

FREMONT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
December 30, 2024

The Fremont County Board of Health meeting for December was held on December 30, 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
Brenda Jackson – County Attorney
Paula Buser – Public Health Director
Amy Jamison – Environmental Health Officer
Domoni A. Toler – Minutes Secretary
Wyatt Sanders – Director, Building Department

I) **Roll Call:**

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

II) **Approval of Minutes from November 26, 2024:**

Chair Grantham called for any changes or corrections to the November 26, 2024, Minutes. No changes or corrections were suggested.

Commissioner McFall made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 26, 2024, as drafted; Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The Fremont County Board of Health Minutes of November 26, 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 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 and Fund Balance Report for November 2024 were provided and discussed. Paula advised that as of the end of November 2024 Public Health is at 99.36% of budget revenue, 67.68% of expenses and will exceed budget revenue for the year. There were a couple of part-time positions that were not filled, and everyone has done a good job of controlling expenses. The fund balance grew by \$75,000.00 in October, resulting in current a balance of just over \$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 approved and accepted.

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

None.

VI) **Old Business:**

None.

VII) **New Business:**

1. **OWTS request for higher level treatment system at 901 Arnold Drive, Cotopaxi, CO 81223 by property owner, Chuck Wolfe:** Mr. Sanders provided email communication between himself and Mr. Wolfe regarding Mr. Wolfe's request for a change to the scope of the use of the previously approved vault system at his recreational property. Mr. Wolfe is proposing the use of a SepAerator device, which is an oxygen-based system, which will produce wastewater which is purified to a 95% level to be used for the non-potable watering of a garden and shrubbery on his property (not to consume). Fremont County does not allow soil treatment area reductions based on the use of higher-level treatment and does not have the funding for an oversight maintenance program to allow this request. Several others in the past have been denied such a request for this same reason. The County's standards and regulations were provided and discussed. Attorney Jackson advised that monitoring is also statutory, not just in the County's regulations. Mr. Wolfe can utilize a third-party monitoring company; however, the County would still have to oversee it, and the County does not have that capability.

Commissioner McFall made a motion to deny the request because of statutory requirements and the lack of resources to monitor the system; Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The OWTS vault modification request by Mr. Wolfe at 901 Arnold Drive, Cotopaxi, CO 81223, is denied.

VIII) Directors' Reports:

1. Environmental Health Report – Amy Jamison:

- New Establishments:
 - Burger Shack: Mobile unit approved.
 - Lil' Smokeys: Mobile unit approved.
 - Steeple Event and Conference Center: The plan review is completed, and an inspection is scheduled for next month.
 - Taste of Tradition: This is a new deli located next to ENT on Justice Center Road. A pre-operational inspection will be done today.
 - Maverik: Their plans were approved in January 2023, and they should finally be opening in 2025.
 - Jun's Wok: A plan review has been received. This is a Chinese restaurant that will be located in the old Waffle Wagon location.

- Official Closures:
 - Abbey Events Complex, Toreros, No Ka Oi Island Bistro, Rise and Grind Coffee Bar, Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience (snack bar), Soco Snow (small mobile unit) and This and That BBQ Shack.
 - Approximately twelve (12) carnival concessions have been closed and after discussions with the State, they will now be licensed as temporary events.

- Change of Ownership: Waterhole #1, Julians and American Liquor.

- Inspection #'s (including re-inspections and interventions):
 - Retail Food: 14 routine inspections; 3 re-inspections; 1 complaint.
 - Other: 1 landfill inspection.

- Complaints:
 - Quality Inn: A complaint was received on food service and public accommodation regulations regarding no running water in the kitchen, mice in the Suburban Studio rooms, when it rains there are waterfalls down the spa room walls, and it takes 40 minutes to get hot water to the rooms. A request was also received that the breakfast items temperatures be taken. Amy checked the water in the kitchen, and they did not have hot water, but did have water. Their breakfast services are very limited now and they have maybe a total of six utensils and pans to wash. Amy discussed heating up water to wash those items until their hot water issue is resolved and she does not believe it is necessary to close the facility due to the lack of hot water in the kitchen. The breakfast items

temperatures were good. All the hot tubs have been removed from the spa room and the area is shut down. They had water leaking so they had to turn off the water in that area. There was no visible evidence of mice in the Suburban Studio rooms and the water got hot within a minute. Amy checked their pest control records, and it was noted that there was evidence of mice outside of the building and traps were placed, but no evidence of mice inside. The complaint could not be validated, and Amy will keep an eye on it. Management said they want to do a complete overhaul and make the Suburban Studios into apartments.

