



**Board of Health Meeting  
April 9, 2020  
Minutes**

At a meeting of the Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) Board of Health, held virtually via Zoom, there were:

**Board of Health Members:**

Janice Brainard, RN, Secretary, Arapahoe County	Present
Richard Delaney, JD, Adams County	Present
Thomas Fawell, MD, Arapahoe County	Present
Kaia Gallagher, PhD, Arapahoe County	Present
Marsha Jaroch, NP, Douglas County	Present
Paulette Joswick, RN, Douglas County	Present
Julie Mullica, Adams County	Present
Zachary Nannestad, Vice President, Douglas County	Present
Rosanna Reyes, RN, President, Adams County	Present

**Executive Management Team Members:**

Michele Askenazi, Director of Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communicable Disease Surveillance	Present
Heather Baumgartner, Director of Community Health Promotion	Present
Jill Bonczynski, Director of Nutrition	Present
Ronnae Brockman, Executive Assistant	Present
Monique Didier, Director of Administration and Finance	Present
John M. Douglas, Jr., MD, Executive Director	Present
Mame Fuhrman, Director of the Office of Human Resources	Absent
Penny Grande, Director of Nursing	Present
Brian Hlavacek, Director of Environmental Health	Present
Jennifer Ludwig, Deputy Director	Present
Kelly Weidenbach, Director of Planning and Information Management	Present

**Call to Order**

Ms. Reyes called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

**Introductions**

It was noted that the following county representatives were present: Emma Pinter, Adams County Commissioner; Kathleen Conti, Arapahoe County Commissioner; and Maureen Waller, Douglas County Special Projects Manager.

**Approval of the Minutes of the February 13, 2020 Meeting**

The minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting were presented to the Board for review.

**MOTION: Ms. Jaroch moved to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting and Ms. Mullica seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

#### **Approval of the Minutes of the March 24, 2020 Meeting**

The minutes of the March 24, 2020 meeting were presented to the Board for review.

**MOTION: Ms. Brainard moved to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2020 meeting and Ms. Mullica seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

#### **Approval of the Financial Statements Dated January 31, 2020**

Ms. Didier presented the financial statements dated January 31, 2020 to the Board for review. She stated that year-to-date (YTD) revenue totaled \$5.2 million, which was over budget by \$1.6 million. YTD expenditures totaled \$3.7 million, which was lower than budgeted by \$119,000. Net income for the month was \$1.56 million. TCHD continues to invest a portion of its fund balance with Chandler Asset Management in a \$6 million dollar bond portfolio, with JPMorgan Chase with \$5 million in a laddered CD portfolio, and has approximately \$4 million invested with CSafe.

**MOTION: Ms. Jaroch moved to accept the financial statements dated January 31, 2020 as presented and Mr. Nannestad seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

#### **Appoint Board Governance Committee**

Ms. Reyes stated her intent to create a Board of Health Governance Committee and appointed herself, Ms. Joswick, and Ms. Brainard as committee members. Ms. Brainard declined and recommended that Dr. Fawell be appointed to the Governance Committee. Dr. Fawell also declined. Mr. Delaney volunteered to join the Governance Committee and Ms. Reyes accepted. In summary, Ms. Reyes, Ms. Joswick and Mr. Delaney comprise the newly formed Board of Health Governance Committee.

#### **Remembrance**

Dr. Fawell informed the Board that Rick Hale, a former TCHD Board of Health member representing Douglas County, lost his battle with COVID-19 and passed away on April 1, 2020. He requested that the Board members and all of those present take a moment to remember those who have lost their lives to this awful disease.

**ACTION ITEM: Ms. Brainard and Ms. Joswick to send the Board's condolences to Mr. Hale's family.**

Dr. Douglas stated that TCHD would also like to send condolences to Mr. Hale's family.

**ACTION ITEM: Dr. Fawell to provide contact information to Dr. Douglas.**

#### **Infectious Disease/COVID-19 Update**

Ms. Richter presented communicable disease surveillance data for 2019; summarized 2019 rabies activity in TCHD's jurisdiction and statewide; provided updates on the 2019-2020 influenza

season, the hepatitis A outbreak among homeless people and those who use drugs; and a measles case in Adams County.

Dr. Douglas and various TCHD staff members provided an update on the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and TCHD's response efforts. This included case numbers and other relevant data, social distancing orders, compliance and enforcement efforts, health and medical capacity planning, public information, and next steps. Dr. Douglas also addressed several questions from the Board on rapid testing availability, personal protective equipment availability, funding availability and TCHD's authority to issue public health orders.

