

Delta County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2023

Board Members	Staff	Guests/Public
Jeri Roberts Wendell Koontz, Chair Jo Rosenquist (excused) Mike Lane, Vice Chair Don Chapman	Greg Rajnowski Karen O'Brien Pat Sullivan Robbie LeValley Leone Anderson Leah Rawson	

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Koontz at 3:30 PM.
- Action on the minutes:
 - March 21st, 2023 monthly meeting minutes - Don Chapman moved to accept the minutes, Commissioner Lane, Second- Unanimous.

Public Health Director's Report

- **Financials** - Leone Anderson
 - The Payment Approval Report was presented by Leone. Commissioner Koontz asked about the \$2250 payment. Karen said it was training for 14 staff members on motivational Interviewing and is covered under the CDC Workforce grant. Commissioner Lane asked about the payment to Anne Litwin & Associates (\$500). Karen responded that this is a leadership coach to help with staff development, also covered under the CDC Workforce grant.
 - Leone explained the income statement for the end of March.
 - CSBG has been a consistent fund, around \$35,000, the last allocation was for slightly more. These funds help support the family planning department.
 - Emergency Preparedness grant is underspent due to salary savings for the unfilled position.
 - The aforementioned CDC workforce grant is being spent down and we keep it in a deferred revenue account until spent.
 - STEPP (Tobacco Grant) will be underspent as well due to salary savings for the unfilled position.
 - Don Chapman moved to accept the financials as presented, Commissioner Lane second, Unanimous.

- **Department Updates - Karen O'Brien**

- **Flooding** – We have been pushing messages on social media around this topic for a few weeks and have been sharing our posts with Lindsay. We have several key prevention messages involving hazardous materials, clearing debris, wastewater/septic care, water contamination, etc. that Shirley and Lindsay have been working on to consolidate, clear and concise, call-to-action messages. We are also updating a list for agencies serving vulnerable populations and the medically compromised: Home Health, Long-Term Care, Assisted Living, and congregate facilities. Greg and Kris will meet with public works and water systems staff from each municipality to review plans for flooding. Shirley will continue to work with Lindsay on messaging and helping organize the Joint Information Center (JIC).
- **COVID-19** cases, positivity and hospitalizations in Colorado have decreased and follows the trend for the US. Delta had a surge of 32 cases in the past two weeks (4/3 - 4/16), 6 hospitalizations and 3 deaths during 3/26 - 4/11. XBB.1.5 remains the dominant subvariant projected to be at approximately 78% of all COVID cases in the U.S. Average ages of hospitalized were adults (>40) and deaths were older adults, some with underlying health conditions. Delta County is considered low risk according to the CDC community level and “moderate” community transmission as of 4/17.
- **The demand for self-administered COVID test kits** (delivered curb-side) has been steady and we have been offering a rapid PCR test with results in approximately 20 minutes.
- **We are in a holding pattern with adult COVID vaccines.** Monovalent vaccines have been discontinued. The current bivalent mRNA vaccines that include both original and omicron strains are authorized by the FDA; however, vaccine administration can only begin following the formal recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Director approval. The ACIP meets tomorrow, Wednesday, April 19, 2023, to discuss recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines. Monovalent are not authorized to be given.
- **Our immunization clinic** is starting to see people come in for other than COVID vaccines. We have been working with the school district to create an "Immunization Made Easy" program. This program will help parents of students entering 6th grade by providing the TDAP vaccine at their school. Clinics are scheduled for 5/4 and 5/11 in Cedaredge and Garnet Mesa Elementary. Additionally, the state’s vaccine bus is still holding clinics throughout the county. The schedule for April and May is: 4/18 Cedaredge Foodtown, 4/29 Hotchkiss City Market, 5/ 5 Cinco de Mayo in Delta, 5/6 Partner’s Palooza Delta. The vaccine buses will end on May 11.
- **Staffing** – I am pleased to announce that Shirley Tatto has accepted the Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator position, effective 4/17/23. Shirley has done an excellent job getting to know our community partners and working with our most vulnerable and at-risk populations in her current role as Community Engagement Coordinator. This experience, coupled with her strong communication skills, will help her successfully step into her new role. Additionally, we have filled the Dietitian position for the WIC program. Susan Harrison has been the Dietitian for Gunnison for approximately 10 years and we are happy that she is able to add Delta to her service area.

