

MINUTES
OF THE
BOARD OF HEALTH

JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO

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

On May 18, 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 and Lane Drager. Amanda Crusier, counsel for Jefferson County Board of Health, was also present.

For the record Dr. Kimberley Krapek was absent. A quorum was established.

Staff Members Presenting:

Dr. Dawn Comstock, Executive Director
Dr. Margaret Huffman, Director of Community Health Services
John Vickery, Environmental Health Services
Mary Sloan, Environmental Health Services
Joe Badalpour, Administrative Services
Roy Laws, Environmental Health Services
Mitch Brown, Environmental Health Services

Acceptance of Consent Agenda:

Mr. Drager made a motion to add the Financial Statements for April to the agenda. Dr. Hall seconded the motion.
Motion Passed

Employee of the Month

Mr. Drager presented Shaun Callaghan, from Environmental Health Services with the May Employee of the Month award.

New Employee Introduction:

N/A

Public Comment

Mr. Hosie provided public comment thanking Environmental Health for all their hard work. He also discussed OWTS regulations and Indian Hills specific requirements with the Board.

Jacki Paone provided public comment thanking the Board for approving the most recent contract with Communities That Care and the continued support from Board of Health and the Executive Director of Jefferson County Public.

Melody Kirchner provided public comment regarding concerns the COVID-19 vaccine and the growing pressures for everyone to get the vaccine even if they've already been exposed and recovered from COVID-19.

Todd Kirchner provided public comment asking the Board if Jefferson County Public Health is considering joining Tri-County Public Health. He does not support joining Tri-County Public Health. Mr. Kirchner discussed his concerns regarding the growing pressures for everyone to get the vaccine and the growing pressure for children to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

David Palladino provided public comment and shared his concerns regarding comments Dr. Comstock made during a recent town hall meetings, emails and news interviews.

Tony Pesce provided public comment supporting Roy Laws's formal engineering approach and different studies that have been done, specifically in Indian Hills regarding onsite wastewater treatment.

Angela Mclinden provided public comment regarding her concerns regarding increasing depression and anxiety in youth. Ms. Mclinden also shared her concerns regarding COVID-19 vaccines in youth and adults.

Cybil Gibbs provided public comment regarding her concerns regarding COVID-19 vaccinations and mandatory masks for children.

Drew Schneider provided public comment and asked for Board of Health members cameras to be on during the meeting, especially during public comment. Mr. Schneider also thanked all the previous public commenters and agrees with their concerns and frustrations regarding COVID-19 vaccine and mask wearing. Mr. Schneider also gave his support for the research and approach of science-based studies done by Roy Laws in Environmental Health Services for Indian Hills onsite wastewater treatment and ground water treatment.

Melinda McSorley provided public comment regarding her concerns regarding pressuring COVID-19 vaccines in both children and adults.

Michael Cunningham provided public comment regarding support of the science-based studies done by Roy Laws specifically in the mountain communities in Jefferson County.

~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.

Old Business:

Mitch Brown with Environmental Health discussed a 2019 and 2020 onsite wastewater survey given to industry customers. Mr. Brown also discussed the AMANDA database used in Environmental Health and the proposed updates to streamline internal and external processes.

New Business:

Roy Laws and Jim Rada presented and discussed the interim prohibition area policy in Indian Hills, Colorado. Board of Health members thanked Roy and the Indian Hills community for all their efforts and continued dedication and advocacy regarding this project. Amanda Cruser, counsel for the Jefferson County Board of Health, recommended amending the current resolution and policy before considering any more variances in the prohibition area. The Board agreed not to consider any more variance applications in the prohibition area until the Board has approved policy and resolution changes. Mr. Drager discussed his desire to address the current pollution problem in the prohibition area. Ms. Cruser will work with the Jefferson County Attorney's Office to discuss future pathways forward and Environmental Health staff will work in the coming months in drafting an updated onsite wastewater treatment system policy and resolution. The staff will bring back updates monthly or bi-monthly until completed. During the process the staff will continue to work with community members and key stakeholders in the mountain communities.

