

FREMONT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
October 29, 2024

The Fremont County Board of Health meeting for October was held on October 29, 2024, 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
Eric Bellas – County Attorney
Paula Buser – Public Health Director
Amy Jamison – Environmental Health Officer
Domoni A. Toler – Minutes Secretary
Wyatt Sanders – Building Department, Director

I) **Roll Call:**

The meeting was called to order by BOH Chairman Grantham at 2:00 p.m.

II) **Approval of Minutes from September 24, 2024:**

Chair Grantham called for any changes or corrections to the September 24, 2024, Minutes. No changes or corrections were suggested.

Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 24, 2024, as drafted; Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The Fremont County Board of Health Minutes of September 24, 2024, are approved.

III) **Approval of Agenda:**

Chair Grantham called for any changes or additions to today’s Agenda. Paula stated that at VIII) Director’s Reports, subcategory 2., lists “Vital Records Reorganization Recommendation” as a subcategory and that is no longer a needed subcategory.

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

IV) **Approval of Financial Reports:**

- The Budget Report and Fund Balance Report as of September 30, 2024, were provided and discussed.
- Paula advised that Public Health is over double the budget on body art fees because they raised the fees last year. Public Health has hit 97% of the total revenue budget through September, again due to excess grant funds that were available and taken advantage of, and only 57% of the expense budget has been spent. The fund balance since January is up about \$400,000.00 for a balance of \$2.1M.
- Paula also advised that Sydney and Autumn are working to recover past billings that were not done correctly. So far, they have recaptured \$3,500.00.

Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve the Financial Reports; Commissioner McFall 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. **Request for Vault Septic Containment at 901 Arnold Drive, Cotopaxi, CO 81223:** Mr. Sanders provided the Commissioners with a copy of his email correspondence with Mr. Wolfe. Mr. Wolfe was contacted by letter a month ago because the Building Department had received a complaint about an illegally installed septic tank. There was an apparent breakdown in communication with Mr. Wolfe and the Building Department, however, Mr. Wolfe correctly installed the plastic septic holding tank, but he did so without a permit. Wyatt gave him the regulations and he then made request for a permit for a vault. Mr. Sanders sent an inspector to the property to verify the tank is there and the permit application is acceptable. Mr. Wolfe indicated that eventually he intends to build a garage on the property and if he does that, he will have to upgrade to a septic system and Mr. Sanders made him aware of that. Mr. Sanders checked with Planning & Zoning who advised that the camp trailer is supposed to be moved off of the property when not in use, but that is an issue that Planning & Zoning will deal with. The Building Department will approve the permit application once the Board gives its approval.

Commissioner McFall made a motion to approve the request for a vault septic containment at 901 Arnold Drive, Cotopaxi, CO; Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The request for a vault septic containment at 901 Arnold Drive, Cotopaxi, CO is approved.

VIII) **Directors' Reports:**

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

• **New Establishments:**

- **Greener Pastures:** Greener Pastures will provide pre-packaged groceries and will be overseen by USDA. Amy will just be inspecting their refrigerators.
- **Pinup Smokehouse:** This is a mobile BBQ unit, and final approval was done this morning.

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

- **Retail Food:** 15 routine inspections; 4 re-inspections; 2 pre-operational inspections; 2 consultative visits; and 5 temporary event inspections.
- **Childcare:** 3 routine inspections.
- **Body Art:** 1 consultative inspection for Rustic Ink in Penrose.
- **Landfill Inspection:** 1 quarterly inspection was done.

• **Complaints:**

- **Alta Convenience #6324:** A complaint was made that the ice from the soda machine was not sanitary. Amy spoke with the manager who told her that they are not able to clean the soda machine. Amy found a maintenance manual for their machine and sent it to them. Amy will follow up with another inspection of the ice machine.
- **Green Parrot Lounge:** Over the weekend two complaints were received, one by voice mail and one by email. Both complaints indicated that there were cockroaches running through the kitchen, rats running through the bar, employee hygiene issues, and the place needed to be shut down. When Amy visited the establishment there was no cooking happening and she found no rats or cockroaches. Amy was informed that an employee had just recently been fired and she suspects that there may be a connection to the complaints received and that employee.
- **Royal Gorge Custom Tattoo and Piercing:** A complaint was made that when flash tattoos were being done, bandages were not applied thereafter. Amy has been trying to meet with the owner, and the establishment has not been open when she goes by. Amy intends to keep trying or will call and schedule a meeting.

- **Program Updates:**

- Amy followed up on the Childcare EDT Comparison of Agencies Report (CC EDT) and the high sanitizer violation. Amy emailed all childcare facilities and advised them that there is a training on this provided by the State. The childcare facilities have been receptive and have accepted the assistance of Public Health.
- Amy conducted another ServeSafe State Food Safety Exam, and all six participants passed the exam.
- There is a household whose child tested with high blood lead levels. The lead level of the child's blood was 5.4 micrograms per deciliter and the intervention level is 3.5 micrograms per deciliter. The State did an investigation of their home and allowed Public Health to shadow how the investigation was done, the equipment used, etc. Some of paint in the home tested high, the water tested clean, and dirt and dust samples were taken. The State advised that they might have some funding for equipment that Public Health could benefit from.

