

FREMONT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
January 28, 2025

The Fremont County Board of Health meeting for January was held on January 28, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the Fremont County Administration Building, 615 Macon Avenue, Room 208, Cañon City, Colorado.

The following Board Members were in attendance:

Debbie Bell – Commissioner
Dwayne McFall – Commissioner
Kevin J. Grantham – Commissioner

The following staff were in attendance:

Tony Carochi – County Administrator
Shawn Sutton – Assistant County Administrator
Eric Bellas – County Attorney
Paula Buser – Public Health Director
Amy Jamison – Environmental Health Officer
Domoni A. Toler – Minutes Secretary

I) **Roll Call:**

The meeting was called to order by BOH Chairman Grantham at 2:04 p.m

II) **Approval of Minutes from December 30, 2024:**

Chair Grantham called for any changes or corrections to the December 30, 2024, Minutes. No changes or corrections were suggested.

Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 30, 2024, as drafted; Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The Fremont County Board of Health Minutes of December 30, 2024, are approved.

III) **Approval of Agenda:**

Chair Grantham called for any changes or additions to today's Agenda. No changes or additions were suggested.

Commissioner McFall made a motion to approve the Agenda; Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The Agenda is approved.

IV) **Approval of Financial Reports:**

- The Budget Reports for December 2024 were provided and discussed. Paula advised it was a good year. Public Health ended up well ahead of revenue at 270% and only spent 50% of expenses. There were a lot of unknowns and variables in 2024, and Paula has already spoken to her team about this year's budget being a little tighter and paying extra attention to it.

Commissioner McFall made a motion to approve the Financial Reports; Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The Financial Reports are accepted.

V) **Citizens not already scheduled on agenda may address the Board at this time:**

None.

VI) **Old Business:**

None.

VII) **New Business:**

1. **Board Reorganization:**

Commissioner McFall moved for nomination of Commissioner Bell to serve as the upcoming Chairman of the Board of Health for 2025. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The motion is approved.

Commissioner Bell moved for nomination of Commissioner McFall to serve as the upcoming Vice Chairman of the Board of Health for 2025. Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The motion is approved.

VIII) **Directors' Reports:**

1. **Environmental Health Report – Amy Jamison:**

- **New Establishments:**

- **Taste of Tradition:** The establishment is now open.
- **Jun's Wok:** Their plans have been approved, and Amy is waiting to hear when they will be ready for their pre-operational inspection. Several participants indicated seeing a public post yesterday that they are open as well as seeing cars there and people eating at the establishment already. Amy intends to follow up on that.
- **American Fusion:** Public Health has not officially received any paperwork from them yet, and the name of the establishment is unknown,

but it is rumored that it will be located where Michael's on Main and No Ka Oi were previously, and the type of food served might be American fusion.

- **Homer's Gumbo Pot**: This establishment is moving to the old Michael Dean's location.

- **Inspection #'s (including re-inspections and interventions):**

- **Retail Food**: 9 routine inspections; 1 pre-operational inspection; 2 consultative visits.
- **Child Care**: 2 routine inspections; 1 consultative visit.
- **Schools**: 2 high risk routine inspections; 3 low risk routine inspections.
- **Body Art**: A complaint re-inspection at Rustic Ink was done. As was discussed at last month's meeting, the complaint was about Facebook videos that were submitted showing eating in the procedure rooms, a dog in the facility, artist not changing gloves between clients and unfinished procedure rooms. Amy addressed all of these issues with the owner/manager to her satisfaction. She was then informed that Rustic Ink plans to move to Canon City next to Alta on Elm Street.

- **Complaints:**

- **Hampton Inn**: The complainant stayed at the hotel in late November and stated that several of the rooms were absolutely disgusting, they all have mold, especially in the bathrooms and the carpets are starting to grow mold. There was trash and garbage in the stairwells and in the hallways every day. The linen wash area had visible mold and standing water. The ice machine was also leaking water and had mold growth behind it. The food preparation area was horribly dirty and unsafe for food preparation. The pool area, hot tub area and workout areas were not clean, and trash was rarely collected in those areas and the hot tub was non-functional during his stay.

Amy looked at one room and it appeared clean, and no mold was observed. There was no trash or garbage collecting in the hallways or stairwell, although the carpets could use a vacuuming. The staff reported to Amy that they place trash outside the rooms when cleaning and they collect all the trash at one time. Amy did not observe any leaks or mold in the guest laundry or behind the ice machine. The hot tub is still out of service, and the staff advised that they are waiting on a part for the heater, and everything appeared clean in that area as well. There was still water in the hot tub, but it appeared clean. The pool and workout areas were not observed as dirty, and no trash was observed in those areas. Amy discovered that the complainant was an asbestos inspector from New York, and he probably is not used to staying in older hotels and it may not

be what he was expecting. The hotel is the oldest of the chain hotels we have in Canon City and is not very up to date.