Financial Report:

Mr. Badalpour presented the April financial reports to the Board of Health. After discussion and review, Mr. Drager made a motion to approve presented financial reports. Dr. Hall seconded the motion.
Motion Passed

Executive Director Comments:

Dr. Comstock thanked Boog and Cruser, P.C. for their 15 years of service to the Board of Health. Dr. Comstock presented the Executive Director Meritorious Service Award from Dr. Comstock, Dr. Johnson, Elise Lubell, Jody Erwin, Jim Rada and Dr. Huffman to Boog and Cruser, P.C. The Division Directors and Board of Health members thanked Amanda Cruser/Boog and Cruser, P.C. for all her support, dedication, trustworthiness, communication and professionalism throughout the years. To clearly define Jody Erwin's role as Deputy Director of Jefferson County Public Health Dr. Comstock announced that Joe Badalpour has been appointed as acting/interim Administrative Services Director. Dr. Comstock will announce at June's Board of Health meeting the acting/interim Accounting Supervisor.

Division Director Comments:

Jody Erwin thanked Dr. Comstock and the Board for their continued support in his role as Deputy Director. Mr. Erwin also thanked Joe Badalpour for stepping in as the acting/interim Administrative Services Director.

Joe Badalpour shared his excitement about the opportunity working in his new role as the acting/interim Administrative Services Director and thanked Jody Erwin and Dr. Comstock for their continued support.

Dr. Margaret Huffman with Community Health Services shared various program updates with the Board of Health to include; ongoing systems level substance use work led by Michael Miller, the Jefferson County Substance Use Prevention (JCSUP) coalition continues to grow and expand as they look to begin year three of funding through the Overdose to Action grant. There has been a rise in the concerning spike in overdoses across the metro area and state, Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) is working with partners like open space rangers, probation and intervention (ICCS/Community Corrections) to train in overdose prevention, "substance use 101," and challenging stigma through custom-tailored training delivered by multidisciplinary experts from JCPH.

Community Health Services is nearing the end of their first year as part of the Harm Reduction grant which funds the Lakewood Police Department LEAD program. In addition to JCPH's roles as project coordinator and partner on the policy and planning group, they are also leading three new working groups created to support the program's success: the PCG (Policy Coordinating Group), CLT (Community Leadership Team), and the OWG (Operations Workgroup). In June, JCPH staff will be providing harm reduction trainings to variety of criminal justice partners (DAs office, probation, parole, treatment providers, etc.), will be providing lengthy and in-depth harm reduction training to Lakewood Police Department and law enforcement as well. There has been an extremely concerning rise in sexually transmittable diseases (STIs) over 2020 and into the first quarter of 2021. Most concerning are rises in new HIV infections among young heterosexual persons and congenital syphilis cases. While Community Health Services is still building back capacity to provide services and outreach in our sexual health and HIV programs due to gaps in staffing capacity and COVID focused work, they are beginning to plan a response and some activities in the near future including; relaunching community outreach HIV and hepatitis C testing, starting with Action Center, Mission Arvada, with plans to expand to ICCS (residential community corrections facility) in June. Along with developing marketing strategies to promote STIs and HIV education and testing awareness to targeted groups due to the increase in STIs rates in 2020 despite the decreased amount of testing. Community Health Services will be shifting some program funds to provide targeted STI testing messages to teens/young adults and linking them to a website to provide free at-home STI test kits and planning for targeted outreach testing opportunities to certain zip codes in the county.

Jim Rada with Environmental Health Services thanked the Board of Health for all their support and work on the onsite wastewater treatment policy and community concerns.

Elise Lubell with Health Promotion and Lifestyle Management thanked the Board for approving the Community First Foundation grant that will help support local business owners to reduce food insecurity. Ms. Lubell also shared the Health Communications Team is working on COVID-19 vaccination messaging with youth leaders in Communities That Care.

Board of Health Comments:

Mr. Deranleau thanked Boog and Crusier, P.C. specifically Amanda Crusier for her years of service to Jefferson County Board of Health and the community. He has appreciated her trustworthiness, communication, professionalism and dedication throughout the years.

Ms. Jahn thanked Dr. Huffman and her team for their continued focused work on substance use prevention and clinical specific programs to better help the community. Ms. Jahn also thanked Amanda Crusier for her years of service and dedication to the Board of Health.

Mr. Drager thanked Amanda Crusier for her years of service and is looking forward to working with her in the future as a contractor, if needed to the Board of Health as specific legal cases arise. Mr. Drager also thanked Jefferson County Public Health staff for their dedication and hard-work with the community related to COVID-19 vaccinations and education around the benefits of continuing to wear a mask and get vaccinated.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board of Health, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.