

**Tri-County Board of Health Meeting  
April 10, 2007  
Minutes**

Board of Health was officially called to order at 4:01 P.M. by Thomas Fawell, M.D., Board President, Tri-County Health Department (TCHD), Administrative Office, 7000 E. Belleview Avenue, Suite 370, Greenwood Village, Colorado, 80111. Other members comprising a quorum included Joseph Anderson, M.D.; Kaia Gallagher, Ph.D.; Ruth Fischhaber; and Lois Tochtrop. Dr. Richard Vogt, Executive Director, and several TCHD employees were also in attendance.

**Presentation to the new Board President**

Dr. Vogt presented Dr. Fawell with an engraved gavel to honor his appointment as Board President.

**Recognition Ceremony for Kim Gordon and Judy Robinson**

Dr. Fawell presented plaques to Kim Gordon and Judy Robinson in recognition of their service on the TCHD Board of Health. Ms. Gordon served as an Arapahoe County representative from February 2001 to December 2006 and Dr. Robinson served as a Douglas County representative from September 1996 to February 2007.

**Introductions**

Lloyd Williams, Director of the Environmental Health Division, introduced Jessica Cameron Gonzalez, Informatics Specialist; James Blue, Environmental Health Specialist; Merle Bowser, Environmental Health Specialist; Dylan Garrison, Environmental Health Specialist; and Vanessa Richardson, Environmental Health Specialist.

Anne Bennett, Director of the Nutrition Division, introduced Carrie McConnell, Nutrition Coordinator, and Angela Hansen, Nutrition Coordinator.

Warren Brown, Public Health Engineer, introduced TCHD's new Water Quality Specialist, Hope Yu.

Dr. Vogt introduced Tegan Boehmer, an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer assigned to TCHD for two years by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**Approval of the Minutes of the February 13, 2007 Meeting**

The minutes of the February 13, 2007 meeting were presented to the Board for review.

**MOTION: Dr. Anderson moved to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2007 meeting as written and Ms. Tochtrop seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**Approval of the Financial Statements Dated February 28, 2007**

Dr. Fawell noted that 16.7% of the year was complete as of February 28, 2007 and that TCHD was on target to finish the year within the budget.

Ms. Tochtrop inquired whether the federal government had cut fetal alcohol syndrome funding. Jeanne North, Director of the Public Health Nursing Division, explained that the federal grant cycle wouldn't end

until September 30, 2007. TCHD has not received word on funding for the next grant cycle which begins October 1, 2007.

Ms. Fischhaber inquired on the types of workers' compensation claims TCHD submits. Nancy Allen, Human Resources Director, stated that the majority of claims are ergonomic in nature and that our claims rate is below the national average. Dr. Vogt explained that TCHD has a safety committee which conducts annual office inspections. Also, a trained individual addresses ergonomic issues and all offices do quarterly safety training.

Kaia inquired how West Nile virus (WNV) activities were funded. Monte Deatrich, Environmental Health Manager, stated that TCHD receives some funding through county contracts as well as federal money from the CDC, which is passed through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). TCHD expects to receive approximately \$19,000 this year to conduct WNV activities and will use general funds to make up the difference. Bruce Wilson, Deputy Director, explained that TCHD's primary role is surveillance and that we partner with other agencies that conduct activities such as mosquito control.

Dr. Anderson noted that \$15,000 is budgeted for dental supplies while \$280,000 is budgeted for contraceptives. Ms. North explained that the Dental program is funded by Arapahoe County and serves approximately 600 seniors per year, whereas our Family Planning program is the biggest program of its kind provided by a Colorado local health department. This program is offered in all three of our counties and is federally funded. Clients are charged on a sliding fee scale based upon their income.

Dr. Fawell inquired whether TCHD provides dental services to at-risk children. Dr. Vogt explained that when TCHD lost its state per capita funding in 2002, we had to come up with ways to strategically utilize remaining funding. TCHD subsequently developed a partnership with Kids In Need of Dentistry (KIND) in which TCHD provides clinic space and KIND provides dental services to needy children.

Ms. Fischhaber asked why TCHD uses a courier service. Mr. Browning explained that TCHD contracts with Speedy Messenger Service to provide courier service five days a week between our 11 offices. The courier also goes to CDPHE and to the state lab to drop off water supply samples. This arrangement is more cost effective than employing a full-time person, maintaining a vehicle, paying for insurance, etc.

