

**Tri-County Board of Health Meeting
February 10, 2009
Minutes**

Board of Health was officially called to order at 4:30 P.M. by Thomas Fawell, M.D., Board President, at Tri-County Health Department, 7000 E. Belleview Avenue, Suite 370, Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111. Other members comprising a quorum included Kaia Gallagher, Ph.D.; Michael Acree; Ruth Fischhaber; Janice Brainard; and Paulette Joswick. Dr. Richard Vogt, Executive Director, and several Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) employees were also in attendance.

Introductions

Heidi Fritz, Nutrition Manager, introduced the Dietetic Interns: Meghan Doran, Kelley McIntyre, Nina Pienta, and Meredith Quenzer.

Michele Askenazi, Interim Director of Emergency Preparedness, introduced the Regional Planner, Dean Jackson.

Stacy Weinberg, Director of the Epidemiology, Planning and Communication Division, introduced Maura Proser, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Coordinator.

Special guests included Commissioner Pat Noonan, Arapahoe County, and Mr. Ron Rakowsky, Mayor Pro-Tem of the City of Greenwood Village.

Approval of the Minutes of the December 9, 2008 Meeting

The minutes of the December 9, 2008 meeting were presented to the Board for review.

MOTION: Dr. Gallagher moved to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2008 meeting as written and Ms. Brainard seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Discussion of Coyote Issues

Dr. Fawell changed the order of the agenda to entertain comments regarding the Greenwood Village coyote issue.

Dr. Vogt reviewed the history of Amendment 14 to the Colorado Constitution, which prohibits the use of leg hold traps, body gripping traps, snares and poisons in the taking of wildlife and explained that, although exemptions are available for human health and human safety, TCHD continues to strongly encourage alternate methods of control. He informed the Board that TCHD has been very active over the past two months developing educational materials relative to avoiding coyote conflicts with humans and pets and detailing how to apply for a trapping exemption. Dr. Vogt stated that TCHD is taking its role in this process very seriously.

Dr. Fawell opened the floor for public comment.

Ron Rakowsky, Mayor Pro-Tem of Greenwood Village, recognized that coyotes are a regional issue and expressed his hopes that the Division of Wildlife symposium on February 11, 2009 would be valuable in dealing with them regionally. He acknowledged that Dr. Vogt would be speaking at the symposium. Next, Mr. Rakowsky summarized the last two Greenwood Village

city council meetings relative to coyote encounters, both human and pet. Citizens present at both meetings felt that their safety was compromised. Mr. Rakowsky provided a compact disc of these council sessions to the Board as well as written minutes from the January 26, 2009 City Council meeting.

Dr. Gallagher inquired whether any effort was being made at the state level to change the law. Mr. Rakowsky stated that they have had several informal meetings with members of the state legislature.

Ms. Joswick asked whether other means of control had been tried. Mr. Rakowsky stated that Greenwood Village has taken an educational approach with its residents. He explained that there is general consensus among experts that relocation of problem animals is not effective. He also hopes that science might provide solutions, such as birth control. Ms. Brainard expressed concern for child safety should control measures include shooting or trapping. Mr. Rakowsky stated that their program was limited to public property and that lethal activity would be very strictly monitored by the police and that public safety was paramount. Mr. Rakowsky estimated that there are 100 to 150 coyotes living within the eight-and-one-half square miles of Greenwood Village.

Dr. Fawell said he believed Greenwood Village had contracted with someone to manage the coyote population. Mr. Rakowsky responded affirmatively and stated that prior to Amendment 14 this person had worked for Greenwood Village. He avowed that, at that time, they had virtually no problems with coyotes due to this individual's efforts. Mr. Rakowsky continued that Greenwood Village's intent was not to eradicate coyotes but to restore the balance.

Dr. Fawell observed that an expert like the one Greenwood Village contracted with could differentiate between a coyote and a domestic dog whereas a leg hold trap could not. Mr. Rakowsky explained that when leg hold traps were used, signage was posted to identify the traps for safety reasons, unfortunately and those signs were often vandalized and compromised.

Mr. Rakowsky thanked Dr. Fawell and the Board for their time.

Angie Bishop, Gina Cristelli and Mary Hagen from Greenwood Village spoke against leg hold trapping. Each expressed her belief that humans should take responsibility for the safety of their children and pets and should learn to coexist peacefully with coyotes.

Dr. Fawell thanked Ms. Bishop, Ms. Cristelli and Ms. Hagen for their comments.

