



**Board of Health Meeting  
April 8, 2021  
Minutes**

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

**Board of Health Members:**

Janice Brainard, RN, Arapahoe County	Present
Thomas Fawell, MD, Arapahoe County	Present
Kaia Gallagher, PhD, President, Arapahoe County	Present
Marsha Jaroch, NP, Douglas County	Absent
Linda Fielding, MD, Douglas County	Present
Julie Mullica, MPH, Vice President, Adams County	Present
Zachary Nannestad, MPH, Secretary, Douglas County	Present
Rosanna Reyes, RN, Adams County	Present
Julie Schilz, RN, 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
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

**Call to Order**

Dr. Gallagher called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Introductions**

Dr. Gallagher welcomed Randy Dement and Sid Overton, TCHD's legal counsel. Ms. Askenazi introduced Sara Garrington, Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager; and Sheldon Irons, Safety and Security Specialist. Ms. Baumgartner introduced Dr. Maura Proser, Public Health Prevention and Policy Manager; and Emma Goforth, Maternal and Child Health Program Manager.

**Closed Executive Session with Legal Counsel**

**MOTION: Ms. Mullica moved to go into Executive Session with legal counsel to receive legal advice pertaining to opt out provisions and public health orders. Dr. Fawell seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote by the Board of Health members.**

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

The Executive Session was held from 4:35 p.m. to 5:01 p.m.

**MOTION: Mr. Nannestad moved to end the closed executive session with legal counsel and return to the public meeting. Dr. Fielding seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote by the Board members.**

**Approval of the Minutes of the March 11, 2021 Meeting**

Ms. Brainard requested that the minutes of the March 11, 2021 meeting be modified to reflect her statement that she sees value in the Governance Committee for conducting research and creating guidance documents for the Board.

**MOTION: Ms. Mullica moved to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2021 meeting with the above amendment requested by Ms. Brainard. Dr. Fawell seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote by the Board members.**

**COVID-19 Update**

Dr. Douglas provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic and TCHD's response efforts. He discussed case numbers and other relevant data; vaccine prioritization and allocation in Colorado; COVID variant surveillance and tracking; and upcoming changes to the state's COVID-19 Dial and statewide public health orders.

**Consideration of a Public Health Order to Extend Use of the 3.0 Dial System**

Dr. Douglas informed the Board that on April 4, 2021, the state's mask mandate was extended one month. On April 16, 2021, the state's public health order requiring the use of the Dial to govern business capacity will end and the Dial will devolve to local governments to use as guidance or as the basis for local public health orders. The state plans to issue a 30-day public health order on April 16, 2021 that restricts unseated indoor gatherings to less than 500 people. Then, from May 15, 2021 onward, there will be no state public health order restricting business capacity.

Dr. Douglas stated that he has been in discussions with the Directors of other Metro area local public health agencies (i.e., Denver, Jefferson, Broomfield, and Boulder) about whether a one-month Dial extension would be prudent given the prevalence of the highly transmissible COVID-19 B.1.1.7 variant, which confers a higher probability of hospitalization and death among those 40 and up. Doing so would give us an extra month to increase vaccination coverage from a projected 40% in mid-April to 65% in mid-May. Additionally, implementing a consistent framework across the Metro area would avoid a "patchwork" approach.

Dr. Douglas asked the Board to authorize and direct him to issue a public health order that would extend use of the Dial 3.0 framework in TCHD's jurisdiction for 30 days beginning April 16, 2021. The proposed public health order would allow our counties to move down one step to Level Blue on the Dial from April 16 to May 15, 2021 and allow businesses to continue participating in a county-based 5-Star program. On May 16, 2021, businesses would be allowed to fully reopen and a 90-day observation period ("Level Clear") would follow to track conditions over the summer. TCHD would use hospitalization rates to assess the need for future capacity modifications after May 15, 2021. Any County in TCHD's jurisdiction would have the ability to opt out of the public health order per Board of Health policy.

Ms. Ludwig informed the Board that Adams and Arapahoe Counties both expressed support for extending the Dial and moving to a less restrictive level for 30 days. Douglas County would likely opt out of a public health order.