**MOTION: Ms. Tochtrop moved to approve the financial statements dated February 28, 2007 as presented. Ms. Fischhaber seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.**

#### **Public Hearing: Proposed Environmental Health Fee Changes**

Dr. Fawell opened the public hearing at 4:32 PM regarding the adoption of the proposed Environmental Health fee changes. The public hearing was duly advertised in *The Denver Post* on March 11, 2007.

Mr. Williams presented the proposed fee changes to the Board. He explained that pursuant to C.R.S. 25-1-507(1)(h), C.R.S. 25-1-709(1)(b), and C.R.S. 25-10-107(1), the TCHD Board of Health may assess fees equal to actual and direct costs. In 2005, Environmental Health initially reviewed major programs to adjust fees to recoup actual and direct costs using a formula adopted by the Board of Health. TCHD recalculates Environmental Health program fees annually based on this formula. Current fee recommendations are based on final figures from 2006. Mr. Williams reminded the Board that the proposed fees presented at the February 13, 2007 Board meeting were based on projected figures because the 2006 books had not been closed at that time, therefore some of the final numbers presented today vary slightly from the last meeting. If adopted, the new fees would become effective July 1, 2007. Dr. Vogt pointed out that the proposed fees had not changed significantly from 2006.

Dr. Fawell noted that pool inspection fees had increased slightly. Mr. Williams explained that last year TCHD began routine spa inspections, but were only inspecting pools on a complaint basis. He stated that it is possible that inspectors coded some spa inspection costs to pools last year which would have skewed the data. Therefore, spa owners will most likely be slightly undercharged while pools owners will be slightly overcharged. In January 2007, Environmental Health began inspecting pools twice yearly. Inspectors are currently collecting information on the number of pools and spas at each facility so that TCHD can combine them into one category next year. Facilities will then be charged per body of water.

Dr. Fawell inquired whether a Douglas County pool implicated in a cryptosporidiosis outbreak last year would be inspected more frequently. Mr. Williams answered negatively and explained that the implicated pool was well operated and in compliance with state regulations. Dr. Vogt explained that *Cryptosporidium* is highly resistant to chemical disinfectants routinely used in pools. TCHD is currently reviewing state regulations related to swimming pools and may have suggested modifications to make disinfection procedures more stringent.

Dr. Gallagher inquired whether the tiered child care center inspection fees approved by the Board last year had proven to be a burden on child care facilities. Mr. Williams explained that initial immunization records reviews performed by public health nurses took a lot of time because many records were not up to date. This resulted in higher inspection costs to these facilities. Since then, immunization recordkeeping has improved. Consequently, some centers received a partial refund due to less time spent reviewing records than was originally anticipated. TCHD has received some negative comments regarding the cost and the inconvenience, but some centers were very appreciative that someone was coming in to help them get their records in line. Dr. Gallagher asked whether fees would decrease as more centers came into compliance with immunization requirements. Ms. North stated that this would most likely be the case.

Ms. Tochtrop inquired whether most child care centers were private. Ms. North answered affirmatively. Ms. Tochtrop asked whether there were mandates requiring all children enrolled in child care centers to be immunized. Ms. North explained that under Colorado law parents may opt out; however, these children would be excluded from the center should a disease incident occur. Dr. Vogt stated that we do not have very many individuals in our counties who have chosen to opt out.

No one from the public was present to speak on this issue. The public hearing was closed at 4:55 P.M.

**MOTION: Ms. Fischhaber moved to accept the proposed Environmental Health fees changes. Dr. Gallagher seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.**

### **Set Strategic Planning Dates**

Dr. Fawell reminded Board members that, at the February 13, 2007 meeting, they had agreed to add 30 minutes to the end of Board meetings as needed for strategic planning in lieu of a Saturday retreat. Dr. Fawell asked Board members to remain after the meeting to set strategic planning dates.

### **Report on TCHD Activities Related to Essential Public Health Service #10**

Dr. Vogt gave examples of programs/activities conducted by TCHD that address Essential Public Health Service #10: Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems. He also presented the Board with a list of 13 peer-reviewed publications and 30 presentations given by TCHD personnel at the state and national level from January 1, 2006 to the present.

