

FREMONT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

November 30, 2023

The Fremont County Board of Health Meeting for September was held on November 30, 2023, 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:

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

Staff Present:

Brenda Jackson – County Attorney
Eric Bellas- County Attorney
Amy Jamison – Environmental Health Officer
Paula Buser- Public Health Director
Rachel Miller – Minutes Secretary

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to Order by Commissioner Bell at 2:00.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Bell called for any changes or corrections to the October Minutes. Seeing none; Commissioner McFall made a Motion to Approve the October 2023, Minutes; Commissioner Grantham seconded the Motion. Call for Vote. All Ayes; Minutes are Approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Bell called for any changes or additions to the Agenda. No changes being necessary; Commissioner Grantham made a motion to approve the Agenda, Commissioner McFall seconded the Motion. Call for vote; all Ayes. Agenda is Approved.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Public Health Director- Paula has been tracking how much her staff has been collecting in insurance than they have in the past. They have collected around \$8,000 in insurance billing in the past month. They have collected more than \$12,000 more than was collected last year. VaxCare should improve the insurance billing as well. Paula said she believe they are doing a good job on monitoring their grants and their finances are in a good place.

Commissioner Grantham made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Commissioner McFall seconded the Motion. Call for vote; all Ayes. Financial Report is Accepted.

CITIZENS NOT ON THE AGENDA – TIME TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None

OLD BUSINESS

31 Werner Road Update- The EPA has a website that is posted under Fremont County notices, and they are keeping it updated with what is happening on the property. The EPA is circulating an action memo to get the

management approval to conduct the demolition and to get funding. They have a contractor readying a workplan to describe their approach to demo the building. They received their laboratory reports and there was no asbestos in the building. The EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) is preparing a communication strategy. The EPA attorney is reviewing their access authorities. The EPA gave an update that they will demolish and level the building in January.

Cañon City Dialysis Update- They are not going to be moving forward with utilizing the Fremont County building at this time.

Vaxcare Update- The training for Vaxcare is next Tuesday 12/5. A few days after the training Public Health will have a supply of vaccine and Paula plans to let the community know that they've increased their vaccine capacity. Vaxcare should be up and running before Christmas.

NEW BUSINESS

None

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Environmental Health Report

New Establishments- Light Mobile Café- It has mostly coffee and bakery items. The Neon Bottle has been purchased and is going through a change of ownership. It will now be The Whisky Pony. City Market is getting a sushi kiosk. It will be under its own license. The Roof Top Social is being built on the corner of 3rd and Royal Gorge. Amy has started receiving plans from them. There is one unlicensed mobile establishment, La Cucaracha. Amy did reach out to him and let him know he would need a license. He said he would fill out the paperwork and would turn it in. If he does not Amy will reach out to the County Attorney to send out a letter.

Inspections #, including re-inspections, and interventions-

Retail Food 15 routine, 3 re-inspections, and 1 consultative visit.

Schools- One low risk and One high risk.

Child Care- 1 routine and 2 follow up inspections.

Body Art- 1. Amy had someone who decided they wanted to renew their license.

Inspection process- Amy found out that that she is the only inspector besides the State that has announced inspections. Other Counties have been performing unannounced inspections. Amy stated that even with announced inspections she can focus on real issues that need addressed and she is able to partner with the restaurants and work with them to better themselves. Amy does conduct unannounced when there is a complaint. It was discussed whether Fremont County should continue with announced inspections, and it was agreed that it was working for Fremont County and there is no need to change the way Amy is performing inspections. Amy sent out her 2024 renewals on November 20th, 195 were sent out and so far they have received 26. The renewals are due December 31st.

Complaints- There are no complaints for this month.

Rabies – There were questions about the impact of the disagreement between the Sheriff's Office and the Humane Society of Fremont County. One concern that Amy has is that part of Animal Control's job is to pick up stray animals that have bitten a person and sends them to the humane society for quarantine for 10 days. That is a required observation to make sure that the animals are not transmitting rabies at the time of the bite. If Environmental Health is not able to send animals to the humane society, they will have to recommend the post exposure shots. Amy looked at the price and it could be thousands of dollars each time they recommend the shot to a person. Amy has concerns of referring people to get the shots when they are not necessary since they are expensive, and she is unsure if insurance will cover them. Amy stated that the more stray animals we have in the community the more potential to exposure our citizens have to rabies.

Commissioner McFall made a Motion to Accept the Environmental Health Report. Commissioner Grantham seconded the Motion. Call for Vote; All Ayes. Environmental Health Report is Accepted.

Public Health Director

Program/ Grant Updates

Clinic- Last year they gave 53 flu shots in October and in 2023 they gave 230 in October. They have had multiple successful off site clinics. They have secured the school district for next year. They have monthly blood drives by Vitalant. Paula spoke to Vitalant, and they said they have been successful. They have made the schedule for next year and will continue to utilize the Public Health building. Today was National World AIDS Day. Public Health works with Jen Moore who performs testing. They gave her space in their conference room, and they had about 3 or 4 people come in. There will be a mobile clinic coming on December 10th based out of Loaves and Fishes for the uninsured and underinsured. The clinic will offer COVID, Flu, and Monkey Pox vaccines.

Communicable Disease- Last week there were 3,895 cases of COVID-19. In November of 2021 there were 35,000. Locally there are 178 cases. Fremont County has had 9 hospitalizations and 1 death. 2 people are currently in the hospital. It's RSV season. The only time RSV is reportable is if there is a death or if someone is under 18. Nothing has been reported for RSV.

Vital Records- Death Certificates are up from 283 last month to 408 this month. This does not reflect the number of deaths because people can request multiple certificates per death.

Other – Senate bill SB21-243 is potentially being cut from \$10M to \$7.5M. Within CALPHO there is advocacy to keep the funding where it is. There is an increase in funding for TB testing and over \$1M increase in lead testing. There is concern about the loss of COVID money. Paula has been paying attention to the changes and is continuing to look for funding opportunities. Public Health received a \$65,000 increase in PHEP funding. Paula signed up for 123 Protect You and Me which is mini grant to promote vaccines. Paula is working with Chaffee and Custer County on Overdose to Action (OD2A), which is an enhancement grant for harm reduction. The grant is \$120,000 to \$1500,000 per year for four years from May to August of 2028. The Request of Proposal for the Prevent Drunk Driving Grant has gone out.

Community Outreach

Updates on efforts – Paula spoke to the Noon Lions Club.

Commissioner Grantham made a Motion to accept the Public Health Report. Commissioner McFall seconded the Motion. All Ayes; The Public Health Report is Accepted.

Meeting is adjourned at 2:55 pm.