last year.

Commissioner Dahlkemper stated the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners joined the meeting to hear the presentation under New Business regarding Removing Barriers and Reestablishing Colorado's Commitment to Equity.

Commissioner Kerr echoed Commissioner Dahlkemper's comments regarding Jefferson County Public Health staff's dedication and help throughout the pandemic.

Melanie Webb provided comment regarding safety concerns about competitors wearing masks during gymnastic practices and competitions.

Dr. Comstock, Executive Director provided clarification regarding Ms. Webb's concerns. Dr. Comstock stated the current Jefferson County Public Health mask order does not require gymnasts to wear masks, if six-foot social distancing can be maintained.

Nick Lewis provided comment regarding US Lacrosse guidelines regarding mask wearing during games and practices.

~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. However, Jefferson County Public Health staff are standing by to address any data questions.

#### New Business:

Michael Miller, with Community Health Services presented to the Board of Health regarding substance use initiatives within Jefferson County. COVID-19 drastically affected access to harm reduction/substance use resources, healthcare capacity and the drug supply itself. CDPHE data indicates overdose resulted in the death of at least 1,333 Coloradoans in 2020. The highest number and rate of overdose in the state's history. Fentanyl played a role in at least 487 deaths last year more than double the number of 2019. Law enforcement seized 10k – 15k pills in Colorado last year, 3x the number seized in 2015.

The Jeffco Substance Use Partnership is focused on overdose prevention, increasing treatment access, improving resource navigation, increasing county data capacity and improving resource navigation. The partnership includes representatives from treatment, community organizations, law enforcement, judicial, harm reduction, human services, housing and others. Mr. Miller also shared the approval of a pilot program for a harm reduction vending machine. The pilot will start with Narcan and fentanyl test strips. Focusing on clients who cannot access syringe services or feel uncomfortable doing so. This has been funded through CDPHE's Overdose Data to Action grant program. Mr. Miller also shared how Jefferson County Public Health is collaborating with several partners such as; Dr. JK Costello and the Steadman Group for ongoing data projects centered around harm reduction.

Mary Margaret Fouse-Bishop, with Community Health Services shared with the Board of Health how the repeal of exclusionary laws dating back to 2006 would remove barriers for immigrants to fully participate in our economy and community, and thus improve health outcomes for children and families. In 2006, the Colorado legislature passed several laws prohibiting undocumented Colorado residents from being able to fully participate in the economy. The body of the bill to be introduced removes draconian language from state statute while maintaining alignment with federal law. It allows undocumented immigrants to fully participate in our economy by repealing existing provisions that require proof of lawful presence in the U.S. to be eligible for certain public benefits including occupational and commercial licenses, contracts, grants and loans. Repeals the requirements that prohibits a state agency from entering into or renewing a public contract with a contractor who knowingly employs or contracts persons who are undocumented. Repeals the requirement that state agencies and local governments use secure and verifiable identity documents when providing services or issuing official documents. It allows these community members to access public benefits that are not explicitly prohibited by federal law, making our communities healthier and stronger.

Ms. Fouse-Bishop asked the Board of Health support to commit to action and the support of equitable policy.

Mr. Drager, Board of Health Vice President discussed his knowledge of the upcoming bill and discussed CALPHO's (Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials) strong support.

Ms. Fouse-Bishop introduced special guest Lucy Guereca, immigrant and Jefferson County resident. Lucy shared how repeal of this legislation would directly impact her life, her family and community.

The Board of Health would like to review a draft of the bill when available. Ms. Fouse-Bishop will also share an invite with the Board of Health to an upcoming workgroup meeting for Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> focused on this specific bill. The Board of Health fully supports Ms. Fouse-Bishop bringing forward a resolution at a future meeting once the bill has been introduced. Mr. Drager suggested as soon as the bill is introduced and assigned to committee, the Board of Health should meet during special meeting to give their full support. Individual Board of Health members are encouraged to support the bill on their own and review documents dedicated to the bill. The Board of Health would like an update during Old Business at the April Board of Health meeting, if the Board does not meet during special meeting prior to the April Board of Health meeting.

Ms. Jahn discussed with the Board Senate Bill 77 which also highlights equity work for immigrants.

Jody Erwin, Deputy Director of Jefferson County Public Health discussed with the Board of Health CALPHO's request on March 3, 2021 to pay an additional \$27,048 for CALPHO COVID support in 2020. The additional payment would help support the following: preparation and transmission of official CALPHO statements to state leadership on numerous aspects of COVID-19 response. Coordination with partner organizations, such as Colorado Counties Inc, on advocacy efforts targeting state leadership. Coordination of weekly membership meetings on COVID-19 response and subsequent update communications to members. Coordination of additional urgent meetings needed for discussion of or response to sudden state policy shifts. Coordination of special workgroups on specific policy areas of the COVID-19 response, such as the ski/winter rec workgroup, and ELC funding workgroup. Staff attendance at state epidemiology, immunization, EPR, and coordination activities with CDPHE leadership. Staff attendance and CALPHO representation with COVID-19 response partner organizations, such as health care provider associations (e.g. CO Hospital Association, CO Rural Health Center), and the CO Public Health Workforce Collaborative. Lobbyist efforts on the protect public health workers bill. The Board of Health supported Jefferson County Public Health contributing a one-time payment of \$27,048 to CALPHO.

Executive Director Comments:

Dr. Comstock thanked the Board of Health for their support of CALPHO and for the Board' continuous support for the ongoing equity work. Dr. Comstock thanked the Jefferson County Public Health staff for their unwavering and on-going effort to protect the residents of Jefferson County not only throughout the pandemic but day-to-day. Dr. Comstock discussed the current structure of the Board of Health agenda and if the Board would like to see changes moving forward. Mr. Deranleau mentioned if there is a direct ask from staff to make those clear, and he appreciated the topics at today's meeting and how they were presented.

Dr. Comstock announced a new award at Jefferson County Public Health called The Executive Director's Meritorious Service Award. The first recipients of this award are Jody Erwin, Elise Lubell, Jim Rada and Dr. Margaret Huffman. They are receiving this award due to their outstanding service, dedication and leadership as the executive team during Dr. Johnson's retirement and during the process for the hiring of a new executive director.

Division Director Comments:

Dr. Huffman thanked Dr. Comstock for recognizing her for the Executive Director's Meritorious Service Award. Dr. Huffman also shared she has been asked to serve as a member on the Health Care Worker and Resilience Advisory Group.

Jody Erwin, Deputy Director thanked Dr. Comstock for recognizing him for the Executive Director's Meritorious Service Award.

Elise Lubell Director of Health Promotion and Lifestyle Management thanked Dr. Comstock for recognizing her for the Executive Director's Meritorious Service Award.

Jim Rada, Director of Environmental Health Services thanked Environmental Health Services thanked Dr. Comstock for recognizing him for the Executive Director's Meritorious Service Award. Mr. Rada also invited Dr. Hall, the newest Board of Health member to review the process for variance requests. Dr. Hall will work with the Clerk to the Board of Health to set-up a meeting within the next few weeks.

Executive Session:

Mr. Drager made a motion to go into Executive Session. Dr. Hall seconded the motion. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss: Legal Counsel to the Board and Department, Legal Advice C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b).

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board of Health, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.