

FREMONT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
January 30, 2024

The Fremont County Board of Health meeting for January was held on January 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:

Brenda Jackson – Of Counsel to County Attorney
Eric Bellas – County Attorney
Tony Carochi – County Administrator
Amy Jamison – Environmental Health Officer
Paula Buser – Public Health Director
Rachel Miller – Minutes Secretary
Domoni A. Toler – Minutes Secretary

I) **Roll Call:**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Bell at 2:01 p.m.

II) **Approval of Minutes from December 26, 2023:**

Commissioner Bell called for any changes or corrections to the December 26, 2023 Minutes. No changes or corrections were suggested.

Commissioner McFall made a motion to approve the December 26, 2023 Minutes as drafted; Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The December 26, 2023 Minutes are approved.

III) **Approval of Agenda:**

Commissioner 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:**

2024 revenue is up, and expenses are down. Immunization payments were up. COVID funds skewed some of the results. Paula has quarterly meetings set up with the Finance Director, Shawn Sutton. Paula advised that there are still ARPA funds and COVID monies available.

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

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

None.

VI) **Old Business:**

1. **31 Werner Road Demolition Update:** Pueblo is moving forward with the changes requested to the Certificate of Designation for Southside Landfill, which will be put out for public comment for seven days. Doug Jamison (EPA) is not anticipating anything too negative. It is a slow media cycle right now, so there will probably be some media inquiries. Paula will work with the Commissioners on media inquiries. The EPA said to send media to them as well and they will help field calls. The updated timeline is mid to late February 2024.

VII) **New Business:**

1. **Board Reorganization:** Commissioner Bell advised of the need for appointment of Chairman and Charmain Pro Tem.

Commissioner Bell made a motion to appoint Commissioner Grantham as Chairman of the Board of Health; Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The motion is approved.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to appoint Commissioner McFall as Chairman Pro Tem of the Board of Health; Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The motion is approved.

2. **CCHS Capstone Project Request:** Sierra Rodriguez and Joshua Barker, students from Canon City High School, spoke about a funding request of \$1,000.00 from the Board for Capstone. They have a speaker, Cara Filler, who has been speaking on their subject for over thirty years and will come to Canon City High School and Florence High School the week before prom to speak on the dangers of driving under the influence. They have \$2,000.00 of their \$4,450.00 goal met currently and have other fundraising events in the works with the help of Pam Hamby, the Public Health Project Coordinator, who was also present at today's meeting. It is hoped that this

event will bring more awareness to the schools of the dangers of drinking and driving. They intend to ask students to complete a survey afterwards and follow up to keep the message out there for the end of the school year and graduation as well.

Commissioner McFall invited Sierra and Joshua to return to the Board of Health meeting in May and let the Board know how the event and follow-up went.

Paula advised that there are no grant funds available, but the Board of Health's general fund dollars can be tapped into for a one-time request.

Commissioner Bell made a motion to support the program and the Capstone project by donating the \$1,000.00 from Public Health that will come from a line item at the Director's discretion; Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The motion is approved.

3. **EHS Fee Revisions**: Amy presented a fee revision proposal in the excel spreadsheet. She stated she reached out to event coordinators and body art people to invite them to today's meeting. The body art fees have not been changed since 2009 and it is time to adjust those fees. It is unknown when the last time the temporary event fees were changed. Amy spoke with Paula and Autumn and looked at the Body Art Inspection Program fees from Pueblo and El Paso County. The fee structure suggested is very similar to that of Pueblo County. The proposed fee schedule is for the temporary events and the body art fees. The Board of Health suggested implementing the change as of March 1, 2024. The body art fees were adopted by Resolution in 2009 so a new Resolution is in order. A Resolution will be created for approval of the temporary event fee schedule at the February 27, 2024, Board of Health meeting.

Joel Elliott from the Florence Chamber of Commerce asked how this would impact business and how it compares to current event fees, and she was advised that the Board of Health is offering temporary event vendors more license options with a one-day event being cheaper and the full-year event fee being increased.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve the body art proposed fees with Resolution No. 1, Series of 2024 effective March 1, 2024; Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The motion is approved.

Commissioner McFall moved to approve the temporary events proposed fees with Resolution to follow effective March 1, 2024; Commissioner Grantham seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The motion is approved.

4. **Public Health Staff Development 4/24, 5/9, 5/21**: Paula advised that she would like to provide formalized staff development, which is critical to retention and bringing purpose and joy to work. She has been doing a lot of informal training and working hard at building capacity, resilience, retention and supporting self-care to public health staff. She would like to hire Jamie Davis, who does a lot of personnel training, to conduct three, 1.5-hour in-person training courses. A survey was done as part of the PHEP Grant with Colorado Cares. The survey was put out to all employees about

challenges they face and where they would like to see opportunities. Paula is going to work with Jamie to address those issues raised in the surveys. Paula is requesting to close for two hours from 7:45 – 9:45 on April 24, 2024, May 9, 2024, and May 21, 2024. Paula will utilize Facebook, the County website and signage on their door to communicate the closure to the public. The training sessions will be held off-site at The Hive and refreshments will be served.