**MOTION: Ms. Mullica moved to authorize and direct the Executive Director of Tri-County Health Department to:**

- **Issue local Public Health Orders to extend use of a simplified Dial 3.0 Framework describing capacity limits and other best practices in the TCHD district for 30 days starting from April 16, 2021 (or whenever state guidance devolves to local authorities);**
- **Allow counties to move down one step to less restrictive limits on business capacity from April 16, 2021 to May 15, 2021;**
- **Allow businesses to continue participating in a county-based 5-Star program;**
- **Use metrics of severity (e.g., hospitalization rates) to assess the need for future capacity modifications based on pandemic trends;**
- **Allow any county to opt out of the county-wide local public health order as per Board of Health policy; and**
- **Allow a 90-day observational phase beginning May 16, 2021 to monitor hospitalization rates.**

**Following discussion, Ms. Reyes seconded and the motion passed with all in favor except Dr. Fielding who opposed.**

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

Ms. Baumgartner, Dr. Proser and Ms. Goforth provided an update on Public Health Improvement Plan progress in Priority Area 2: Mental Health. Information provided included suicide mortality data by age and county; emergency hospital visits for suicidality and disaster-related mental health concerns; overdose mortality data by substance and by county; and emergency hospital visits for non-fatal alcohol and other drug overdoses. The group also presented tables illustrating mental health access among TCHD residents as well as reasons for not accessing treatment as reported in 2017 and 2019 (updated data will be collected in 2021). They concluded their update with a snapshot of mental health-supporting accomplishments, pandemic-related efforts, and next steps.

Ms. Mullica asked that the Board receive future updates regarding TCHD consultation and outcomes with local governments, including prioritized recommendations, on opioid abatement and use of opioid litigation funding.

***ACTION ITEM: TCHD to provide future updates to the Board regarding TCHD consultation and outcomes with local governments, including prioritized recommendations, on opioid abatement and use of opioid litigation funding.***

### **Update on Current and Proposed Air Monitoring Efforts Near the Suncor Refinery**

Kate Fury, TCHD's Air Quality Policy and Program Specialist, summarized current and potential air monitoring efforts near the Suncor refinery. She discussed the lack of air quality information, gaps in the current regulatory structure, current air monitoring efforts, and proposed air monitoring activities (HB21-1189, Concerning Additional Public Health Protections in Relation to the Emission of Air Toxics).

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

The Executive Director's Report contained updates on COVID-19 vaccine equity efforts, the City of Lone Tree's newly adopted tobacco retail licensing ordinance, new and planned community syringe disposal kiosks, and implementation progress on TCHD's new financial system. The report also contained a legislative update on bills of interest and a communicable disease update on influenza activity, rabies activity, Ebola travel monitoring, and a cryptosporidiosis cluster associated with a farm animal sanctuary in Adams County.

### **Set Agenda for the May 13, 2021 Meeting**

Agenda items for the May 13, 2021 Board meeting will include: 1) TCHD accreditation and the re-accreditation process, 2) a COVID-19 update and 3) a Board Executive Session to discuss the Executive Director's mid-term performance and goals.

### **Board Member Remarks**

None.

### **Closing Remarks**

None.

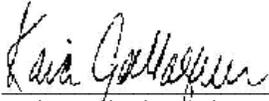
### **Executive Session**

Dr. Gallagher tabled the Executive Session to discuss the Executive Director's mid-term performance and goals to the May 13, 2021 meeting due to time constraints. She informed the Board there were several documents related to the Executive Director's performance evaluation on the Board's Google Drive. She asked the Board members to look through these materials, including Dr. Douglas' goals, prior to the May 13, 2021 Board meeting. She also stated that the Google Drive folder contains an assessment form that Board members will complete in August 2021.

***ACTION ITEM: Board members to review the documents related to the Executive Director's performance evaluation, including Dr. Douglas' goals, prior to the May 13, 2021 Board meeting. These documents are located on the Board's Google Drive.***

**Adjournment**

**MOTION: Dr. Fawell moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. Ms. Mullica seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous affirmative vote.**



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Kaia Gallagher, PhD, President



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Zach Nannestad, Secretary