



Board of Health
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Delta County Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Nov 16th, 2021

Board Members	Staff	Guests/Public
Mike Lane Don Suppes Wendell Koontz Jo Rosenquist Don Chapman	Greg Rajnowski Karen O'Brien Robbie LeValley Leone Anderson	Greg Hottinger Aaron Watson Melisa Brady

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lane at 3:30 PM.
Action on the October 19th Minutes: Rosenquist moved Approval/Suppes
second/Unanimous.

Public Discussion time:

- Mr Watson introduced himself as associated with Dark Skies Paonia and thanked the Health Department for the letter of support. He also thanked the Health Department for the great wellness messages in the news releases and he particularly liked that we added the importance of being kind to one another. He is a wellness coach and likes to see messages around wellness.

Financial Reporting - Leone presented the financials and stated that we are revising the budget for ELC to align for year 2 of the grant. The grant master sheets show a few additions. SB001- Restaurant licenses paid by the state (state keeps the surcharge amount, and reimburses the remainder to us on a quarterly basis as long as we have completed the retail food inspections). The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) for 2021 has ended. Renewal for another 3 years has been requested and the department has submitted the required application and budget.

Leone presented the Sept/Oct payment approval report. Leone explained the CNA Surety is the bond renewal to cover the front desk staff liability when taking in money from clients. A question about the gun safe locks - they were purchased and paid through the suicide prevention grant. The state had additional funds that were allocated

and we received approval to purchase the locks. Renee has events planned for distribution of the locks.

The Finances were approved: Rosenquist motioned/Chapman second/unanimously approved.

Public Health Director's Report - Karen O'Brien

- **Department Update:**

- COVID: Increase in cases, 120 cases in last week (62 dropped in the day before), 14 hospitalizations (all unvaccinated), 15 deaths between board meetings (Oct 19-Nov 16th). Unvaccinated constitute more than 90% of all cases, hospitalizations and deaths. 528 cases in October; testing and vaccinations continues. The ED continues to test around 50 people per day.
- RSV is increasing in children and elderly (this is early in the season). 157 hospitalized in the state for RSV as of October 1. State is starting to see influenza cases and Type A is usually linked to more severe cases in children. More data on Flu and RSV statewide can be found here: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/influenza>.
- COVID boosters and peds (5-11yr olds) were added. The Health Department will do Peds clinics at Delta Middle, Cedaredge Middle, and Hotchkiss K-8. Pediatrics get about 1/3 of the adult dosage (Pfizer is only approved to date).
- State bus has been vaccinating on a weekly basis with Hotchkiss, Paonia and Cedaredge being served as well as Delta. We are rotating the bus route to serve each community. This week the bus will be in Cedaredge and Delta.
- Monoclonal antibody bus is in Delta this week. An individual needs to meet specific criteria (must be symptomatic and test positive but not a severe case) and obtain a referral through a physician.
- Suicide Prevention support programs are scheduled through the month of November.
- EPR is still vacant (Greg is covering and assisting with the Region).
- West Nile Virus (6 pools and 16 cases) in 2021. No deaths this year. Down a little from last year.
- 225 OWTS permits thus far.

EH Directors Report - Greg Rajnowski

- **OWTS training for contractors?:** We've met with each engineer to review the issues they've had and we're planning to revise and adopt (by reference State

Regulation 43). We have a good working relationship with installers and engineers and are able to help them make modifications or adjustments to existing conditions.

- **Graywater Regulations possible?** Do state regulations allow for Graywater? Greg gave a lengthy explanation of the need for OWTS revision that would need to take place prior to Graywater Regulation adoption. Also impacting the timeline for OWTS adopting are the Land Use Code review that is currently underway. Pitkin Graywater regulations will be sent out by Greg to the Board for review in anticipation of draft regulations later in 2022. The April Board meeting will review draft OWTS regulation changes and announce a public meeting (May BOH meeting or special meeting) and submit OWTS revised regulations to the state for finalizing the draft in June; formal adoption of OWTS regulations will take place at the July BOH meeting. Greg will be sharing additional examples of graywater regulations as available.
- Graywater regulations will require system inspection for compliance under the new regulations and any unpermitted OWTS that needs conversion to graywater will require either a *transfer of title* permit before sale or a recertification and permitting of the OWTS system.
- Pitkin County graywater regulations, along with any lessons learned by their EH program will be used in the development of our graywater regulations in order to bring them to adoption. Adoption by Nov of 2022 is the target date and to this end Greg has met with the 3 state plumbing inspectors about allowing infrastructure with a design that can be “turned on” when a graywater regulation is formally adopted.
- **Floodplain Regulations** (updating in 2022-23).
- **Changes to the OWTS regulations:**
“Adoption by reference” means simplifying our restrictions beyond the state regulations as an addendum to the state OWTS Regulation 43 (ie. density/acreage restrictions, review of systems and designs, and licensing of engineers). This will make review and permitting
- **Worksession** will be scheduled for OWTS regulations early January. We are already soliciting volunteer engineers and installers to be part of a review committee.

Recommendation is to keep the December meeting on our schedules in case COVID-19 issues change, otherwise there will be no meeting in December.

Greg Hottinger introduced himself. He holds a Masters in public health and has children in Delta schools. He had several questions on natural immunity and was concerned about the risks from vaccines as reported in VAERS. He estimated that 42% of children have natural immunity right now and questioned whether it was necessary for vaccines to get us to herd immunity. He also had questions regarding public health perceptions of the risk of vaccines vs the risk of natural immunity? He pointed out, COVID vaccine has been out for such a short time so it's hard to know 0-60 month immunity. Karen said

natural immunity is not well defined for COVID because it is a novel virus and we are learning as we go. However, we do know the level of protection from the three COVID vaccines since we are now approaching the one-year mark from the first COVID vaccine administered in the U.S. and we have a plethora of data that is being analyzed. She also stated that VAERS can also be accessed by an individual to report any reactions they have had from vaccines. There is no proof required that the event was caused by the vaccine in order for VAERS to accept the report.

Melissa Brady voiced concerns regarding liability for those injured from the vaccine and vaccine administration. Commissioners said they do talk with the state Executive Director of CDPHE and will carry that message to her.

With no other items, Commissioner Lane adjourned the Board of Health meeting at 4:42 pm.

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