Dr. Gallagher asked Board members whether there was a way to make the Commissioners aware of the level of excellence of the work that's being done by TCHD. Commissioner Weddig stated that he would share this information with the other Arapahoe County Commissioners. Ms. Tochtrop recommended that TCHD convey this information at the annual budget presentation to the Commissioners.

### **Report on the Metro Denver Health and Wellness Commission Town Meetings**

Ms. Bennett informed the Board that the Metro Denver Health and Wellness Commission (MDHWC), a working group of 70 community leaders, hosted five public Town Hall meetings to obtain community feedback on its Draft Strategic Action Plan, which aspires to make Metro Denver the healthiest community in the United States. Members of the public with an interest in these issues were encouraged to join in roundtable discussions and electronic voting on elements of the plan. The MDHWC will focus its efforts in three areas: schools and child care facilities, worksites, and the public sector. The strategic plan will be finalized by the end of May 2007. Currently, several committees are working on providing services and coordinating activities.

***ACTION ITEM: Dr. Gallagher asked Ms. Bennett to give a presentation on MDHWC's final goals and objectives at a future meeting.***

### **9Health Fairs**

Ms. Weinberg announced that TCHD would participate in four 9Health Fairs this year: one in Adams County, two in Arapahoe County, and one in Douglas County. She explained that TCHD doesn't choose which fairs we attend; we must be invited. TCHD will have a Community Outreach Specialist on site with brochures, a laptop computer with our website, and a television showing the same program that runs in our lobby. Ms. Weinberg distributed a copy of the TCHD webpage promoting the 9Health Fairs and an e-mail from the Vice President of the 9Health Fairs conveying thanks from their President and CEO for the link on our website.

Dr. Fawell inquired on the number of 9Health Fair sites in TCHD's jurisdiction. Ms. Weinberg stated that she did not know specifically how many were planned this year, but that there had been approximately 30 to 40 sites in previous years. Dr. Fawell recommended that TCHD be stronger in pursuing involvement with the 9Health Fairs. Dr. Vogt explained that there are numerous fairs in our jurisdiction (i.e., county fairs, health fairs, etc.) and that it would be impossible to attend all of them. TCHD plans to gauge the public's response to our presence and make changes accordingly. We are constantly evaluating our visibility and ways to improve it.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Dr. Vogt gave an overview of the Executive Director's Report articles.

### **Accreditation of TCHD's Dietetic Internship Program**

TCHD's Dietetic Internship was granted continuing accreditation through 2017. The process involved completion of a self-study with data analysis of program and learning outcomes. Accreditation is granted through the Commission on Accreditation of Dietetic Education (CADE), the Commission on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and the United States Department of Education (USDE). The three standards used to assess dietetic programs are: Program Planning and Outcome Assessment, Curriculum and Student Learning Outcomes (Determined by 46 Core Competencies and ten Public Health Specific Emphasis Competencies) and Program Management.

### **Cancer Screening Outreach to Douglas County**

As part of the Colorado Women's Cancer Control Initiative (CWCCI) program expansion, TCHD is increasing its outreach efforts to low-income women. CWCCI is funded by Tobacco Taxation money from CDPHE, and they are providing funds to increase program marketing. The statewide goal is to increase program visibility, thus increasing access to breast and cervical cancer screening for low-income women over 50. The Cancer Screening program is working to increase utilization of cancer screening services in all three counties, but is putting extra effort into education and outreach in Douglas County where a low number of eligible women are accessing cancer screening services.

### **Facility Master Plan Update**

Following a lengthy Request for Proposal Process, TCHD has begun negotiations with a highly qualified facilities master planning company. Once a contract has been finalized, we will begin planning and analysis of our facility needs. The plan will include three major components: 1) evaluation of the use of our current facilities, 2) analysis of demographic trends to help determine future facility locations, and 3) recommendations for facility plans for the next year, five years and ten years. Special emphasis will be placed on evaluating County-provided "free space" and our future needs. The consultant will tour our current facilities and talk to key program staff to better understand the impact our facilities have on our ability to provide services to the public now and in the future. It will also help define where our current programs may go over the next ten years. The final facilities master plan should be completed no later than December 31, 2007.

### **Adams County Government Center Update**

Adams County purchased approximately 100 acres near the intersection of E-470 and Sable Boulevard two years ago and plans to consolidate over 50 offices throughout the county into one "Office-Campus" environment. Additionally, a private developer owns 500 acres contingent to this property and plans a mixed-use development that will include homes, retail, and commercial office space.

