

FREMONT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

November 23, 2021

The Fremont County Board of Health Meeting for November was held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 1:15 p.m. in the Fremont County Administration building, 615 Macon Avenue, Room LL3, Cañon City, Colorado. The following Board members were in attendance:

Dwayne McFall – Commissioner
Kevin Grantham – Commissioner
Debbie Bell – Commissioner

Staff Present:

Brenda Jackson – County Attorney
Sunny Bryant – County Manager/Finance Director
Kayla Marler – Public Health Director
Amy Jamison – Environmental Health Officer
Debbie Ulrich – Minutes Secretary

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to Order by Commissioner McFall at 1:15 p.m. Roll call followed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner McFall called for approval of the October 26, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Bell made a Motion to approve the October 26, 2021 Minutes; Commissioner Grantham seconded the Motion. Call for vote: All Ayes. Minutes are approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner McFall called for any changes or additions to the Agenda. Kayla Marler, Public Health Director asked that the COVID 19 Power point presentation be moved to item #1 under “New Business”. Commissioner Grantham made a Motion to accept the Agenda with the one change made. Commissioner Bell seconded the Motion. Call for vote: All Ayes. Agenda is accepted.

CITIZENS NOT ON THE AGENDA – TIME TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Covid 19 Powerpoint presentation by Kayla. The presentation was a great visual, showing the Covid cases for Fremont County. There have been 301 Positive cases in the last 7 days, with a total of 613 for the month in Fremont County. The charts showed that there were 203 positive cases within Canon City. Four COVID patients have been hospitalized at Saint Thomas More Hospital. The Hospital has asked for additional Nurses and additional ventilators. Kayla continued with her Powerpoint presentation. She shared the Vaccination Data (rates) Fremont County’s vaccination rate is 49.2% for ages 12 and above. Fremont County is still showing low vaccination rates compared to other Counties in Colorado. FCPH gets their information from the State. Kayla showed how you can

change the format of the information into a “bar graph”. The graph also shows an increase of RSV. This information also compares COVID 19 rates including deaths for 2020 and 2021. The deaths in Fremont County just for October were 27 and November were 13. Kayla wants everyone to know that this information is posted every month on the Public Health website. FCPHE wants all Fremont County residents to have access to this information.

- 2) This item is regarding the preparation of a Public Health Order for COVID-19 requirements in the RE-1 School District. Commissioner McFall asked the RE-1 School Board what they had in place at this time. The first speaker for the School Board was George. He stated that he wasn't sure if they want mandatory mask wearing. They have been doing Contact Tracing, which is what Mesa County is doing. Parents can quarantine the student or have their student wear a mask. RE-1 has made the commitment to do what is “required” not “requested”. Commissioner McFall asked the Board what are the numbers for Mesa County? George does not know their numbers. Discussion continued between the Board of Health and the RE-1 School Board. Commissioner McFall asked the School Board what they were doing regarding RSV mitigation. They have closed the preschool down. They have also taken advantage of the Air Quality Grant and have used the monies to have air filtration systems in place in every classroom by January 1, 2022. Brief discussion about Canon Exploratory having the highest numbers of COVID-19 outbreaks in the district. RE-1 brought in experts to do an analysis. It was also noted that the Buses are required to have all students/passengers and drivers masked. This is a National requirement. Commissioner McFall asked what other mandates is RE-1 enforcing. Molly Merry addressed the question. She stated that on a daily basis they are disinfecting all surfaces constantly. Reminding all students to wash hands, sneeze into elbow and sick kids should stay home. It was added that they can't stop parents from sending sick kids to school. Commissioner Bell expressed her concern for all of Fremont County; stating that COVID-19 is a deadly disease. Discussion continued regarding why RE-1 wants the Board of Health to make the decision whether students should wear masks or not. A year ago in 2020 we were in an Emergency situation and at that time Public Health could make Mandated Orders. Kayla stated that RE-1 has COVID outbreaks in all schools in their district and RSV in several schools. Kayla noted that in RE-2, Joan has an amazing program and they are taking personal responsibility for their students. RE-3 is also doing a good job and taking responsibility for their students as well. RE-1 has stated that they will only do what is “required” not what is “requested”. Kayla did state that RE-1 has done a great job on increasing their vaccination rates. Further discussion/debating the mandating/requiring masks by a Public Health Order because the RE-1 School Board doesn't want that decision on them. It was noted that last August there was anti-mask picketing. It was again stressed that both COVID-19 and RSV are highly infectious. After further discussion it is not clear what the position of RE-1 is. Brenda Jackson asked if they want to do a Consent Order? Commissioner Bell asked if they could use the Public Health Order that was prepared before this BOH meeting? No, a Consent Order needs to be prepared.
- 3) Top Notch – Personnel/Hiring agency to start in December for six months. They will be hiring for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Laptops will be funded by ELC. Commissioner Bell made a Motion to Approve Top Notch Client Services Agreement. Commissioner Grantham seconded the Motion. Call for Vote; all Ayes. Motion is Approved.
- 4) David Took It (ELC2/Immunization Funding) This is a huge community project. This company will be doing 6 PSA's for \$2500 that will be funded with ELC2 monies. Commissioner Grantham made a Motion to approve the David Took It PSA's. Commissioner Bell seconded the Motion. Call for Vote; all Ayes. Motion is Approved.
- 5) PCC Community Funding – Community College Agreement to bring in their Nursing students to do vaccinations, etc. Commissioner Bell made a Motion to approve the PCC Community Funding Agreement. Commissioner Grantham seconded the Motion. Call for Vote; all Ayes. Motion is Approved.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Environmental Health Report

