

FREMONT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

March 25, 2025

The Fremont County Board of Health meeting for March was held on March 25, 2025, at 1:15 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 – Commission
Kevin J. Grantham – Commissioner

The following staff were in attendance:

Tony Carochi – County Administrator
Eric Bellas – County Attorney
Paula Buser – Public Health Director
Domoni A. Toler – Minutes Secretary
Wyatt Sanders – Building Official

The following guests were in attendance:

Roy Farris
Jenni Guentcheva – GTI
Brian Monahan – GTI

I) Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order by BOH Chairman Bell at 1:15 p.m.

II) Approval of Minutes from February 25, 2025:

Chair Bell called for any changes or corrections to the February 25, 2025, Minutes. No changes or corrections were suggested.

Commissioner McFall made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 25, 2025, as drafted; Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Call for vote with Ayes by Commissioner McFall and Commissioner Grantham. Chair Bell abstained from voting because she was not present for the February 25, 2025 meeting. The Fremont County Board of Health Minutes of February 25, 2025, are approved.

III) **Approval of Agenda:**

Chairman Bell called for any changes or additions to today's Agenda. No changes or additions were suggested.

Commissioner Grantham 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 February 2025 were provided and discussed. Paula advised that the reports show a current deficit but there is over \$120,000.00 in services provided that have been billed and not yet paid/reimbursed and the general fund transfer has not yet been entered. The fund balance grew \$70,000.00 last month and it is currently a little over \$2.3M.

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

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

None.

VI) **Old Business:**

None.

VII) **New Business:**

- **Sanitary Sewer Variance; Roy Farris, Oak Creek Avenue, Florence; Parcel No. 98304335:** A copy of a letter to the Board of Health dated March 12, 2025, from Roy Farris was provided to the Commissioners. Mr. Farris was present at the meeting and discussion was held regarding his request to install a septic system in lieu of a sewer line project as proposed by the Fremont Sanitation District. Building Official Sanders advised that he believes Mr. Farris has a valid argument. The Fremont Sanitation District wants to extend their sewer main across private property and wants Mr. Farris to fund it. Mr. Sanders further advised that the plat has no easements in it, the subdivision is not fully serviced into the cul-de-sac, and it is virtually impossible, and would not be approved by the Building Department due to FEMA regulations, to come from the other side and go down through the creek. Mr. Sanders recommended the variance be granted.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the sanitary sewer variance request by Roy Farris for Parcel No. 98304335; Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The sanitary sewer variance for Parcel No. 98304335 is approved.

- **Sanitary Sewer Variance; Ann Strimback, 1427 Hickory Street, Canon City:** A copy of a letter to the Fremont County Building Department from Ms. Strimback was provided to the Commissioners. Building Official Sanders advised that the Fremont Sanitation District is requiring Ms. Strimback to connect to the existing sewer main line that is 325' from her property and she cannot afford to do that, thus, she is requesting a variance to replace her existing septic tank. The tank is in disrepair, and it is more than likely that the full system is in disrepair. Mr. Sanders recommended the Board approve the replacement of a complete system, not just replacement of the septic tank, as there is enough room on the property to put a replacement system in.

Commissioner McFall made a motion to approve the variance request for a complete septic system, including the septic tank, by Ann Strimback for 1427 Hickory Street, Canon City, CO; Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The sanitary sewer variance request for 1427 Hickory Street, Canon City, CO for replacement of a complete septic system, including the septic tank, is approved.

- **Alpine Depot, LLC Vault Variance Request:** Building Official Sanders provided the Commissioners with a copy of his letter to Public Health dated March 12, 2025, explaining Mr. Greksa's request for approval of the use of a 1500-gallon vault to accommodate a restroom facility located in the proposed construction of a hangar at 6A at the Fremont County Airport. Mr. Sanders provided documentation on how the Regulations define a vault, and the Fremont County OWTS Regulation, Section 12.C. Mr. Sanders advised that this is a typical request for a restroom facility inside of a hangar. Currently, the Airport is not allowing any more OWTS systems due to the lack of space to locate the OWTS systems, however, Mr. Sanders recommended approval of the vault variance request because there are no other sanitary facilities in the area.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the request for a vault variance for Alpine Depot, LLC at Hangar 6A of the Fremont County Airport; Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The vault variance request by Alpine Depot, LLC for Hangar 6A at the Fremont County Airport is approved.

- **GTI Substance Use Prevention Proposal Presentation by Jenni Guentcheva and Brian Monahan:** Ms. Guentcheva and Mr. Monahan were present to discuss the three-year program components of GTI's Substance Use Prevention Proposal for local opioid funding and provided all those present with their written proposal.

A discussion was held regarding GTI providing an update to the Board after the first year to show how GTI met their objectives and how the funds were expended. Attorney Bellas will draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding

appropriation of the funds for the three-year term of the project and reporting requirements.

Paula advised that she believes GTI's program will have a positive impact on the community and is in full support of GTI's request.

Commissioner McFall made a motion to approve GTI's request for funding for the Substance Use Prevention Program subject to the terms of the MOU; Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The Substance Use Prevention Program funding request by GTI is approved subject to the terms of the MOU.

