



**Board of Health Meeting
November 6, 2020
Minutes**

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

Board of Health Members:

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| 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:

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| Michele Askenazi, Director of Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communicable Disease Surveillance | Present |
| Heather Baumgartner, Director of Community Health Promotion | Present |
| Lisa Bolstad, Administrative Assistant | 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 | Present |
| 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 |

Others Present:

Sid Overton, Legal Counsel

Call to Order

Ms. Reyes called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Proposed Policy on Issuance of County-wide Public Health Orders

Dr. Douglas introduced a draft policy to the Board that was developed in response to Douglas County's notice of intent to withdraw from TCHD. If passed by the Board, TCHD's Executive Director or designee would be required to consult with the Board of Health and county elected officials and obtain feedback for consideration prior to issuing a countywide public health order. The County Commissioners would also have the ability to opt out of countywide public health orders. Per Dr. Douglas, Douglas County will

commit to remaining with TCHD through the end of 2022 if the proposed policy is adopted by the Board. He stated that Adams County has also shared their support.

MOTION: Ms. Joswick moved to go into Executive Session with legal counsel to discuss issues related to the proposed Policy on Issuance of County-wide Public Health Orders. Ms. Mullica seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote by Board of Health members.

Mr. Sid Overton invoked attorney-client privilege under Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) 24-6-402(4) to discuss legal matters regarding the above stated issue which contains sensitive information.

The Executive Session of the Board was held from 10:15 a.m. to 11:29 a.m. at which time the Board returned to the public meeting.

Dr. Douglas read the proposed Policy aloud in its entirety.

Ms. Mullica made the following statement: “ I have to say how disappointed I am that we are where we are today. This policy change is completely unnecessary and is only before us today because the Douglas County Commissioners threatened to dissolve the relationship with Tri-County Health Department. Their actions are completely irresponsible given that we are facing the most crucial public health crisis in a century. In the end, we need to remember that our main goal is, as a public health department, to save lives. We are at a point in the pandemic that all hands are on deck and saving the lives of our community members is our sole priority. So, unfortunately, with a heavy heart I will support this policy because I want to save the lives of members of my community and I want our leadership to focus on saving the lives of the people in our community. Our leadership has spent too much time focusing over the past couple of months on trying to solve the political concerns of the Douglas County Commissioners. This is a time when we should not be fighting amongst ourselves, but rallying behind our public health officials and our hospitals as our cases continue to surge. I think this is a sad day for the Tri-County Board of Health and I think it’s a sad day for public health in Colorado. Anti-science and anti-public health policy interference from elected leaders puts us all at risk and only fuels the partisanship and mistrust that we have. I just want to express my complete and overwhelming support for Dr. John Douglas and Jennifer Ludwig and for all the Tri-County staff that have worked tirelessly over the last nine months. Your perseverance and your dedication to service during this pandemic is a tremendous gift to our communities. Thank you for all that you’ve done.”

Ms. Reyes stated that she agrees with Ms. Mullica’s comments and thinks it’s unfortunate that we have to deal with this political situation. She expressed her belief that we need to focus on working through this pandemic and ensuring resources are there for our leadership, our staff and our volunteers. She stated that we have experienced a loss of life in our communities as well as a former member of our Board of Health, Rick Hale.

MOTION: Ms. Joswick moved to adopt the Policy Regarding Issuance of County-wide Public Health Orders. Ms. Jaroch seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Nannestad, Ms. Joswick, Ms. Jaroch, Dr. Gallagher, Dr. Fawell, Ms. Brainard, Ms. Mullica and Mr. Delaney in favor. Ms. Reyes abstained.

Update on COVID-19

Dr. Douglas provided an update on county case rates and hospitalization rates for COVID-19, which have continued to climb across TCHD’s jurisdiction. He stated that TCHD is no longer able to keep up with

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contact tracing due to the number of daily cases. Dr. Douglas informed the Board that Adams County was moved to level three on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Dial nine days ago; however, there has been no impact on COVID transmission rates. Therefore, a new public health order, which will go into effect this weekend, has been developed in conjunction with Adams County Leadership. There will be a press release later today.

Other Items

None.

Adjournment

MOTION: Dr. Fawell moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m. Mr. Delaney seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote by Board of Health members.

Rosanna Reyes, President

Jan Brainard, Secretary