Adams County has invited TCHD to participate in the planning process. We have attended preliminary planning meetings with county staff and their architect. Each TCHD division has completed a questionnaire that will help the architect understand how Tri-County functions in the community and as an organization. The architect plans to hold interviews with each of our divisions in the near future to learn more about our operations and future plans in Adams County.

TCHD plans to move some of our programs from existing offices within Adams County to the new government center. Ground breaking is expected to occur in 2009 with the first occupants moving in during 2010. We do not have an estimated move-in date since we do not know the order of building construction at this time.

### **TCHD Promotes the Benjamin Franklin Exhibit**

Tri-County Health Department is helping to promote the Denver Museum of Nature & Science exhibition "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World." The traveling exhibition, celebrating the 300th anniversary of Franklin's birth, is open now through May 20, 2007. We are promoting this educational exhibition because Benjamin Franklin was a pioneer in the field of public health, and this partnership presents an excellent opportunity for education about public health, as well as visibility with a respected community organization.

Franklin's public health achievements include opening the first public hospital in the United States, supporting vaccinations for smallpox, designing innovations in refrigeration and heating, promoting the benefits of regular exercise and recognizing the hazards of lead exposure. He was also one of America's first environmentalists, with efforts in conservation, improving sanitation and speaking out against the pollution that tanneries emptied into rivers.

We are promoting the exhibit on our website, through mass e-mails and with a news release. We are also offering \$2 off admission coupons on our website. Additionally, we are cross-promoting the museum's Hall of Life, an exhibit full of science activities that show how the body works and what one can do to keep it healthy. Many of their displays explain the fundamentals of public health and prevention.

TCHD previously worked with the Museum of Nature & Science last spring, promoting their wildly popular Body Worlds exhibit. The TCHD page on the Ben Franklin exhibit can be viewed at [www.tchd.org/benfranklin.htm](http://www.tchd.org/benfranklin.htm).

### **Peanut Butter Recall**

Dr. Boehmer provided a summary of the peanut butter recall due to an outbreak of *Salmonella* Tennessee. In October 2006, the CDC noticed an increase in the incidence of *S. Tennessee*. The number of cases continued to rise, which prompted a multi-state investigation in January 2007 to attempt to determine whether there was a common source of infection. Peter Pan and Great Value brands of peanut butter were eventually implicated. On February 14, 2007 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) closed the plant in Georgia where the peanut butter was manufactured and issued a nationwide recall of the product. As of last week, there were 544 known cases of *S. Tennessee* in 46 states. There were 15 cases in Colorado, three of which were in TCHD's jurisdiction (one in each county). No deaths have been linked to this outbreak.

Dr. Boehmer also summarized an *S. Tennessee* outbreak in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) in a Douglas County hospital in December 2006. At the time of the investigation, nine of 13 infants in the NICU tested positive for *S. Tennessee*. One additional case was symptomatic, but tested negative. Environmental surfaces were also contaminated. No deaths were linked to this outbreak. The implicated agent was the same strain as that causing the national outbreak linked to peanut butter; however, TCHD was unable to link the cases to an ill parent or nurse.

### **Other Items**

Dr. Vogt thanked Dr. Fawell and Ms. Fischhaber for attending TCHD's annual Public Health Hero of the Year Awards ceremony, which was held immediately prior to the Board meeting. He summarized the three recipients and their contributions to public health.

### **Agenda for the May 8, 2007 Board Meeting**

Agenda items for the May 8, 2007 Board meeting will include: 1) an update on the Metro Denver Health and Wellness Commission, 2) the National Association of Local Boards of Health 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, and 3) strategic planning.

### **Board Member Remarks**

Dr. Gallagher inquired on Board members' roles regarding the three Board of Health vacancies. Ms. Tochtrop recommended that Board members refer interested individuals to the County Commissioners.

Dr. Vogt stated that he spoke with Maureen Waller in Doug County regarding advertisement for prospective Board members as well as selection criteria.

**Closing Remarks**

Dr. Fawell asked the Board members to stay after the meeting.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the TCHD Board of Health will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at 4:00 P.M. at Tri-County Health Department, 7000 E. Belleview Avenue, Suite 370, Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION: Ms. Fischhaber moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:34 P.M. Ms. Tochtrop seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.**

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Thomas Fawell, M.D., President

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Ruth Fischhaber, Secretary