

Silver Thread Public Health District Board of Health Meeting Notes  
Thursday, November 19, 2020

**Attendees:**

Lyn Lampert  
Susan Thompson  
Jody Stroh  
Scott Lamb  
Jerry Gray  
Jim Loud  
Tara Hardy

Meeting called to order at 10:05am by Lyn Lampert

No meeting notes to approve

Community Communications/Comments – None

Introduction of new Silver Thread employee – Eric Barker

**COVID Update**

- Tara gave situational updates for counties; Alamosa; Gunnison
- More active cases in both counties
- Positive case in LCCS – cohort isolating and a few others in quarantine due to exposure outside of school. No shutdowns. Cohort method worked in this case.
- Creede school is experiencing a lot of flu-like illnesses. Tara is keeping in close contact with Kate.
- Mineral currently has 6 positives, 2 in school. Reached out to Epi for guidance and made decision to move to remote learning until December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Will begin reporting active cases and cumulative positives only.
- Joni will be opening community testing sight on Monday.
- No hospitalizations
- State update:
  - Lab capacity and contact tracing capacity at max
  - Death rate increasing
  - Case numbers have decreased in past 3 days
  - Transmission control is going up (good)
- Testing update:
  - Tara, Joni, Shawna, Dr Carr meeting regularly
  - Curative Testing will end 12/31/20
  - Increasing contact tracing efforts – reaching out to more community members, more getting trained in Dr Justina
- Changes to State Dial effective 11/20/20
  - Level Red – high risk, stay at home order

- Added level purple – stay at home order
- 15 Counties in level red
- Tara talked to commissioners and all have agreed to dropping variances. This will help with consistency and keeping gathering sizes down. Tara is working on communications re: variance changes.
- Lyn suggested that Tara does not need Board approval to change levels. Tara will email board with a heads-up if the levels are going to change and will collaborate with the BOH and commissioners
- Vaccine planning – vaccines are about to come out and working on distribution plans.

#### Inner Governmental Agreement Review Update and Discussion

##### Background/Explanation of proposed Amendment:

- Commissioners propose that Board of Health be made up of 2 County Commissioners from each county and up to 3 community members at large. The purpose is to have more elected representation on the Board.
- Review of IGA annually
- STPHD staff is staff under district, paid through county

##### Further Discussion

- Suggestion of counter-proposal of 4 commissioners (2 from each county) and 4 members at large. This would also mean a change in the number serving on the BOH from 7 to 8. This would also mean that no current BOH members leave the Board, only 2 commissioners added.
- Per commissioners, the issues are that public is approaching commissioners with questions and concerns about Public Health and they are unable to act or answer questions because they do not know what is happening. Commissioners want to be able to communicate with constituents more effectively.
- Suggestion for commissioners to join the BOH meetings if they need more information about what is happening with public health.
- Commissioners can not just join because they wouldn't have any buy-in.
- Intent of the agreement vs. the wording of the agreement. The spirit of the agreement as is, is that it does not become a governmental board.
- Are both Board of Commissioners in unanimous support of the proposal?
  - Mineral – yes
  - Hinsdale – have at least a majority vote
- BOH should have certain expertise and if this proposal is accepted that expertise would not exist as the Commissioners do not bring a Public Health or Healthcare background to the table.
- Are policies being changed because of a couple of “squeaky wheels”?
- If this has come about because of 1 personnel issue, should Tara be handling personnel issues?
- If more commissioners are added to the Board, that could lead to educating more commissioners on Public Health.

##### Most of BOH not in favor of the wording of Commissioner amendment proposal

- Lyn and Jerry support increase BOH to 8 members – 4 commissioners, 4 members at large
- Jim would like more time to think about his stance
- Jody would like to keep agreement as is currently and invite commissioners to join the meetings
- Scott would like more time to think about his stance. He does not feel that the 4 and 4 accomplishes what is trying to be accomplished

- Susan reminded Board that prior to the District, the commissioners did make up the Board of Health

Committee to draw-up counter proposal will be Lyn, Jim, Jody, and Jerry. Will meet on Monday, 10am

#### Director Report

- 3 active cases in Hinsdale at this time
- Staff members expressed gratitude to BOH for the approval of bonuses
- Completed Vital Records audit. Staff needs to be deputized in order to help.
- Tara gave funding update and overview
- Working on safe event strategies for counties to use when planning events.
- Working on Thanksgiving boxes

Board Reports – Gratitude given to everyone for listening and sharing in meeting

Next Meeting: TBA – dependent on counter-proposal needs

Meeting adjourned 12:02pm