- **Program Updates/Other:**

- **CFPM (Certified Food Protection Manger) Sessions:** Amy conducted three sessions over this last month. At the first session there were only 4 people registered but 11 people showed up. Last week's session had 3 people registered and 2 cancelled because of the weather, so only 1 person showed up, and the next session is tomorrow. Amy currently has one session scheduled for February and she is looking at having a session in the Cotopaxi area in late February or early March. The Regulation goes into effect March 1, 2025.
- **Rabies:** A cat was hit by car and while at the vet it bit a vet tech. and then died. Therefore, the cat had to be submitted for testing and luckily it came back negative. Normally with cat bites, the cat is just observed for ten days, but this cat died so testing was necessary.
- **License Update:** Amy sent out 196 renewals; 145 have now been received; and 51 have not yet paid. Amy will be sending out second notices this week or early next week. A list of the licensed establishments was provided to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to accept the Environmental Health Report; Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The Environmental Health Report is accepted.

2. **Public Health Report – Paula Buser:**

- **Clinic and Program Updates:**

- The December 2024 BOH Program Data Report was provided and discussed.
- Cheyenne, in her role as the Child Care Health Consultant, has been super popular and appreciated by Star Point and Head Start. Services she provides are very important as she has to do mandatory walkthroughs each month, check medications, document safety and sanitation issues, and she is a resource for providing the staff with health and safety education and medication administration, etc. Oral health screenings is something new the CCHC will now be doing. She is not diagnosing just looking in the child's mouth and helping to create awareness for pre-school parents. If she sees anything abnormal, she recommends a six-month checkup. She also does some at home newborn visits where she observes mom and baby and makes referrals as needed.
- Autumn and Sydney continue to clean up Cure MD and are working hard at collecting money owed to Public Health from past years.

- Paula was informed this morning that there has been a new Marburg Virus outbreak in Tanzania, which has a 90% mortality rate. There is some travel surveillance in Tanzania, but nothing in the US and it is a super low risk at this point.
- The largest outbreak of TB in US history has been reported in Kansas. As of January 24, 2025 there were 67 active cases and an additional 79 non-active cases of TB in two counties in the Kansas City area. TB is transferred much like COVID is, and a person will get very ill and will need to isolate themselves. TB can only be transmitted if it is active.
- There is a latent TB case of a sheriff's deputy in Fremont County who formerly served in Africa. Cheyenne interviewed him today and he is getting a chest x-ray today as a precaution, however, he is not ill and has no symptoms. There appears to be no risk or real cause for concern, but Public Health is still doing an investigation.

- **Grants/Funding Updates:**

- The Grant Spending Report was provided and discussed.
- The Harm Reduction Grant was not received by Public Health. The January 3, 2025 letter from CDPHE was provided to the Commissioners. The letter included feedback from the review committee that will assist when application is made again and was much appreciated.
- The Infrastructure Grant through the Opioid Counsel for Region 15 is close to being submitted and Paula brought a Deterra packet for the Commissioners to see. Public Health is the applicant, and the ask is for just under \$374,000.00. The campaign itself will be \$300,000.00 and then there are additional expenses for the direct mail campaign, labor, administrative fees, media, marketing, etc., that will cover all four counties. Public Health should find out in May or June if the Grant is received.
- A local Substance Abuse Prevention Grant utilizing \$400,000.00 in regional opioid funds was released recently. Qualifying organizations in Fremont, Chaffee, Park and Custer Counties may apply. The application process closes on March 20, 2025. More details can be found on the Fremont County Notice Page on the website.
- Public Health is making plans for the end of the IMM3 and ELC2 Grants which end in June. These are the quarter of a million dollar grants and there probably is nothing that can replace them as they were two left-over COVID-era grants. Public Health is saving the CDC Infrastructure Grant that runs through 2027 to cover expenses that those grants would have covered.
- Paula is hoping to get a little more COPHAD funding, but she has not heard much about that.

- **Community Outreach:**

- Canon City Rotary has offered funding from one of their community grants for the Deterra campaign.
- Public Health will sponsor the annual County Recycle Event this year. It will be April 5, 2025 at DHS. April 5th happens to be the beginning of National Public Health Week.

- **Staffing:**

- Laura Sartor from DHS was hired at Public Health as the Tobacco Cessation Specialist. She has a ton of experience and Paula believes she will be able to elevate that program.
- The first Strategic Mapping Staff Engagement Meeting was held last week. Everyone had taken an assessment and similarities and differences were discussed. Paula thought it went well.

- **Other:**

- Attorney Bellas gave his opinion and advice to the Board as to expired Naloxone distribution. Mr. Bellas does not recommend that the County adopt a policy permitting the dispensing of medication that is expired. Unless and until CDPHE adopts a policy itself which permits or directs the dispensing of expired medication, the County should not either.
- Discussion was had about reaching out to DHS, law enforcement and first responders to see what information they might have on Naloxone and if they have any feedback or success stories they would share.

Commissioner McFall made a motion to accept the Public Health Report; Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The Public Health Report is accepted.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.