- Don C. asked for clarification on the Campylobacter cases: Pat responded that one was a food handler and another was involved with handling a dead cow.
- Marburg virus is being monitored internationally.
- Karen added that [Xylazine](#), (aka “zombie drug”) an animal tranquilizer is being added to fentanyl on the street. There was a question on whether Narcan can be used in that situation. Narcan can impact the fentanyl component, but not the other. Narcan has been offered to police and school officials. Commissioner Koontz asked that we push messaging for Narcan to the teen population, especially since summer vacation is approaching.
- Karen said that vaccination rates are declining locally and worldwide. Pat Sullivan highlighted the risk for meningitis (due to the 3 deaths on the eastern slope) and pointed out that there is a vaccine- it is a preventable illness.
- Karen expressed her appreciation for the recognition of 15 years at DCHD.

Environmental Health Director’s Report - Greg

General:

- **Floodplain Administrator-** this position will be reappointed once the new emergency management employee is hired.
- **Meth Ordinance-** will be reaching out to Sheriff Taylor regarding meth cleanup ordinance and “governing authority”. This is on the topic for the EH Director meeting next week. The state regulation is being looked into as it regards the local role. The BOH request to review these local ordinances was made in March of 2019.
- **High Risk School Inspections** were completed for the year and we’re working with them on removing outdated chemical and facility safety improvements that have been long overdue. There is funding to improve ventilation in many of the facilities, so we’ve been optimistic that it will also improve communicable disease transmission (and test scores anecdotally). [Mesa County Hazardous Waste Collection Facility](#) is now accepting out-of-county waste and VSQG business accounts (under 2200 lbs. or 1000 kg). All of this for a nominal fee (per pound). Address is: HWCF, 3071 US Highway 50 (31 Rd off of HWY 6/50), Grand Junction, CO, 81503
- **Private Burials:** EH met with the County Attorney’s office on 3/23, County Clerk & Coroner to discuss updating the Private Burial Ordinance. Everything covered in the current ordinance is part of state statute, and the additional work done by EH in coordination with the Clerk and Coroner is covered by EH site visit procedures that are typical and customarily covered by EH fees. As a result of the discussion, it was concluded that the new process would be better handled by an **interdepartmental policy**. We already assisted in one private burial that was completed and filed with the County Clerk’s office. The process was improved and the applicant was very accommodating to work with to make those improvements. The turnaround time was greatly reduced and tracked. Delta Health, and Chaplains, along with existing partners will be informed once reviewed by the BOH.
- **6122 Graff-** Decided after consultation with the Asst County attorney and the resident/occupant that we would enforce the OWTS Cease and Desist, and once the violation of the C&D order is in effect- the public health nuisance violation will be executed. This comes with a 120-day jail &/or \$750 fine). Commissioner Lane requested that we keep Mr. Martinez updated on the progress we are making.

- **West Nile virus Surveillance:** Greg met with the Cedaredge Trustees (with Orchard City representatives) on April 6th from 5:00pm - 7:30pm to discuss next steps for the development of an additional surveillance program in the Surface Creek/Orchard City area. Educational materials and public information will be distributed closer to the middle of May. Another planning meeting with mosquito control districts and municipal participants is being planned for May 5th.
 - Commissioner Koontz- allocating dollars for larvicide, up to \$5000.

General Comment: Commissioner Koontz spoke with representative Matt Soper regarding psychedelics/psilocybin- medical administration or therapeutic. Asked that we stay informed on this issue.

Adjourn

- The Board of Health meeting was adjourned at 4:36 pm by Commissioner Koontz.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Greg Rajnowski and Karen O'Brien.