### **Public Health Improvement Plan Update: Mental Health**

A progress update was provided for TCHD's Public Health Improvement Plan Priority Area 2, Mental Health, and summarized TCHD's efforts, in conjunction with several community partners, to promote mental health and wellness, prevent and decrease suicide attempts and deaths, and decrease drug overdose deaths.

### **Program Update: Baby and Me Tobacco Free**

A program update on TCHD's Baby and Me Tobacco Free program was included in the Board meeting packet for Board members to read in advance. The update detailed major accomplishments in the past one to three years as well as future program goals.

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

#### **New Food Security Specialist Hired to Address Food Access in Adams County**

Lilia Chavez, a Registered Dietitian at TCHD, has been selected to work as the new Food Security Specialist in nutrition-related policies, systems, and environmental change to help increase food access in Adams County.

#### **Strategic Plan Update: Employee Retention**

A progress update was provided for Strategic Plan Priority Area #1, Employee Retention and Development. Goals in this priority area include competitive pay and benefits; professional and leadership development; and assessing employee workload across the agency. All work is on-target to meet year one milestones.

#### **Harm Reduction and HIV Prevention Program Budget Cuts**

TCHD's Harm Reduction and HIV Prevention Program relies solely on grant funds from CDPHE and federal pass through funds. Three grants make up the complex funding stream that supports program work: Counseling, Testing and Referral; Colorado HIV/AIDS Prevention Program; and Linkage to Care. Funding through June 30, 2020 has been greatly reduced in all three areas. We expect that some funding will be available for the second half of 2020, but the amount and timing is still undetermined.

#### **Title X Funding and Sexual Health Program Update**

TCHD receives Title X family planning funds, which enable us to provide family planning and sexual health services. In 2019, TCHD served 5,179 female and 706 male clients during 11,638 visits (some clients had more than one visit). Services rendered to clients are at discounted rates or by income. Services offered include examinations for cancer screening, initiation or

continuation of birth control methods, pregnancy testing and options counseling, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, HIV testing, or a combination of services.

### **Update on Project CABO!**

TCHD has held first round vendor demonstrations for a new Enterprise Resource Planning/Human Resource Information System. We plan to hold second round scoring with vendors on April 6, 2020 after which we will assess next steps. At this time, vendor reference checks are on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which may push back our original timeline. We were hoping to go under contract by May 2020 and go-live in April 2021.

### **Employee Benefits Update**

Benefit renewal negotiations have been completed for our 2020/2021 plan year, which begins on June 1, 2020. TCHD's medical insurance premium with Kaiser will increase by 4.34%. TCHD will absorb 80% of the increase and employees who enroll in Kaiser will pay the remaining 20%. There is no premium increase for dental and vision insurance. TCHD will save approximately \$58,000 by switching to One America for life, short- and long-term disability, and accidental death and dismemberment insurance. We will also increase all employees' life insurance from 1.5 to two times their base salary. Finally, we are adding new voluntary benefits for employees including pet insurance and AFLAC hospitalization insurance.

### **Aurora Healthy Kids' Meals Ordinance**

The Aurora Healthy Kids' Meals ordinance, which would require Aurora restaurants with bundled kids' meals to offer healthy beverages as the standard offering rather than sugary drinks, passed first reading on a 6-3 vote at the Aurora City Council meeting on March 2, 2020. The second reading has been delayed due to COVID-19 response.

### **Diabetes Education Program Awarded Continued Recognition**

TCHD's Diabetes Education Program has been awarded continued Recognition from the American Diabetes Association (ADA) for Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support.

### **Tobacco-Free 303 Campaign**

TCHD is running a media campaign on youth vaping from late March through late May. The campaign includes public service announcements developed with community members as well as print ads for young people. Youth-targeted messages focus on healthier coping strategies while messaging on the need for stronger regulations targets parents and caregivers. Visit <http://www.tobaccofree303.org> to view materials.

### **Adams County and Aurora Healthy Youth Assessments**

With support from state funding to address opioid abuse, TCHD will conduct healthy youth assessments in southwest Adams County and north Aurora through June 30, 2020. In Adams County, this assessment will serve as the first stage of the national Strategic Prevention Framework and will inform the work of the to-be-developed community coalition focused on substance use prevention as well as other programs focused on young peoples' health. In Aurora, this assessment will serve as an evaluation of the last five years of the Aurora Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) coalition and will inform future work.