Approval of the Financial Statements Dated December 31, 2008

Dr. Fawell noted that the financials were a preliminary draft for the end of the calendar year and that revenues were still coming in. Currently, there is a net difference of revenue over expenditures of \$554,000 and TCHD is in the black.

Ms. Joswick asked about health insurance income on page one. John Muske, Director of the Administration and Finance Division, replied that it was a refund for an over payment.

Ms. Brainard inquired whether the federal mileage reimbursement rate had decreased due to lower gasoline prices. Dr. Vogt stated that it had dropped and TCHD's mileage reimbursement rate was changed to reflect the federal rate. Ms. Joswick asked whether TCHD would continue to

look at teleconferencing and other methods to reduce work-related travel. Dr. Vogt answered affirmatively.

MOTION: Ms. Fischhaber moved to accept the financial statements dated December 31, 2008 as presented and Ms. Joswick seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Hearing Request: Proposed Environmental Health Fee Changes

Tom Butts, Interim Director of Environmental Health, 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 began reviewing major programs annually to adjust fees to recoup actual and direct costs using a formula adopted by the Board of Health. Mr. Butts presented the proposed fees to the Board and summarized the major changes. He explained that the TCHD financial books have not been closed for December 2008, therefore the numbers presented are an estimate. This could result in a slight adjustment to the proposed figures. Actual figures will be presented to the Board at the April 14, 2009 meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Acree moved to hold a Public Hearing to consider adoption of the proposed Environmental Health fees on April 14, 2009 and Ms. Brainard seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report from the Board Nominating Committee

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Dr. Gallagher recommended that the following individuals serve as Board officers for 2009: Dr. Fawell as President, Mr. Robinson as Vice-President, and Ms. Fischhaber as Secretary.

MOTION: Ms. Brainard moved to accept the slate of officers and Mr. Acree seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Health Heroes

At the Board Retreat the possibility of a luncheon or a dinner to recognize Public Health Heroes was discussed as a replacement for the current awards ceremony.

MOTION: Dr. Gallagher moved to change from a simple awards ceremony to a lunch or dinner to recognize Public Health Heroes and Ms. Fischhaber seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Vogt asked Commissioner Noonan how TCHD might involve the County Commissioners in this recognition of Public Health Heroes. Commissioner Noonan requested that TCHD send an invitation so they could place it on their calendars.

Re-Evaluation of Board Meeting Start Time

Dr. Gallagher stated that it would be easier for her to meet at 4:30 P.M. instead of 4:00 P.M.

MOTION: Ms. Fischhaber moved to change the start time of Board of Health meetings from 4:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. and Dr. Gallagher seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

At 5:35 P.M. Michael Acree and Paulette Joswick left the meeting and there ceased to be a quorum.

Board Retreat Follow-Up

Dr. Fawell distributed a written summary of the Board Retreat. He reminded the Board that they had agreed to meet face-to-face with their County Commissioners by July 1, 2009 to ensure the County Commissioners understand our situation and what we are doing. Dr. Fawell asked everyone to review the notes and contact him if they had questions. Dr. Vogt stated that TCHD staff would provide the Board members with talking points.

ACTION ITEM: TCHD executive staff to provide Board members with talking points for meetings with the County Commissioners.

Sources of Community Input to TCHD

Ms. Weinberg provided an overview of the document entitled "Sources of Community Input to TCHD." This document was compiled by all TCHD divisions. The Board members expressed amazement at the number of sources cited on the document and were appreciative of the information.

Summary of Client Satisfaction Surveys

Jeanne North, Director of Nursing, reviewed nursing client satisfaction survey results. She indicated that the document was a compilation of surveys collected from various programs and that she had summarized the information in a way she thought would be helpful for the Board. The programs listed were Family Planning, which is reviewed annually, Immunizations which is done every two years and is scheduled to be done in 2009, and the Peak Wellness Program which just began recently and has an ongoing survey process. For 2009, nursing staff will develop a survey for the Nursing Home Visit Program. Ms. North stated that our clients are very pleased with the services they are receiving.

Anne Bennett, Director of the Nutrition Division, reviewed the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) client satisfaction survey results. Surveys are performed every other year and are done by random sample. Ms. Bennett stated that the majority of our clients are pleased with the services provided by our WIC program. Ms. Bennett also included a summary of the 2008 Produce and Health Fairs survey.