Amy Jamison, Environmental Health Officer reported on the following items:

New Establishments

City on a Hill is now open for business. There is also a new mobile unit, Joe's Food Stop.

Inspections, Re-inspections and Interventions

Amy stated that she had 30 Retail Food Establishment (RFE) inspections; which included 1 re-inspection and 1 pre-operational inspection of Joe's Food Stop. Amy did an Intervention at PAPA's. The Intervention is done onsite and contains food safety class tailored to the facility. This seems to work very well for several reasons. Amy does it on their "turf" so the employees feel more comfortable and more knowledgeable of their work area. Employees generally participate more when they are in their own work area. Amy offered a Food Safety Basics Class for the community a week ago from this meeting (November 23). She stated she had a good turnout. 19 had registered and 17 attended. Amy also noted that she had sent RFE License renewals out on November 22, 2021.

Complaints

Amy received a complaint from a drive-thru customer regarding Taco Bell. The person stated that they saw an employee using no gloves, no hand washing after bathroom, food picked up off the floor and reused, nose wiped with back of hand while making food and list goes on and on. The customer stated that they only waited only a few minutes before they drove off. Amy stated that it would be very hard to see all that the person saw from the car window into the drive-thru window.

FDA Retail Standards Grant

Amy stated that this is the same Grant FCBOH usually applies for. They are partnering with NEHA (National Environmental Health Association) this year.

Commissioner Grantham made a Motion to accept the Environmental Health Officer's report. Commissioner Bell seconded the Motion. Call for Vote; all Ayes. Report is accepted.

Public Health Director

Kayla Marler, Public Health Director, reported on the following subjects:

Staffing

Kayla stated that for the Public Health Specialist position, she has interviewed one person and has one more to interview.

Kayla will be interviewing for the position of full-time RN/LPN on Monday, November 29, 2021. The part-time RN/LPN application deadline is November 30, 2021.

Coronavirus – Covid-19

Covid-19 was covered in the earlier power-point presentation by Kayla.

CI/CT State Program: Kayla had a meeting with them to see what we would have to do if we utilized their services.

Community Collaborative Update

St. Thomas More Vaccine Hesitancy Project – They will be doing PSA's which will consist of 6 videos from local doctors with a virtual Q & A with the doctors. They will be bringing CDPHE onto local television commercials and billboards. FCPH will get more into Social Media.

Vital Records

Michelle Boscia has now been deputized and is able to help in Vital Records.

Commissioner Bell made a Motion to accept the Public Health Directors report. Commissioner Grantham seconded the Motion. Call for Vote; All Ayes. The Public Health report is accepted.

Meeting is adjourned at 1:38 p.m.