### **Tobacco Control: Municipal Policy Changes**

The City of Aurora passed an updated clean indoor air ordinance on first reading in early March. The second reading has been postponed due to COVID-19. The City of Northglenn discussed tobacco retailer licensing at a recent study session with further discussions pending. With many

cities moving to cancel public meetings, we anticipate tobacco control policy passage discussions to reemerge following response to COVID-19.

#### **Matter of Balance Older Adult Fall Prevention**

Due to COVID-19, TCHD has cancelled all Matter of Balance classes through June. This was a difficult decision, but became a clear necessity given the high-risk population served. Staff are communicating with the funder to identify possible alternate service strategies.

#### **Promoting Mental Health**

During National Mental Health Month (May), TCHD will run paid and earned media from the Let's Talk Colorado Campaign aimed at promoting mental health conversations and destigmatizing help-seeking. Along with the Metro Denver Partnership for Health and health systems partners, a plan is being finalized to keep the campaign moving forward.

#### **New Maternal and Child Health Priorities**

Every five years, Colorado's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program conducts a state-level needs assessment of the health and well-being of women, children, youth, and families. Through the 2019 needs assessment, the following statewide priorities were identified for 2021-2025: increase prosocial connection, create safe and connected built environments, improve access to supports, increase social emotional well-being, promote positive child and youth development, increase economic mobility, and reduce racial inequities. TCHD's MCH Program is kicking off a process to prioritize which of the seven focus areas will drive work at the local level beginning October 2021 as well as how to best transition current efforts.

#### **Collaboration on Regional EPA Air Toxics Monitoring Grant**

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is partnering with local neighborhoods, local government and public health agencies, university research institutions, and air quality monitoring contractors to implement an advanced air toxics assessment and source characterization program focused on the Environmental Justice communities located north of Denver. Requested grant funds from the EPA total approximately \$666,000 and, depending on the timing of the final award, the project would commence in September 2020.

#### **Federal Aid for WIC and SNAP Benefits During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

On March 27, 2020, Congress approved the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which includes an additional \$15 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). However, that funding will likely be used to meet existing obligations or assist new families seeking SNAP assistance in the midst of an economic downturn, instead of increasing the value of SNAP's benefits for certified families. Additionally, several WIC provisions were included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act that passed on March 18, 2020 including \$500 million in additional funding to meet program needs.

#### **National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey and TCHD Involvement**

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) is a program of studies designed to assess the health and nutritional status of adults and children in the United States and is responsible for producing vital health statistics for the nation. Data are collected through household interviews and standardized medical examinations in mobile examination centers. Each year, 15 counties across the United States are selected and visited as part of the survey, which examines a nationally representative sample of about 5,000 people. This program falls under the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. This year, Arapahoe County was selected to participate in the NHANES Survey; however, the National Center for Health Statistics

suspended NHANES data collection for an unspecified time period due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Legislative Update**

The legislative session began January 8, 2020. On March 14, 2020, the House and Senate signed Joint Resolution 20-1006 to adjourn for two-weeks in response to the spread of COVID-19. During those two weeks, the General Assembly asked the Colorado Supreme Court to determine if the 120-day limit on the legislative session was limited to consecutive and continuous days or, for purposes of operating during a declared disaster emergency, to days when the legislature is in session. The Court has yet to issue an opinion. The legislative session was set to resume on Monday, March 30, 2020, but had to adjourn for three days because neither chamber had a quorum.

### **Other Items**

None.

### **Set Agenda for the June 11, 2020 Meeting**

The June 11, 2020 meeting agenda will include a revised sugar-sweetened beverage resolution, a public hearing to consider Environmental Health fee changes, the final auditor's report for fiscal year 2019, budgetary dynamics for fiscal year 2021, and a legislative engagement summary for Colorado's 2020 legislative session.

### **Board Member Remarks**

Ms. Reyes thanked Dr. Douglas and the TCHD staff for their hard work on COVID-19 response.

Dr. Gallagher reminded the Board that the Board of Health Budget Subcommittee would meet around the end of May.

**MOTION: Ms. Joswick moved to postpone the Executive Session scheduled at the end of this meeting to the June 11, 2020 Board meeting. Dr. Fawell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Closing Remarks**

None.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. by general consensus.

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Rosanna Reyes, President

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Jan Brainard, Secretary