VIII) **Directors' Reports:**

1. **Environmental Health Report – Paula Buser for Amy Jamison:**

- **New Establishments:**
 - **Go Kidz (Indoor Playground):** Located at 111 Church Avenue in Florence. Pizza will be offered for parties. They are hoping to open in April 2025.
 - **Plan Reviews:** High Mountain Crepes, Joe's Food Stop (previously licensed mobile unit) and the Buffalo Stop are all new mobile units that Amy is working on plan reviews for. Copies of their menus were provided to the Commissioners.
- **Inspection #'s (including re-inspections and interventions):**
 - **Retail Food:** 6 routine inspections; 2 consultative visits.
 - **Child Care:** 5 routine inspections; 1 follow-up inspection.
 - **Schools:** 2 high risk routine inspections; 1 follow-up inspection.
 - **Body Art:** 1 consultative visit (Rustic Ink is moving to Canon City).
 - **Other:** Quarterly inspections were done at Twin Enviro and Howard Transfer Station.

A Completed Inspections Report was provided to the Commissioners.

- **Complaints:**
 - **Lamplighter Trailer Park:** Amy followed up on last month's complaint about a "swamp in the yard" at the trailer park. When Amy called the resident to schedule a visit, she was told that they were starting to dig in the yard to find the leak and fix it, so no further action was needed at this time.
 - **City Market:** A complaint was received about dogs in City Market becoming an increasingly common and complicated issue. Amy provided management with guidance and signage on service animals.

- **Hampton Inn:** Another complaint was received about the Hampton Inn from an employee who did not want to leave his/her name. The complainant states that the breakfast area is not kept up; the kitchen is not kept clean; there are mice running around; the front desk employees are cleaning the rooms and guests are complaining that the rooms are dirty. Also, the pool does not have the chemicals it needs to work properly and is not in operation. The complainant said that the owner will not put the money into the hotel needed to make things right and the hotel should be shut down. Amy believes if the owner does not have the proper chemicals for the pool, then it is appropriate that the pool is not in operation. A visit to the hotel is scheduled for next week to check on the food service, however, Amy is unsure how to verify that the rooms are being cleaned satisfactorily.
- **Program Updates:**
 - Amy is attending the conference for Food Protection in Denver this week.
 - Another Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) Session was conducted on March 13, 2025, and all 7 participants passed.
 - The health regulations for childcare facilities have been updated and will go into effect April 14, 2025. Amy attended in-person training on the new regulations last week. A redlined version of the regulations can be found on CDPHE website: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/dehs/child-care-regulations>.
 - The State has started the process of updating the regulations for schools and the anticipated effective date for those updates is this time next year.
 - As a follow up on the rabies conversation at the last BOH meeting, since 2018, there have been three bats and one skunk that tested positive.
- **Other:**
 - **Licensing:** Cold Stone Creamery has not paid their renewal fee or replied to emails from Amy. A Notice of Violation with Civil Penalty was personally provided to them on March 19, 2025.

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 BOH Program Data Report was provided and discussed.
 - Information regarding the Measles Response Readiness Survey was provided to the Commissioners. The survey is needed to assess local

preparedness for a potential measles response in Colorado and must be completed by March 31, 2025. Public Health will be working on that survey tomorrow.

- As of last Friday, there were 378 cases of measles in 18 states; 95% are unvaccinated or unknown (which really means still under investigation); 75% of the cases are between the ages of 0 and 19; and 33% of the cases are under the age of 5. Nationwide, there are 64 hospitalizations and 2 deaths, one death has been confirmed, and one is under investigation.

- **Grants/Funding Updates:**

- The Grant Spending Report was provided and discussed.
- Public Health was just notified today that continuation of COVID-related funding, including ELC funding, has been canceled effective immediately. The funding was always intended to be temporary, however, it stopped sooner than expected. Public Health's fund balance remains positioned to absorb the costs related to the loss of this funding, but the budget will be negatively impacted. Public Health will provide the Commissioners with updates as they are received.
- Regional grant submissions were received for the Region 15 Prevention Grant. Three submissions were received from Fremont County; one from the Boys and Girls Club, one from the School District and one from the 4-H Extension Office as a sub-contractor under Public Health. There was one submission from Park County, two from Chaffee County and none from Custer County. It is hoped that a second round can be done.

- **Community Outreach:**

- A Narcan kiosk has finally been placed at Loaves and Fishes.
- Paula had a meeting today with the Region 15 Opioid Coordinator about options for the future, restructuring of meetings, etc. and there are no concerns with the engagement in Fremont County.
- The Recycle Event flyer and Fremont County Clean Up Day flyer were provided to the Commissioners. Public Health will be sponsoring both events. Trash vouchers can be picked up at Public Health and a sample of the voucher was provided to the Commissioners.
- The Safety Town flyer was provided to the Commissioners. The event will be held April 15-17, 2025 at Fremont County Head Start and it is the 50th anniversary of Safety Town.

- Paula participated in the Homeless Awareness Walk on March 23, 2025; she met with CASA last night; she will be attending the CCHS Resource Fair tonight; the Senior Mini-College; the Job Fair on April 17, 2025 for the interns at CCHS; the Health Fair at VFW in Penrose at the end of the month and is preparing for National Public Health week.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.