

**FREMONT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**November 26, 2024**

The Fremont County Board of Health meeting for November was held on November 26, 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

**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

I) **Roll Call:**

The meeting was called to order by BOH Chairman *Pro Tem* McFall at 2:03 p.m.

II) **Approval of Minutes from October 29, 2024:**

Chairman *Pro Tem* McFall called for any changes or corrections to the October 29, 2024, Minutes. No changes or corrections were suggested.

*Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve the Minutes of October 29, 2024, as drafted; Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The Fremont County Board of Health Minutes of October 29, 2024, are approved.*

III) **Approval of Agenda:**

Chairman *Pro Tem* McFall called for any changes or additions to today's Agenda. No changes or additions were suggested.

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

IV) **Approval of Financial Reports:**

- The Budget Reports for October 2024 were provided and discussed. Paula advised that Public Health is at 111% of the revenue budget and the fund balance is up about \$2.2M.

*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. **FCDPHE Strategic Mapping 2025 Presentation/Discussion:** Request was made for approval to close Public Health for one-half day on February 26, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. for an in-person retreat for staff. Paula presented slides on the purpose and the process of the strategic mapping program, as well as timelines, goals and objectives. Paula advised that the program allows staff the opportunity to participate and give their input which would promote staff support for the workforce plan that is ultimately created.

*Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve the half-day closure of Public Health on February 26, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.; Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The closure of Public Health on February 26, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. is approved.*

VIII) **Directors' Reports:**

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

- **New Establishments:**
  - **Big Foot Sunday Outpost:** This is a new ice cream shop in Florence next to Oak Creek Bar and Grill.
  - **Tamale Dream Machine:** This is a mobile unit that will operate mostly in Penrose but also around Fremont County.
  - **2 Plan Reviews:** Two new mobile units expected; Burger Shack and Lil Smokeys is opening a second mobile unit.
  - **Too Sweet Tattoo:** This is a new tattoo shop in Canon City.

- **Inspection #'s (including re-inspections and interventions):**
  - **Retail Food:** 13 routine inspections; 1 re-inspection; 2 pre-operational inspections; and 1 food safety basics course.
  - **Childcare:** 1 follow-up.
  - **Body Art:** 1 pre-operational inspection for Too Sweet Tattoo; and 1 complaint (see below).
  
- **Complaints:**
  - **Royal Gorge Custom Tattoo:** The owner only works by appointment, so Amy called and spoke with him. The complaint was that no bandage was put on the completed tattoo. The owner explained that he uses an INKEEZE guard spray-on bandage which is not visible but is there, it seals out dirt, locks onto the tattoo, is breathable and falls off with the natural healing of the tattoo.
  - **Rustic Ink:** The complaint was that the shop was dirty, gloves were not being changed, equipment was not being cleaned, smoking was being allowed in the procedure area and no bandages or aftercare instructions were provided. The owner advised that he suspected the complaint came from a past employee, or that person's girlfriend, as she had been harassing his business on Facebook after that employee left employment with Rustic Ink, and the previous employee's name did match the complainant's name. Amy advised that the shop appeared clean, and the owner stated he did not allow smoking in the shop.
  
- **Program Updates/Other:**
  - Last week Amy had another ServeSave Certified Food Protection Manager Exam class with the highest attendance yet of 23 students and an overall pass rate of 95%.
  - The 2025 license renewals have been mailed out and there have already been some received back.
  - Last month Amy participated in a Plan Review Workgroup which is a state initiative to create a consensus across the state on what is required, especially for mobile units, because every county is doing things differently. The previous Code had more specifics for mobile units and the current Code does not. Amy also attended the Plan Review Course which was helpful to see what other counties are doing and more of what the state is expecting.
  - Amy submitted an application for the 2025 National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Grant for \$5,000.00 to work on Standard 3, which is the FDA standard that they would like retail food programs to meet. Amy also requested funds to attend some important trainings such as the Colorado Environmental Health Association (CEHA) Conference,

- the Conference for Food Protection in Denver, and the virtual National Environmental Health Association Conference in July held in Arizona.
- Public Health has been communicating, unsuccessfully, with the Steeple Events Center since September to get a plan review submitted as they have been operating without a license. On Thursday of last week, a Notice of Violation letter was sent out and they turned in their paperwork yesterday. Public Health will be waiving the required license fee for this year.
  - After Commissioner Bell spoke with Jim at the Penrose VFW, they turned in their paperwork and are now licensed.

*Commissioner Bell 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 BOH Program Data Report was provided and discussed.
- Paula advised that the generator at the clinic went out again last night but that IT told her that they are monitoring the situation so that the vaccine refrigerators remain on. Mr. Carochi advised that bids for a new generator are currently being considered and the issue should be resolved soon.
- This week work has started on the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS) and the cleaning up of old patient data which goes back to 1963. There are 17,959 patients and Public Health is going back to through 2014 and deactivating those prior to 2014. The process takes 11 mouse clicks per person, but once the process is completed, it will really improve things.
- The VaxCare PaySpan payment spreadsheet for December 2023 through October 2024 was provided and discussed with the Commissioners. There was a \$13,510.68 buy-back, which won't happen every year, and \$19,620.63 in collections. Last year Public Health received \$62,000.00 in immunization payments, but spent \$45,000.00 on vaccines, which left a net of about \$17,000.00, so Public Health is already ahead with VaxCare this year. Also in October, Public Health received \$10,000.00 from VaxCare for clinics and Sydney and Autumn continue to work hard on billing insurances. Utilizing VaxCare has proved to be a good decision.
- There has been an uptick in pertussis/whooping cough infections across the state, and there is currently one case in our county, which Sarah is investigating. Pertussis is extremely contagious and a very serious infection for infants.

- Sarah Miller continues to work on child fatality reviews, which is very emotional work. There were five cases of children under the age of 18 in 2023, and one murder Sarah is currently reviewing. Thankfully, there were no cases in 2024, as the one previously reported to be a Fremont County case, turned out to be a Pueblo County case.
- **Grants/Funding Updates:**
  - The Grant Spending Report was provided and discussed.
  - The Harm Reduction Grant with GTI was submitted and notification should be received on January 3, 2025.
  - The 2025 Legislative Session Information Fact Sheet from CALPHO was provided and discussed. There is a \$945,220.00 General Fund reduction for local public health agencies pursuant to the Governor's proposed FY2025-26 budget. For Public Health that would equate to about a \$20,000.00 reduction, which is not quite a half a year of someone's salary at Public Health.
- **Community Outreach:**
  - Paula has been continuing her community outreach making Public Health presentations for Star Point, the Clerk and Recorder's Office, the Humane Society and the Florence Rotary.
  - Paula has been assisting Loaves and Fishes with the school back packs on Tuesdays when her schedule permits.
- **Staffing:**
  - STEPP Program Coordinator, Hannah Club, is resigning and her last day will be December 5, 2024.
  - Public Health had its second Staff Collaboration this morning and it went very well.
  - The retirement luncheon for Kris Corey and Paula Spurlin went well.
  - Linda Sand is doing well after her second surgery and is expected to be back in the office on December 11, 2024.
  - Paula is working through performance reviews.
  - Paula will be on vacation next week.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.