- **Rustic Ink (Penrose)**: Some Facebook live videos were received showing food being consumed in the procedure areas, food and drink present where stencils are being prepared, unfinished rooms with 2x4's up, a dog in the building and a package of paper towels on the floor. The videos also showed the kitchen being used as a stencil room and the tattoo artist does not appear to change gloves between shaving and stencil application of two different clients. From what Amy knows, the dog is their service animal. She spoke with Attorney Bellas about it and will have to take them at their word on that. Amy has not been able to connect with management yet but when she does, she intends to provide education on changing gloves and not consuming food in the procedure area, etc.
- **Program Updates/Other:**
 - **License Renewals**: Public Health has received 104 license renewals out of the 196 mailed out.
 - **Liquor License at Pathfinder**: Attorney Jackson advised that Pathfinder applied for a tavern license, and they may switch to an optional premises license. Amy advised that they will still need to be licensed as a limited retail food establishment since they are handling ice.

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 Smoke/Vape Quit Assistance Line advertisement was provided to the Commissioners. The advertisement will be on shopping carts at City Market from February 2025 through January 2026. The cost is estimated at \$3,000.00 for the year and is funded entirely by the STEPP Grant. Paula believes this will be good exposure.

- The clinic is moving into its slower season. There has been an increase in TB tests due to the change in requirements for the school districts and their Social Workers having to be tested and nursing students starting a new semester will need a TB test as well.
 - Paula provided a few statistics for Colorado. Colorado ranks 9th out of 50 states for the number of adults who are estimated to have received the flu vaccine, and 25th out of 50 states for the number of adults who are estimated to have received the COVID vaccine.
 - Public Health should get notification on January 3, 2025, with regard to the Harm Reduction Grant it partnered with GTI on.
 - The Colorado Opioid Abatement Infrastructure Grant is in its third round and is extremely competitive.
 - Paula is working with Deterra on the medication disposal campaign. Public Health is going to do the Deterra campaign regardless of if the grant is received. However, if the grant is received, the scale will be much larger. DEA says 80% of excess medications remain in medical cabinets after the need is gone, which equals four billion excess pills in circulation.
- **Grants/Funding Updates:**
 - The Grant Spending Report was provided and discussed.
 - Region 15 has allocated approximately \$400,000.00 in min-prevention grants for use by the four counties. Fremont County will receive 36% or \$145,000.00, Chaffee County will receive \$77,000.00, Custer County will receive \$99,000.00 and Park County will receive \$78,000.00. Local non-profits and schools can apply for funds to be used for prevention efforts regarding substance abuse. This includes curriculums such as Health Rocks and other programs.
- **Community Outreach:**
 - Paula has been continuing her community outreach by participating in Shop with a Cop, conducting a presentation on Narcan at the Florence Library and next week she will do a second presentation at Canon Rotary on a Dose of Hope and introduce them to Deterra. Paula also made a connection with the new Deer Mountain Fire Chief and provided her with some much-needed Narcan.
- **Staffing:**
 - The Tobacco Prevention Coordinator position has been posted.
 - Two staff retired on December 19, 2024.

- Paula hopes to hire a seasonal nurse (from mid-May to mid-November) for the busy back to school season rather than a third full-time nurse position.
- Strategic Mapping for staff will begin mid-January.

- **Other:**
 - **Legality of Dispensing and Administering Expired Naloxone in Colorado.** Documentation was provided to the Commissioners for review. Paula requested that Attorney Bellas review the documentation and provided Public Health guidance on the issue. As kiosk interest continues to grow, there could be more expired doses out there. A dose from the 1990's was tested, and it worked. There has been some discussion about eliminating expiration dates altogether. The current batch has a three-year expiration date. Since August 2024, Public Health has distributed 820 doses of Naloxone and currently has 217 expired doses. Of those 217, there are 212 that are a different brand that is no longer being distributed.
 - **CDPHE temporarily suspends water testing in the State's Laboratory's Chemistry Program.** Paula provided a press release regarding CDPHE identifying a second chemist that had manipulated quality control data for testing of certain metals in water. The notice outlines CDPHE's implemented contingency plans effective as of December 23, 2024. Only media inquiry received by Public Health was with regard to the water in Rockvale.

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 2:44 p.m.