Executive Director's Report

TCHD Employee Receives Award for Innovation in Preventing Hunger

Carrie McConnell of the Nutrition Division was awarded the Colorado Anti Hunger Network's Hunger Champion Award for innovation in preventing hunger. Carrie was the primary coordinator for organizing the Produce and Health Fairs that took place from June through August 2008 in Adams, Arapahoe, Denver and Jefferson Counties. Through these fairs, 3,301 packages of fresh produce, health information and cooking demonstrations were provided to over 13,000 low-income residents at twelve events in the four counties. This project was accomplished through collaboration with Food Bank of the Rockies, local food banks and pantries, Denver

Public Health Department, Jefferson County Department of Public Health and Environment, churches, local grocery stores, and numerous other community agencies.

Teacher Training in December 2008

Once again Tri-County Health Department's Nutrition Division teamed up with the Colorado Department of Education, the Western Dairy Council, and Live Well Commerce City to sponsor a one-day course for school teachers of all grade levels to promote integrating nutrition and physical activity into the classroom. Of the 75 teachers who attended, 32 were from school districts within the TCHD service area. Twenty-one teachers were from Adams County, eight were from Arapahoe County and three were from Douglas County.

Family Planning Program Expanded Due to Funding Increase

Last year, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) received several million dollars from an anonymous donor for the purpose of reducing unintended pregnancies statewide. TCHD's Family Planning program received money from CDPHE in two phases. The first phase began in November 2008 with money to reimburse the program for long-term reversible contraception, male and female sterilization, and training for nursing staff. The second phase was awarded through a competitive grant process which required applicants to demonstrate the ability to serve an increased number of clients. TCHD's Family Planning program was awarded an additional \$146,324. This funding is projected to continue for five years. TCHD will expand services in Commerce City and begin providing services in the Lone Tree and Pecos offices. Nurses will also begin providing family planning services on home visits and begin a pilot project to provide services to women being released from the Arapahoe County Jail. We estimate that we will serve an additional 1,750 clients from February 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

Gary Sky Receives Local and National Awards

Gary Sky, Public Information Officer, continues to make TCHD look good by receiving recognition for his creative work at both the state and national levels. Gary received the Gold Medal Award in the poster category for our 60th Anniversary "Innovation" poster at the annual conference of the National Public Health Information Coalition. In addition, the TCHD annual report entitled, "Innovation – Bright Ideas with a Twist" received the Colorado Healthcare Communicators Bronze Leaf Award for annual reports under \$10,000 – the highest award in the category.

Other Items

Dr. Vogt gave an update on an *E. coli* outbreak that was linked to the National Western Stock Show. To date, there are 23 cases of *E. coli* that are confirmed, probable or suspect and 22 of the cases are in children. Eight of the cases were in TCHD's jurisdiction, four of whom were hospitalized. All but one of the eight were children. Public health officials believe the outbreak is related to petting animals at the stock show.

Dr. Gallagher inquired about the *Salmonella* outbreak linked to peanuts and whether there were any cases in our jurisdiction. Dr. Vogt responded that five or six *Salmonella* cases in TCHD's service area appeared to be linked to this outbreak. *Salmonella* was recovered in both Peanut Corporation of America plants, which have subsequently been closed. Dr. Vogt reminded the

Board that CDPHE and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have advised the public to not consume any peanut butter product unless it has received a “green light.” We maintain a link on our website to the FDA website where people can obtain the most current information. Dr. Gallagher noted that local papers such as *Your Hub* and the *Greenwood Village News* might be venues for explaining where information can be found. This would also provide TCHD with an opportunity to publicize public health. Dr. Vogt commented that the state health department has taken the lead on informing the public on this issue to date. He agreed to consider taking this proactive stance with future outbreaks.

Set Agenda for the April 14, 2009 Meeting

The following items will be on the agenda for the April 14, 2009 Board of Health meeting: 1) a public hearing on proposed environmental health fee changes; 2) a report on the progress made on reauthorization; 3) talking points for the Board of Health; and 4) a report on the Division of Wildlife coyote conflict symposium.

Board Member Remarks

Dr. Fawell announced that the next annual conference for the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) will be held July 1-3, 2009 in Philadelphia, PA and stated that interested Board members should notify Ronnae Brockman, Executive Assistant, as soon as possible.

ACTION ITEM: Board members to notify Ms. Brockman if they wish to attend the annual NALBOH conference.

Closing Remarks

None.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the TCHD Board of Health will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 4:30 P.M. at Tri-County Health Department, 7000 E. Belleview Avenue, Suite 370, Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 P.M. by general consent.

Thomas Fawell, M.D., President

Ruth Fischhaber, Secretary