Commissioner Bell moved for approval to close Public Health from 7:45 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. on April 24, 2024, May 9, 2024, and May 21, 2024; Commissioner McFall seconded the motion. Call for vote, all Ayes. The motion is approved.

VIII) **Directors' Reports:**

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

- **New Establishments:** Mr. Dee's food truck in Florence is officially up and running. Sally's Bakery will be on the corner of 5th and Macon with a Deli to follow at a later date. There is also a new body art/permanent make-up facility called Bare Aesthetics located near MoMo's.
- **Inspections # (including re-inspections and interventions):**
 - **Retail Food:** 18 routine, 4 re-inspections, 1 pre-operational, 2 consults, 1 imminent health hazard closure and 1 opening inspection.
 - **Childcare:** 1 pre-operational.
 - **School:** 1 follow-up.
 - **Body Art:** 1 pre-operational.
- **Complaints:**
 - **Chelsey's:** Complaint around sick waitress and roaches. These issues were discussed with the manager during inspection. The owners and manager are working in good faith to resolve the issues.
 - **China Garden:** Complainant became ill within seven hours after eating at China Garden and was diagnosed with Norovirus, which is easily transmitted through the fecal-oral route. Norovirus has an onset time of 12-48 hours, so the illness was unlikely caused by eating at China Garden. However, during their routine inspection, Amy discussed the complaint and the employee illness policy. There were no other illness complaints received.
- **Program Updates:**
 - **Quarter 4 Violation Rates:** Hand washing was high. Employee illness policy was high this last quarter. Amy is sending an email to

restaurant owners reminding them of the five symptoms employees are required to report and not come to work with.

- **2022 Federal Food Code**: The State Board of Health adopted the 2022 Federal Food Code effective March 1, 2024. We are currently on the 2013 Code, no major changes just updates. One of the biggest issues is all restaurants need to always have at least one certified food protection manager on premises. That is a big ask for all our little mom and pop shops. The Code allows a one-year delay to get the certification completed. Amy has sent this out to all restaurants. Discussion was had regarding the cost of certification and Amy is now certified to teach the class and proctor exams. It is unclear what the CDPHE expects as far as enforcement, and enforcement is always going to be a problem. Brenda advised that we do not have regulations; we are contracted through the State and we are subject to it. We have “discretion” on enforcement of the rule. Amy stated that everything is based on a point scale. A good score is anything between 0-49. Last year’s EDT capture max score was 105 and the mean score was 29.74. Not having a certified person on premises is a 10-point violation.
- **Train**: The lack of oversight over the train’s food service is troubling. Brenda advised that the current statute says the train is not subject to County licensing and she does not believe we can charge them a license fee or force them to permit inspection. Amy pointed out that the train prepares and serves food to thousands of people each year, so a license reflects governmental approval of the restaurant’s compliance with health requirements. A license would ensure inspections and correction of any compliance issues. Amy will reach out to the State to see if the State views the train as exempt.
- **2024 Retail Food License Compliance**: About 27% are unpaid, if we take out seasonal establishments, it is 15% unpaid. Amy will be sending out second notices in early February.
- **Raw Milk Bill**: Amy spoke about a Bill permitting the sale of raw milk if it is clearly labeled as such. Information was provided to the Commissioners for review so that they could come to her with questions.

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

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

- **Program Updates:** The clinic received 30 COVID vaccines (Paula later advised that the correct brand of vaccine the clinic received is Moderna), 22 have been administered and more are on the schedule. There was an on-site clinic provided to River Valley Plumbing to give workers Hep. A and Hep. B vaccines. There were four cases of Serogroup Y Meningococcal Disease in Denver. It was rumored that the four were migrants, but they were not. They were homeless individuals who were not vaccinated, and one was a child. As of January 4, 2024, all four have recovered. The average per year for Colorado is six cases. Vital records have been updated in the system and it has gone well.
- **Grants:** Two grants have been submitted. The Community Disparities Grant, which they should have a decision on by April and another grant they came across for expanding vaccination coverage through partnership with early childhood programs. Dorothy Day helped with the process. The Joy and Work Pilot Program piggybacks on the staff development Paula spoke about earlier and they are looking for sites that will pilot their program. They were able to access some local opioid prevention funds. Sarah Miller is overseeing the grants, and a lot of the funds are being used for Narcan training as Narcan training is not covered under the Block Grant. A lot of it will cover the salaries of those doing the training and education. The Anti-Stigma Campaign from SE-2 will be updated before the next meeting.
- **Community Outreach:** Paula attended the Mayor’s reception, she is still doing ECHO and Family Early Childhood Council once per month, she took four employees to the Harm Reduction Community Conversation hosted by GTI, did PSA on the radio on economic stability and will do a presentation on March 6, 2024 with a behavioral health group at the school. Narcan training for the County started last week and they have several more scheduled.
- **Staff/Other:** Paula is working on performance reviews by revamping them to make them more engaging and appropriate. They have also completed the lobby refresh this month.
- **Sign:** Everyone likes the sign. There is no logo on the sign because the logo is on the building.

Commissioner Bell 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 3:20 p.m.