- **Other:**

- **Bat:** A dead bat was found in a home. The bat was found on a Thursday but not brought into Public Health until Monday. Amy consulted with the State who advised to go ahead and test the bat, and the results came back as inconclusive.
- **Oak Creek Grill & Tavern:** Commissioner McFall inquired about the failed re-inspection. Amy advised as to the consequences to the establishment should another re-inspection fail and that she notified the owner of same.

Commissioner Bell made a motion to accept the excellent 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 BOH Program Data Report was provided and discussed.
- The IQIP Initial Visit Summary was provided for the Commissioners to review. This program is part of the Vaccines for Children Program and 25% of providers are selected to participate each year. This is the first year Public Health was selected. The program provides tools to help promote vaccinations, enhance return visits, clean up data, etc. For example, in the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS), any immunization given at Public Health is put into CIIS's system as a patient

of Public Health, even if that person never returns to Public Health. Public Health plans to develop a check-out process that will remind people of return visits as well as doing reminder calls to those who are already scheduled for a visit.

- The Reach Out and Read flyer was provided to the Commissioners.
- Lead testing at Head Start is ongoing.
- The clinic has been very busy and is fully stocked with vaccines for the busy season.
- From July 1 through October 28, 2024, the clinic saw 710 patients and had 844 visits. Last year the clinic saw 589 patients and had 755 visits.
- Off-site immunization clinics went very well.
- There has been a Marburg Virus outbreak in Rwanda. Travel alerts for returning healthcare providers have been issued for border health and points of entry. Three Coloradoans from the same family have been exposed but are not experiencing any symptoms. The Marburg Virus has a 90% fatality rate in Rwanda, and there is no approved vaccine. Our risk of exposure is very low.
- Paula provided an update on the E.coli outbreak involving McDonalds and advised that there are a total of 75 cases, with 22 hospitalizations and 2 individuals who developed Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS), which can cause kidney failure. There is one reported death, and the outbreak is now in 13 states. It has been determined that the onions provided by Taylor Farms is the cause of the outbreak.
- Sarah has been conducting child fatality reviews. There were five child fatalities in 2023 and one in 2024 so far.

- **Grants/Funding Updates:**

- The Grant Spending Report was provided and discussed.
- The State Board of Health approved an increase in STEPP funding to \$60,000.00 beginning in January 2025.
- Paula met with Jenni Guentcheva with GTI today to discuss a harm reduction grant partnership to close some gaps in availability in substance abuse prevention and treatment in Fremont County. The grant is for \$300,000.00 for five years. The goal is to establish some systemic changes and build a coalition to bring the work into focus as opposed to everyone doing something different. Long-term this partnership may bring additional sustainability to Program Coordinator positions.
- Paula met with Loaves and Fishes regarding a possible partnership after the first of the year to assist with funding for their opioid work. They are losing funding and are in need of assistance.
- Public Health is looking at using some of the local opioid funds to come up with a potential campaign to promote Detera (Safe At-Home

Medication Disposal). Paula met with Holly Kruger yesterday and hopes to launch the campaign in late Winter 2024 or early Spring 2025. The goal is to get one into every household via a direct mail program. Paula believes that Hospice could benefit from Deterra as well.

- The Dose of Hope kiosks continue to gather more interest. The Lunch and Learn was a huge success with twenty partners in attendance. The Florence Library now has a kiosk, Mercy Today Ministries has a kiosk on the way and PCC is on the verge of making a decision whether or not to host a kiosk. Public Health will be doing a presentation for the Florence Rotary Club in November, as they are also interested in hosting a kiosk, and the Humane Society has requested a training, which is scheduled for November as well.

- **Community Outreach:**

- Paula continues to attend regular partnership meetings and make helpful community connections.
- Public Health participated in Boo at the Bridge on October 19, 2024, and Starpoint's Fall Festival on October 24, 2024. Both were great fun and good community outreach opportunities.
- Paula's attendance at the Director's Summit last month proved very beneficial and Paula came away feeling that Public Health is doing great work.

- **Staffing:**

- Michelle Boscia passed the Colorado Prevention Specialist Exam which is a certification required by one of Public Health's grants, and Michelle did a great job. A copy of the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium Certificate was provided to the Commissioners. Having this certification can increase the effectiveness of prevention programs as Michelle engages in more work with other professionals and it is very attractive to funders.
- Linda Sand continues to train with Paula Spurlin in Vital Records and is doing very well. Linda is having another knee surgery on November 13, 2024, and she hopes to return to work on December 2, 2024.
- Paula Spurlin's last day with Public Health is December 19, 2024.
- Public Health will be hosting a retirement luncheon on November 25, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. for Kris Corey and Paula Spurlin and invited the Commissioners to attend.

- **Other:**
 - Commissioner Bell discussed the Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program (RMOMS) that helps locate and provide obstetric care for those in rural communities as well as help pay for that care. Paula advised that this is a passion of Cheyenne's, and that Public Health would be interested in learning more about RMOMS and how that program might benefit those in Fremont County.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.